

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**All Members of the Executive**

**Our Ref:** n/a  
**Your Ref:** n/a  
**Direct Line:** 01253477157  
**Email:** lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

**Executive Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015**

Further to the agenda for the Executive meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015, please enclosed the following documents

- A statement submitted by Mr Dave Blacker MBE in support of his request to speak
- A petition signed by Area Forum Community Representatives
- The minutes of the consultation meeting held with Area Forum Community Representatives on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- The report on the Budget Consultation exercise
- The minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting with Trade Unions held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- The minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting with Non-Domestic Rate Payers held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Please bring these documents to the Executive meeting, if you are attending.

If you have any queries please contact me by the direct line or email listed above.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the Head of Democratic Governance

**Democratic Services**  
**PO Box 1066**  
Blackpool, FY1 1GB

**Contact**  
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# Asset Based Community Development - uniquely linked with Area Forums?

## **What makes Area Forums meetings different from local PACT groups or Neighbourhood Watch gatherings?**

Being involved in all three of these community organisations I have often found it hard to distinguish between them - and other public assemblies of a similar nature. However my eyes were opened at our January 2015 Gateway Area Forum when the invited guest from the Council's Public Health department(Liz Petch) demonstrated the undeniable link between good mental and physical wellbeing and community engagement of a sort offered by our Forums.

People whether unemployed retired or even homeless *\*reference the Bridge project* can help themselves and their community to become a better place. People are this town's greatest asset – being able to offer cash to groups and organisations like those highlighted below empower people to change both their own lives and the people they encourage and support. I know that the Council through no fault of its own has been put in an almost impossible position, having to rob Peter to pay Paul. –but I urge you as the Executive to consider retaining a very limited amount of cash so that the Forums can continue to maintain their unique link with Asset Based Community Development and help to \* **Reduced need and demand for public services** thus making a cost saving by spending just a little to support our Forums.

## **Asset Based Community Development**

The overall aim of building a common understanding and the increased use of community asset approaches is to enable local people and communities to enjoy the best possible life chances. Evidence suggests that by embedding community assets approaches into public services in Blackpool, communities will be enabled to use their skills, knowledge, experience, strengths and capacity to build stronger, confident and more resilient neighbourhoods.

## **It is anticipated that assets-based approaches will lead to the following improvements:**

- Increased social connectedness
- Increased participation in community life
- Increased perceptions that people can call on friends and neighbours to help out in a crisis
- Increased satisfaction with the local environment
- More people feel they are able to make decisions about their lives

## Asset Based Community Development - uniquely linked with Area Forums?

- Increased mental wellbeing
- Improved physical health
- Increased self-reliance
- **Reduced need and demand for public services\***

### **Below is a list of the recipients of Gateway Area Forum funding since April 2014:**

#### April 2014

£1,000 - Claremont Heritage Group

#### **\*£1,000 - Bridge Project**

£1,979 - Blackpool Boys and Girls Club

#### October 2014

£500 - Lancashire Women's Centre

£588 - Caterpillar Parent and Toddler Club

£1,500 - UR Potential

£3,040 - Claremont First Step Community Centre

#### January 2015

£5,000 - Blackpool Kicks Project

£750 - Blackpool in Bloom

£2,818 - Aunty Social

£2,000 - Talbot and Brunswick Parents Forum

£930.84 - Blackpool Carers Centre

£1,704.42 - New Methodist Church

£1,374.54 - Club2Go

£4,948.33 - Claremont Park Community Centre

£1,979.33 - Community Printing

£274.90 - Forest Gate Baptist Church

## Asset Based Community Development - uniquely linked with Area Forums?

£2,199.26 - Christ Church with All Saints

£2,749.07 – St John’s School (Talbot and Brunswick Residents Association)

£274.91 - North Shore Methodist Church

£1,374.54 - Sacred Heart Catholic Church

£357.38 - Robin Ross - The Old Rock Factory

Dave Blacker MBE

Chairman

Gateway Area Forum

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# Blackpool Area forums Community Representatives Meeting Held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014

In order to open as soon as possible - the debate about the future of Area Forums we the undersigned community representatives would like to add the following provisional suggestions:

1. That they continue to exist with Full Council endorsement and support even after the possible cessation of council funding.

In order for this to happen we believe we would need to access continued Council resources in the form of professional Community Representatives assigned to this task plus venue acquisition at no cost and further comprehensive professional assistance from democratic services.

2. We understand the Councils necessity to save money, but at the same time we recognise all the many small Forum funded activities that have improved and enriched the lives of many of the most vulnerable citizens of Blackpool.

Therefore we respectfully request the assistance of Blackpool Council in seeking out and applying for Community Grant Funding on our behalf. So that we can continue to put 'people first' in Blackpool.

Finally, we would have a preference for a substantial reduction in our funding in the first year rather than a complete cessation of it. However, we again recognise the painful and difficult decisions facing the Councillors and Council Officers, and we desire to work together to with them to keep the Forums alive and contributing towards the greater good of Blackpool.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Forum

.....	.....
ANN ALLEN	CHEERY TREE AREA
JAYNE PORTER	CHERRY TREE AREA
Amanda Jones	Cherry Tree
JOHN FARNWORTH	SANDHURST
ANGELA BUSS	REVOE
Brenda Giles	Revoe
Suzanne Forbes	Revoe
DAVID R. LEECH	REVOE
Stuart Grimes	Parklands
Maureen Stinton	Parklands
DAVE BLACKBURN	GATEWAY FORUM
JULIE BASCOMBE	REVOE
VINEE McNUITY	BEACON FORUM
BRIAN COPE	PARKLANDS AF
CAVIN QUICK	GATEWAY FORUM
Barbara Charlton	South Shore
Bill Windel	Victoria
lu leyn	TARBOT



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Yours sincerely,

Name

Forum

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C. Myers  
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**Area Forum Community Representatives Consultation meeting regarding the 2015/ 2016  
Budget proposals**

**Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 5.30pm, Committee Room A, Town Hall**

**Present:**

- John Farnworth
- Vincent McNulty
- David Blacker MBE
- Gavin Quick
- Brian Coope
- Stuart Grimes
- Maureen Stainton
- Julie Bascombe
- Bill Winder
- Ian Cooper
- David Lemming
- Brenda Giles
- Angela Buss
- Suzanne Forbes
- Ann Allen
- John Garnham
- Amanda Jones
- Jayne Porter
- Christopher Jarvis
- Barbara Charlton
- Carole Holmes

**In Attendance:**

- Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
- Mrs Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
- Miss Yvonne Burnett

Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services explained that the purpose of the consultation meeting was to receive feedback from the Area Forum Community Representatives on behalf of their respective Area Forums. He reminded the Representatives that in order to meet Blackpool Council's required budget savings of £25 million during the financial year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, it had been proposed to cease the Area Forum budgets from 1 April 2015, amounting to approximately £150,000.

Mr Towers reported that feedback from a number of consultation meetings would be considered by the Executive, including the comments from this meeting and the statement made by a number of Community Representatives following their meeting on 12 January 2015. The Executive would then make its recommendations to Council at its meeting on 23 February and the budget for 2015/ 2016 would then be agreed at the Budget Council meeting on Friday 27 February 2015.

Mr Towers explained to the Community Representatives that the proposal was for the cessation of the Area Forum budget and not the Area Forum meetings.

Mr Towers read the statement, referred to earlier in the meeting that had been signed by some Community Representatives from various Forums.

**“Blackpool Area Forums Community Representatives meeting held on 12 January 2015**

“In order to open as soon as possible – the debate about the future of Area Forums we the undersigned community representatives would like to add the following provisional suggestions:

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The meeting supported the statement and the proposal to reduce the Forum funding as opposed to the complete cessation and suggested an amount of between £30,000 and £50,000. It was put forward by one of the community representatives that the funding could be shared between the seven Forums and used to match fund projects with a limit of £500 per applicant.

The Representatives felt that the cessation of the funding in its entirety would negatively affect enthusiasm within the voluntary community, at a time when there should be support and encouragement for community engagement. It was believed that the involvement in community projects had a positive impact on individuals’ physical and mental health.

In response to a question, Mr Towers confirmed that a decision had not been taken nor a proposal made regarding the outstanding funds following the last cycle of Area Forum. He added that it was unlikely that a decision would be taken prior to April 2015.

A Revoe Community Representative reported that without the support from Area Forum funding it would not have been possible to establish the local Choir, which now had 40 members and was self-sufficient.

It was explained that if the decision was taken to reduce the Forum funding (rather than cease completely) then the difference would still need to found elsewhere from the Council’s budget to meet the required level of savings.

A member of the Group asked if funding for other voluntary groups supported by the Council would cease. Mr Towers explained that grants to voluntary organisations had ceased following previous year's budget savings, he added that the majority of the associated cost for supporting the Area Forums related to staffing costs and this next year had resulted in two redundancies from the Community Engagement Team and Democratic Governance.

In response to several questions regarding the consultation exercise, Mr Towers explained that the Community Representatives had been informed as soon as the proposal was within the public domain and prior to the last cycle of Forum meetings. He added that he had tried to be as inclusive and proportionate to the level of savings and the impact. It was suggested that a spokesperson from the Community Representatives could attend the Executive meeting on 23 February to present the Area Forums viewpoint and suggest the alternative proposal.

Mr Towers advised the Group that there were Local Elections on 7 May and the structure of the Council would be agreed at the Annual Council meeting on 22 May, at which stage the Committee, Partnerships and Forums structure etc. would be agreed. He explained that both Democratic Governance and Community Engagement would support the Council's wishes in relation to the Area Forums, but he could not make any commitments for the future, until the outcome of the elections and the wishes of the Council were known.

In response to a question, Mr Towers confirmed that the Councillors ward budget had been reduced in previous years from £25,000 per ward in 2010 and it was proposed to retain the budgets at £15,000 per ward for 2015/ 2016.

The statement, mentioned earlier in the meeting was circulated to allow other Community Representatives the opportunity to show their support by signing the document.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed by the Area Forum Community Representatives present that Mr Dave Blacker MBE, would be the spokesman for the Area Forums and he would submit an application to speak at the Executive meeting on 23 February 2015.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm

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# Blackpool Council Budget Consultation 2015

**Blackpool Council**

**in:fusion**  
inspiring positive change

Page 13

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February 2015

## Contents

1	Executive Summary .....	3
2	Approach.....	4
3	Findings .....	5
3.1	Service suggestions.....	5
3.2	Projects and developments.....	6
3.3	Income opportunities.....	7
3.4	Organisational suggestions.....	7
3.5	Other suggestions.....	8
4	Appendix – All Comments .....	9
4.1	Suggestion 1.....	9
4.2	Suggestion 2.....	13
4.3	Suggestion 3.....	16
4.4	Any other ideas or comments .....	19



## 1 Executive Summary

- There were 143 responses received to the Blackpool Council budget consultation between 9 January and 8 February 2015
- A range of services were identified as areas where savings could be made, either through ceasing or reducing the service. The most common service cited is the free breakfast scheme in schools.
- Respondents suggested a number of efficiencies that could be made in the delivery of services across the Council, including reducing duplication and prioritising getting things right first time.
- There is a sense from some respondents that the Council is wasting money on unnecessary projects and developments in Blackpool, particularly around the Promenade area.
- Some comments indicated opportunities for the Council to generate income in order to reduce the required level of savings. This included charging for services such as meeting spaces and the illuminations, as well as selling unused properties and land like car parks.
- A range of suggestions were received in relation to the way the organisation is run. This includes salary levels, staffing and councillor structures, employee terms and conditions and expenses.
- A host of other comments and suggestions were received, the most notable being making best use of the voluntary sector and communities to deliver services and taking a stronger stance on benefit fraud and the enforcement of fines.

## 2 Approach

A public consultation in early 2015 gave residents and stakeholders of Blackpool the opportunity to suggest how the Council could make savings. As this was an open-access consultation Council employees were also able to submit a response.

It allowed respondents to comment on how the Council might be able to reduce spending or increase income over the coming years. The purpose of the consultation is to help the Council make decisions when the budget is set at the end of February 2015.

An online survey was available on the Council's website and was promoted via the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Paper copies were distributed to all libraries and children's centres in the Borough and promoted within. The survey asked for the respondent's top three savings suggestions, followed by a final opportunity to provide any other ideas or comments.

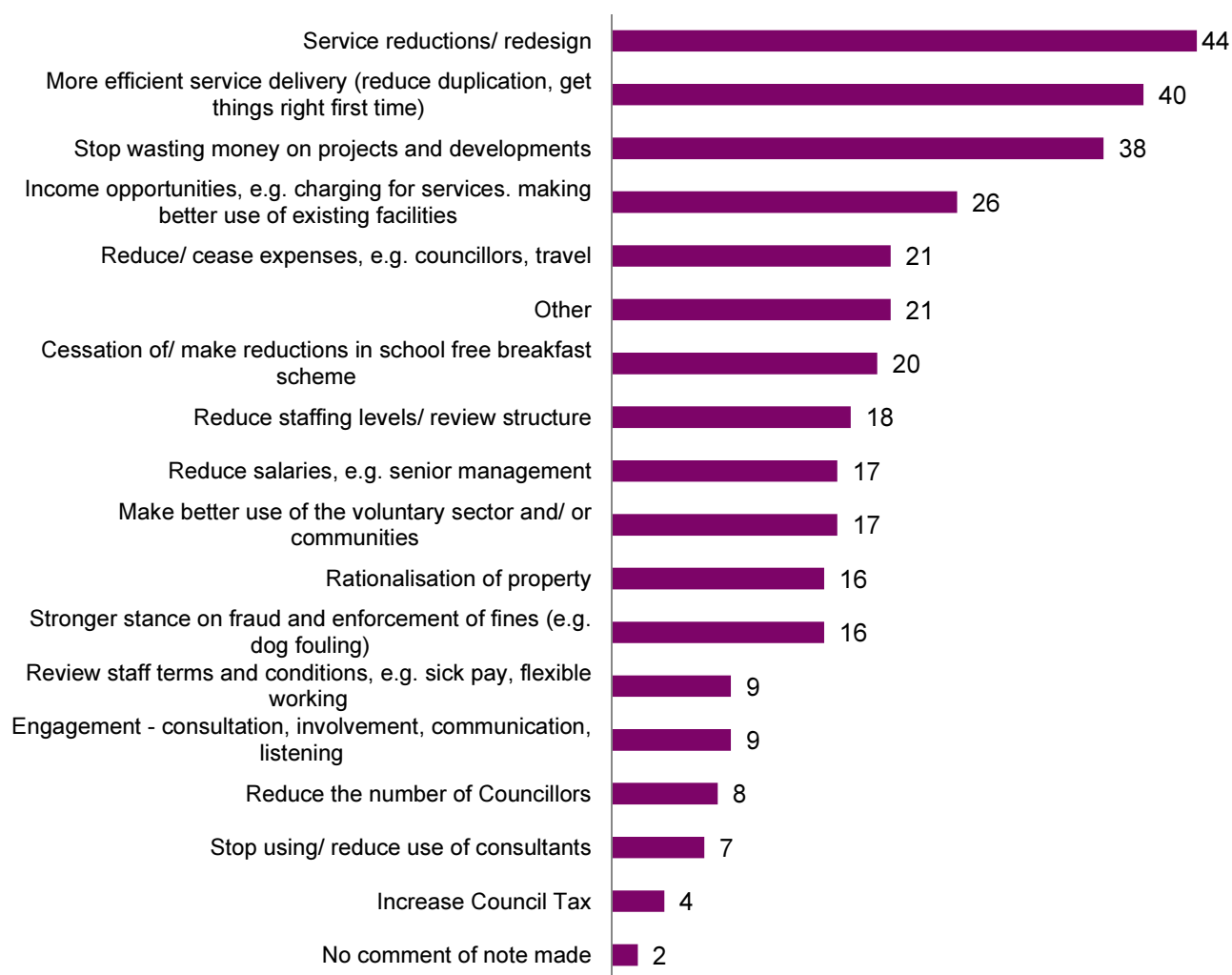
The consultation ran from Friday 9 January 2015 to Sunday 8 February 2015. A total of **143 responses** were received, 71 online and 72 paper returns.

This report attempts to summarise some of the main comments and suggestions received in the consultation, with any example comments reported verbatim. The full set of responses can be found in the Appendix in alphabetical order.

### 3 Findings

A wide range of comments and suggestions were provided in the consultation. Figure 2.1 below groups together the main topic areas that these comments covered. The chart is based on the actual number of comments received, not percentages, given the size of the sample. Also it is to be noted that one respondent often provided more than one suggestion, therefore the total number of suggestions within the chart exceeds the sample base of 143 responses.

**Figure 2.1: Groupings of comments and suggestions received (base – 143)**



#### 3.1 Service suggestions

Suggestions relating to service reductions or the redesign of services were the most common grouping within the consultation. Some offered suggestions relating to specific services whereas others were more general statements about the reduction of service across the Council. Service-specific suggestions included:

- “School crossing patrols and road safety advice are absolutely non-essential functions”
- “Libraries - close small branches amalgamate them into 2 big libraries Palatine and Central - look at making smaller libraries into community libraries”
- “Scrap all area forums”

The most common service identified as a potential saving within the consultation is the free breakfast scheme in schools. 20 of the 143 survey responses suggested this scheme be ceased or reduced:

- “Stop wasting money in providing children breakfast at school”
- “Free breakfast and lunch for school children. Stop giving them out. Children should be fed at home, it’s a parents responsibility”

Several respondents used the opportunity to highlight services they find valuable and would like to see protected from any savings. In particular the Connexions service was highlighted by some as an important service to the Borough:

- “Without [the Connexions] service, I would have had nowhere to go and both my sons would be unemployed in this deprived resort”
- “Blackpool has some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged youth people in the country and yet they are set to lose yet another valuable, well used and quality service”

40 of the 143 responses suggested ways in which existing services could be delivered more efficiently by the Council. A number of these comments referred generally to ensuring duplication is avoided and delivery is right first time:

- “Think there could be better co-ordination between services & it appears sometimes there is a "lot of duplication"”
- “Spend money on quality products, e.g. road surfacing so they do not need replacing every couple of years.”
- “Get planning decisions right first time then you don't have to make costly changes.”

### **3.2 Projects and developments**

38 respondents to the consultation suggested that the Council should stop investing money in projects and developments across the Borough or focus on different areas.

Several comments specifically referred to the Promenade area of the town:

- “Stop Focusing on the prom and focus on the side streets of Blackpool”
- “Stop spending on luxury items to look at like promenade balls etc.”

Other wide ranging comments relating to projects and developments in Blackpool include:

- “The Council can stop wasting money on stupid projects like hiring bikes.”
- “Stop wasting money making big changes to road junctions that turn out to be very dangerous. Statues that no-one cares about. Think things through.”
- “Do not borrow money to build another hotel in an unsuitable area in the town”

A number of comments also referred to unnecessary statues and monuments in the Borough:

- “Stop making silly monuments e.g. Statues.”
- “Stop spending money on pointless statues/eyesores on prom.”

### **3.3 Income opportunities**

26 suggestions were made about possible income opportunities for the Council. In the main these related to charging for services and maximising the potential of existing facilities and services:

- “Sell off the car park on Devonshire Road for housing / business”
- “Charge businesses for the Illuminations”
- “Consolidate office space in the new offices and perhaps look at renting out unused space”
- “Stop paying somebody to take away hard core from rubbish tips. You can sell it”

### **3.4 Organisational suggestions**

A range of suggestions were received relating to a host of organisational issues.

21 comments indicated that the level of expenses available to officers and councillors should be looked at. Specific suggestions included:

- “Stop Town Hall expenses put limit on it”
- “Stop all biscuits, coffees and such for all council "meetings"”
- “Too many receipts and expenses being claimed back”

A number of suggestions were made around reducing staffing levels and senior management salaries at the Council:

- “Re-assess management structure throughout council - especially in leisure services”
- “The higher earners should take a substantial pay cut”
- “Reduce middle management. Far too many”

Additionally some suggested that employee terms and conditions should be reviewed, specifically:

- “Another couple of days unpaid leave”
- “Cut to a 35 hour week”
- “Robust attendance policy to reduce sick pay”

Moreover, some comments identified the number of councillors within Blackpool as an opportunity to make some savings for the Council:

- “Reduce Councillors from the 2 per ward to 1 per ward - make savings that way on allowances”
- “I don't think Blackpool needs a Mayor! The cost of Mayor's functions and a car seem to be extravagant in a time of cuts and closures”
- “One councillor per ward.”

### **3.5 Other suggestions**

Numerous other suggestions were given as to how the Council can make savings in the coming years. This includes making better use of and empowering communities, rationalising Council properties across Blackpool and taking a stronger stance on benefit fraud and the enforcement of fines. Comments include:

- “More use made of the voluntary organisations & churches. Development of a "skilled based community" so that when for example general maintenance / works is needed the community can fix it”
- “Try to encourage residents to take ownership of the area they live in and take responsibility for litter etc.”
- “Cut back on building and buying into properties, keep offices to a minimum”
- “Actively pursue all monies owed to the council in arrears of payments due”
- “Enforce dog by laws, with fines, in all parks where they apply”

## 4 Appendix – All Comments

### 4.1 Suggestion 1

A better balance of expenditure for tourists and Blackpool families.
A fair cut across services (so no one is losing out)
A more secure way of improving roads and pavements, using the money available to improve - better quality first time rather than going back over & over again
Accept more donations of books to libraries
Actually consult the consumers when deciding on: Mayor issues. ie:- multi million pound road/ tram/ Promenade schemes. As they are the people changes affect and this will too if it will work.
Another couple of days unpaid leave
As admirable as the intention was/is you need to stop the free breakfasts for all primary school aged children.
Ask for donations when attending play groups. Donations - voluntary payments.
Ask for more volunteers on events or days other than pay if possible. To spend more on the event/ day.
Ask for small donations to go towards running playgroups. For fruit etc.
Beg, steal, borrow from the public health budget to the extent you can (appreciate it's ringfenced for health related things)
Bid for outside contracts?
Bike lanes and more places for bicycles to be used in, it is EXTREMELY retarded that you don't have any dedicated bike lanes in some places. I have been SHOUTED at, pushed OFF MY BIKE, I've had cars come within inches of me, with the purposes of making me stop or get off my bike, I've had people (IN CARS) throw things at me because I'm on the road. I've only just turned 20. [EXPLETIVE REMOVED] I can't ride my bike in Whitegate drive because of, what? A pedestrian? Okay. Bike lanes pls
Charge a little more for requests for books to be reserved
Close the CLC. What is its real purpose other than a library? It now houses officers which could be housed in the new council offices. Was in there once at a special needs event and it was all offices!
Close the nurseries at Grange Park and Talbot and Brunswick Children's Centres and rent the space out to private nurseries.
Collect more council tax from benefits cheats
council employes pay reduced
Cut benefits
Cut benefits
Cut costs of disability travel, ie next door neighbour has a paid for disability car but yet every morning and evening a big bus comes with 2 staff and picks up lad, he is only one on it?? get them to use the car they have for free!
Cut down on the amount of management consultants used
Cut down really necessary spending like I hear you are paying staff to remain confidential. I know someone who was offered 18k. Councilman Williams has been talking about this.
Cut down the admin for council tax and housing benefit claims and reduce the amount of letters you send out. I received three identical letters in a week!
Cut staff and office espenses buildings etc.
Do repair's to roads correct the 1st time save having to go back time again.

Do the job properly the first time stop keep going back and redoing it
Don't
Don't do as many road alterations if its broke don't fix it + get rid of speed traps
Don't print out paperwork that is accessible online unless people request it. i.e timetables etc
Don't spend money on road alteration that don't need doing etc Amounderness Way
Drastically cut all senior executives pay and expenses
Fewer lights
Find a way to deal with seagulls/foxes etc attracting binbags which creates an unsavoury environment
Gardening in winter, wait for summer.
Gardening/ upkeep of useless ornaments through winter
Get different depts "talking" to each other
Get rid of breakfasts in Primary School - the breakfasts are unhealthy and not beneficial to children or learning.
Get rid of PCSO's and employ police cadets as they are free and the have the power to arrest whereas the PCSO's don't
Get sponsorship for "Your Blackpool" paper
Get the community involved more.
How about charging drunks and drug related people that go to Hospital regularly in an Ambulance taking up valuable time and hospital beds. My son waited hour and a half for an Ambulance and nearly died he was rushed into the Vic with a burst ulcer.. On arrival it was full of these people. If the doctor had not seen him when he arrived he would not be here now.
I don't think Blackpool needs a Mayor! The cost of Mayor's functions and a car seem to be extravagant is a time e of cuts and closures.
Improve the pavements + road.
Increase council tax
Introducing energy saving ideas. LEDs light, automatic lights
Less money spent on things needed eg bus lanes
Listen to staff more about the services they are in and how they feel are the best ways to save money
Look at moving library staff around branches as some seem to have a lot of staff and others not. Make them more mobile.
Look at salaries and need for so many directors
Lower pay packets for people at top of the council
Lower wages for councillor's. They don't deserve the high salaries being paid to them
Make leisure services a social enterprise
Make the December end of month pay people paid at the end of the month as all other moths, this will save the time and effort spent on trying to get all information in early which will then cut down on the costs involved.
Modify the free breakfast - provide cereal bars and milk where needed
More compan to get into volunteer.
More to staff in Childrens Centre. And get rid of speedtrap.
No breakfast provision for children at schools
No free school breakfasts
No new hotel
One chief exec for Blackpool fylde and eyre



Only collect Green Waste Bins during Summer months
Over buying
Paycuts to higher paid wages including the Prime Minister and Members of parliament
Privatise sports centres.
Put the weighing clinic back in the Doc surgery.
Rather than job losses and service cuts I would like to see anything of a cosmetic nature in the resort put on one side.
Re negotiate lower gas and electric prices with overall costs being reduced by the big six companies.
Re-assess management structure throughout council - especially in leisure services
Reduce amount of high paid management positions within the council
Reduce Councillors from the 2 per ward to 1 per ward - make savings that way on allowances.
Reduce middle management. Far too many.
Reduce printed out information that can be accessed online
Reduce road works.
reduce the amount of Councillors why do we need 42 most are completely ineffectual
Reduce the amount of paperwork and leaflets given out, I myself this year have thrown away 4 bin bags of out of date leaflets, due to late postage or too many for the amount we need.
Reduce the number of highly paid top managers and keep more of the workers.
reduce working day
Reduction of middle management
refurbish existing buildings instead of building brand new sites
Reinstate CCTV, possibly with volunteers. This will encourage townspeople/ visitors to come into the town centre. Thus spend money & encourage new shops/ businesses, more Council Tax receipts
Responsibility
Review necessity of some roadworks
Review printing/ stationery/ supplies costs - maybe liaise with Fylde & Wyre to negotiate one contract with suppliers at better deal.
Review which front line services could become community owned charities eg children's centres
Road works and redesigns to be done correct first time round.
Roads being dug up and being done again.
Robust attendance policy to reduce sick pay
Sack traffic wardens
Scrap the free breakfast scheme
Scrapping free breakfasts for school children
Seems like a load of reviews taking place for individual services and nothing cutting across services.
Sell the Buses and Sandcastle bring in short term money for long term savings - but not the trams
Share Chief Exec and top management with Wyre & Fylde
Small charge for activities small charge for foods (tea + coffee).
Stop all biscuits, coffees and such for all council "meetings". Might be small amounts of money per meeting, but all added together will save considerable amounts overtime.
Stop breakfast club at schools. Is it really needed when money can be used to save people jobs.

Stop building Prom decorations
Stop building silly prom decorations
Stop building stuff
Stop changing traffic lights
Stop digging up roads that don't need work done
Stop digging up roads when they don't need done.
Stop Focusing on the prom and focus on the side streets of blackpool i have a business in south shore and you havent improved any of the area in ages !! . im up the top end of Lytham road by the bridge , we need somethink new .
Stop giving free breakfasts to schoolchildren
Stop making silly monuments e.g. Statues.
Stop or reduce library services at weekend.
Stop paying the Manager of the City Learning Centre £52,000 ..how can that be justified when the clc is only just offering learning to the community. Those doors have well and truly been closed to the community until very recently. Ridiculous !!!
Stop providing school breakfasts
Stop putting statues up in town that are unnecessary.
Stop putting statues/ momuments. Flowerbeds etc
Stop spending on resources don't need to.
Stop spending on sea walls and do proper job first time round.
Stop spending stupid amounts on council wages
Stop the free breakfasts for children
Stop the winter family guide 0 info not always correct - never something in time to be given to parents
Stop Townhill expenses put limit on it,if mps go over they pay it themselves,stop 1st class travel,stop taxis,every other person uses buses bikes and own cars but don't get extras to run them
Stop wasting money in providing children breakfast at school.. Causing obesity from children already having breakfast at home and encouraging parents to be lazy and not give their children breakfast
Stop wasting money on things for tourists and think about the people that live here.
Stoping investing money in town centre improvements eg statues + spend more in childrens services
Stopping building pointless eyesores on the Promenade!
Take £5 off high paid wages to help finance the economy rather than make people unemployed.
Take some time to review all housing benefit claims to ensure they are legal and valid
The Council can stop wasting money on stupid projects like hiring bikes.
The higher earners should take a substantial pay cut each- one of their wages is equivalent to 4/5 of ours
There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Get more people working, not managing.
Think there could be better co-ordination between services & it appears sometimes there is a " lot of duplication " .
Top council employees should take a pay cut.
Top earners take a small cut in pay/hours.
Turn street lights off at midnight
Turn street lights off at midnight like down south leave one on at the bottom of each street
Unnecessary road works

Wage reductions at top of ladder
Wasting paper. Go as paperless as possible
Watson/ St Annes Road junction is a joke, get road works right first time
weekend increment payments only pay staff for what they physically work
Withdraw breakfast scheme.

## 4.2 Suggestion 2

Abolish right to automatic sick pay
Accountability
Actively pursue all monies owed to the council in arrears of payments due.
Amalgamate buildings and rationalise estates. We own loads of property e.g. the YOT office off Church St and have an unoccupied floor in the office we've just built.
Annex Fleetwood & Cleveleys - thus giving greater economies of scale
ask are you getting value for money being spent
Ask NHS for a larger contribution towards the adult social care team. We are doing more nurse type duties, its only right to ask for more contributions.
By getting rid of staff will only put more people out of work and put more strain on the economy.
cease the corporate dinners/buffetts etc in the Empress Grill rooms
Changing things that don't need changing eg - The promenade.
Charge more for late returns and lost books (unless there are genuine extenuating circumstances)
Chase up more Council/businessTax defaulters, the cost of people to do this should be less than the extra income received.
Cheaper bus fares for people on lower income
Cheaper parking in town will increase overall income.
Close all but central library.
Closure of the underused hoyle house
Consult public before spending money and then getting it wrong
council executives pay reduced
Council staff training days do you really need to provide catering
Cut back on building and buying into properties,keep offices to a minimum
Cut benefits
Cut costs of councils entertainment costs and travel
Cut or remove ward budgets
Cut out helping Druggies & alcoholic's , improve the streets and the roads .
Do away with free breakfasts - this is a very good idea but the vast majority of lads are now having 2 breakfasts!!
Do not borrow money to build another hotel in an unsuitable area in the town
Do the coaches that come for the Illuminations pay to go through the lights this would give more to the town.they could charge a little for each passenger I am sure £3 per person would not go a miss.
dont
Employ more staff to recover c/tax ,business rates and fight fraudulent discount and exemption claims

Enforce dog bye laws, with fines, in all parks where they apply
Ensure joined up working across the council, money is being wasted when through lack of communication.
Events to raise money - clothes sale. *Clothes - baby* I send all mine to charity shop
Find a way to reduce weeds (?Plant mustard or shrubs)
Free breakfast and lunch for school children. Stop giving them out. Children should be fed at home, its a parents responsibility. If a parent is on benefit they are getting paid twice.
Full review of children's and adult services to ensure best value and cost efficient
Fundraising events - ie car boots etc in Summer, use centres when not in use.
Get a cheaper car for the mayor
Get planing decisions right first time then you don't have to make costly changes.
Get Pleasure Beach to Pay back the £6 m they borrowed. Cut back on senior managers - Look at areas such as tower is it making money -
Get Staff trained propley. You have consultants and other people doing too much. I know one guy from Bispham who is bragging in the pub he took the council for half a million. You have the tram specialist and lots more. You could have employed someone cheaper than the fees.
get things right first time, instead of wasting money re-doing jobs ie: pedestrian crossings on prom
Have more community recycling schemes with incentives for things we can't recycle at the kerb. Also community shredding days to get rid of sensitive documents. Sell these streams on to bring in funding.
Have no first class travel
Illuminations - charge to look at (toll charges)
Implement a robust finance team and debt recovery team to recoup all the debt that is owed from people not paying their contributions
Instead of paying Council or local service to do jobs ask community service or volunteers to do projects to reduce spending.
Instead of wasting money on car parks and building empty buildings that aren't being used, put that money back into childrens services which are really needed.
Issue licences for dog owners for their dogs
Keeping a closer eye on immigrant to make sure they are not abusing the system
Less heating
Liaise with other councils to buy equipment in bulk.
look at reducing people's wage from the top of the scale rather than cutting people's jobs at the lower end of the scale that still have a great impact on many people and their families.
Make better used of the parks ie try a car boots invsome parks during the summer
Make businesses pay for illuminations
Make businesses pay for illuminations
Make it a legal obligation that all householders/shop holders are responsible for the cleaning of the area outside their shops and homes.
Maybe ask cunsumer's how many they would like, same with freebies on course, nice, but wouldn't complain if didn't have it, must have 12 cloth bags and accessories to go with.
More staff in childrens centres needed!
Only collecting recycling and garden waste every 4 weeks
Overspending on top wages within the council management. Lower their wage to save others from redundancy.
Parking fines should be put into council funds not traffic funds.
Print in black and white.
Prosecute those who do not pay their fair share of council tax

Reduce amount of bus concessionary
Reduce bureaucracy where possible - admin etc - recording only what is needed?
Reduce leaflets and free goodies.
reduce number of senior directors
Reduce payments to councillors who don't put the hours in - we can all think of a few -
Reduce speed camera's, especially mobile speed camera's They don't catch the right people. They cause accidents!
Reduce the amount spent on consultations and hiring so called private firms to come up with ridiculous quotes. Do more in-house and make better use of in-house council services, staff and resources. Far too much money is spent on wasted "think tanks" and asking private companies to bid for work / solutions, ideas.
Reduce the number of Councillors and their costs?
Reduce the number of Councillors each ward has to just one
Reduce the pay of senior staff and annual leave: for senior staff.
Renovate building rather than knocking them down.
Sell of land like under used car parks
sell off council houses, that are left derelict and look an eye sore
Sell off the car park on Devonshire Road for housing / business
sell under and unused council properties
send one lorry to collect re- cycling. Paper, plastic, and garden all collected by one lorry else where
Small increase in council tax, weighted towards dearer properties
Speak to staff on the ground about their ideas
Stop "fixing" roads that don't need it.
Stop building things that nobody needs
Stop building things that nobody needs.
Stop free breakfasts
Stop gagging payments, the town cannot afford them and what are you hiding
Stop paying for the promenade furniture.
Stop paying these community engagement officers so much money. They do not engage. I've volunteered full time hours over the past 12 months and achieved more than any paid worker in the community I worked in. Not once has a community engagement officer helped me, until recently when it's very clear they needed me to save their jobs with these forthcoming cuts!!!
Stop speed traps put Police on beat
Stop spending money on bullying a sea wall that doesn't work and prom decorations.
Stop spending money on silly metal structures in silly places like roundabout on the end of the motorways
stop spending stuff
Stop taxing children to school
Stop wastage.
Stopping free school breakfasts
The other is get rid of the mayor and his/her car
Think about how to bring money in. Fundraising etc.
Think there could be greater involvement of the " private " sector , more use made of the voluntary organisations & churches . Development of a " skilled based community " so that when for example general maintenance / works is needed the community can fix it .
think wisely before putting benches in middle of roads

Top council employees should take a pay cut.
Traffic wardens.
Try and negotiate the rooms and spaces that are used by Children's Centres for groups. The owners of these spaces often charge very expensive rates for groups to meet there. The Children's Centre Managers could sit down with the owners and try to get a better rate for the rooms used.
Try to encourage residents to take ownership of the are they live in and take responsibility for litter etc.
Unnecessary buildings
Unnecessary roadworks.
Use childrens centres more for the different services e.g. credit union, housing, etc for better contact in the community.
Use cost effective services. Council services are expensive
Use volunteers. They are willing to help.
Wasting money on developments which are not profitable empty units in Talbot gateway
When it comes to sending letters out to all employees, first send them internally to managers to distribute, then any staff who are off sick or on leave can have the letters posted. This will reduce the cost of postage to people, also enquire if staff would prefer to receive all correspondence via email.
Workforce planning - its short term thinking to take on temp members of staff with 3-6 month contracts. You lose a staff member just to train them . Get to grips with any backlogs - huge backlogs in things like benefits mean increased demand on other services (ie customer first) to the detrement of the whole authority. Deal with the latest post first and then chip away at the backlog. Trust you staff and back their decisions - get away with archaic processes- team leaders checking letters etc

### 4.3 Suggestion 3

"Getting it right" "Families in need" Invest and research properly.
Allow adequate resources for services that are running.
Along the line of Skilled based Community , I feel it is VITAL to engage with communities in a postive way , allow the community to make choices / decisions - Yes public consultation does this but maybe look at ways of " delivery " such as involving some community people to lead . Empower Local people .
Charge big companies more tax
Charge businesses for the Illuminations
Check procurement prices against discount sites like Amazon e bay etc
Consideration for what are deemed ridiculous schemes - promenade fiasco is one such waste of money. Whilst it may look okay now, it was a total waste of money with money spent twice rectifying things.
Councillors pay cutting.
crack down on fraudulent HB and CTR payments. I've reported a few recently and nothing's been done about it
Create more parking bays for residents and raise money through permits
Cut all budgets in all departments of the council - including tourism
Cut benefits.
Cut free breakfasts for middle class kids

Cut spending by not paying for extravagance like those silly statues.
Cut the free breakfast at schools
cut to a 35 hr week
Develop voluntary services with a real desire to achieve and not just tokenism
Do roadworks right the first time.
Do roadworks/ redesign correct first time round.
dont
Efficiency
Encourage locals and visitirs to "Keep Britain Tidy"
Energy Efficiency
Equipment sale - for children and baies. To reinvest back into the centre.
Evergy saving-bulbs
Extend the tip hours at weekends and reduce in the week.
Group activities - could charge a little more for coffee/ tea
How about putting more street rubbish bins on side roads and Prom this would cut down the refuse collection and make the streets cleaner. The college site is one place that desperately need bins.
I think it is necessary to speculate to accumulate. Many Children's Centres now rely heavily on volunteers to sustain their groups and lead activities for children of different ages during holiday times. In order to keep volunteers on board and manage them properly, each centre needs a paid Volunteer Coordinator. Therefore, if further staffing cuts are made, Children's Centre activities can be sustained long term.
Increase licence fees for bars and pubs - make them pay for there mess
Install micro solar panels or windmills to illuminations to power each display. Install solar powered cycle lanes as in Amsterdam
Instead of cutting peoples jobs, ask if they would be willing to work less hours, even though the adult social sector is already over whelmed with refs.
Is there a reason why the council funds new business ventures
Lay roads with tarmac - not brick that then breaks and need replacing after a few weeks.
Let depts 'carry over' unspent budgets
Look at providing respite vouchers that can be purchased for carers rather which would be much cheaper to purchase much easier to control by the finance team and also less time consuming -resulting in the teams being more effective in other areas
lower your wage bonuses
lowering all the expense accounts. 12months of volunteering and ive paid my own expenses , petrol , lunch etc. volunteering to build a community up cost me a fortune out of my personal pocket. I did this to encourage engagement within your communities. I'd expect these people on the payroll to have the decency to buy their own brews. Too many receipts and expenses being claimed back. Let's face it they are attending meetings because they are being paid. Take a flask !!!
Make use of volunteers. (Big society)
Minimise use of consultants
No more hotels being built
No more signs in parks etc that have no tangible meaning. I.E. No dog dirt in parks. Dogs dont read and consciensious owners already know how to behave. No Smoking in Parks signs. Smokers will always smoke unless the law is enforced. When was the last time a smoker was fined for dropping a fag on a pavement? Not in Blackpool
Non electric doors with fewer buttons.
Pavements in Blackpool prom! Don't know where road + pavement are.

Possible nominal charge per car to drive through illuminations
Proceeds of crime items should be auctioned off and if the price is over what they need the rest should be given to the council
Put on hold some of the proposals currently on the table until the council is in a stronger financial position ie hotel proposal; consolidate office space in the new offices and perhaps look at renting out unused space; cut back on external consultants; make the illuminations cost neutral
Raise c/tax by 5%one
Reduce benefit fraud
reduce number of accountants
Reduce the number of rubbish collections
Re-evaluate some of the people you are giving DLA too. Most people are receiving this and there is no reason.
Renewable energy on our buildings ????? Wind turbines in school fields/solar panel on all council buildings
Replace lollipop persons with zebra crossing, perhaps costly to begin with but savings in long term
Review purchasing procedures and allow departments to buy locally and individually.
Review staffing structure
Road works that do not need doing but roads that do are ignored?! Put more money into schools and nursery settings.
School crossing patrols and road safety advice are absolutely non-essential functions and are completely not sustainable in the current climate.
Sell some stuff
Sound like someone should look at the new offices. From what I hear it is causing a lot of problems for staff working. Whose idea was this - get rid if its the same person planned the shoddy main road down the front. The new office is a white elephant, over priced and bad location. Forget the hotel. Get the airport back working and profitable.
Speed up processes in planning and development and be sensible about budget & redevelopment of areas like Blackpool Town Centre
spend money on quality products, e.g. road surfacing so they do not need replacing every couple of years..
Stop helping immigrants that are claiming benefits just to send over to their partners abroad. To refurbish their homes.
Stop moving council offices. The expense of building and moving must be enormous!!
stop paying somebody to take away hard core from rubbish tips. You can sell it
Stop sanctions at the jobcentre and show the real amount of unemployed
stop spending money on stupid projects that never get compleated
Stop the back biting from the torys and labour between each other - work together for the good of the town not party politics.
stop the school breakfasts parent responsible
Stop unnecessary funding- eg free taxis for the school run for certain parents
stop wasting money on ludicrous roadworks. ie Watson Road / St Ann's Road junction. The promenade etc!
Stop wasting money on re doing works. Get it right first time
Stop wasting money on the prom and other stupid schemes
Take a proactive approach to fraud with the authority - invest to save. Its incredible that a council the size of Blackpool with the budget it manages will have only 2 FTE's to investigate fraud
Taking in money donations to help run the centre.



To do more free local events ask business to be involved as a payment they could advertise their business.
Top council employees should take a pay cut.
Try and get people back to work. Instead of benefits.
Use more LED streetlighting
Wastage on offices,paper,pens stamps the amount of wastage in BBC offices and other facilities run by council,people think they don't buy it so who cares

#### 4.4 Any other ideas or comments

1. A time and motion study of ALL staff. Regular and routine checking, without notice. There are council staff who work incredibly hard for there money and deliver a service, not efficiently, under very difficult circumstances. There are staff however who earn an awful lot of money for not doing very much. When out on official business fitting in shopping and lunch with girls. 2. Delivering an effective and efficient service in the first place then individuals would not be taken up with redoing or going back over. 3. Blackpool Council has an appalling reputation amongst the local residents. It is a very unapproachable, uncaring, abrupt council which shows no understanding, no compassion and no heart. The letters that our sent out are always rude, offensive, curt and usually incorrect 4. By becoming people friendly the council would have the residents supporting them 5. Delivering high quality services in the first place. 6. Do an actual paying job of work instead of talking
A lot has money is wasted by people not doing jobs properly. For example the roads (including the Prom) where there are constant repairs.
Abolish 20mph zones and sell off all 20mph signs for scrap
All take pay cuts. Sack the staff who are not producing the goods. (I could give you a full list after my experience ).
As you can probably tell, I am one of the unfortunate ones who have already been told they are to loose their job, and as I haven't worked for the council for 12 months, I am NOT entitled to any support, I won't get re deployed, and I won't get any redundancy pay. I have five children and am the main earner in my family, as a result of me loosing my job, we have no choice but to claim benefits, until I find another job with similar pay In the sector i am trained for. Ironically ...when you total up the amount of money the benefits will amount too, you will actually be worse off. And not just you but my family will be too. I will have no choice but to access free school meals, my rent is £200 per week, my council tax, oh and the school uniform voucher system for five children... Basically what i am saying is when you are laying people off to save money, maybe you should check that laying that person off will save£'s. [CONTACT DETAILS REMOVED]
Can I please point out that the council DO NOT currently have any youth workers or youth clubs. I have heard that you are now trying to 'get rid' of the Connexions Service. Is there going to be ANY service available to young people. Blackpool has some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged youth people in the country and yet they are set to lose yet another valuable, well used and quality service. I have had personal experience of this service when my daughter needed advice and support on a range of her problems. She was unemployed misusing drugs and being an out of control teenager. We are supportive family who has never had to use 'services'. However after my daughter getting involved with a bad crowd she became a little out of control. She went to Connexions for advice on going to college. She was offered her own adviser who 'worked miracles'. Helping her over a few months and she is now working part time and is on a foundation degree. Thank you Connexions
Cemntralise services for councillor consultations with the public. Make it quicker easier to contact the council (eg promote feedback boxes). Encourage community Pride and

involvement.
consider where 20 mph signs are placed a small road off paddock drive maybe 60metres long a 20mph sign erected ???
Cut all un-necessary spend, including travelling, refreshments, buffets, no free parking, garage mayors car.
Cut benefits helping working family's.
Cut travel expenses, cease all non-essential services (there are lots that people don't have the political will/balls to cut), cease area forums, reduce engagement budget (many events attract the same old faces and offer no value)
Deliver services differently. At the moment, the council has not not modernised and is still heavily people focused. Embrace and use technology.
Dont spend as much
dont. Blackpool needs money investing not cutting. The people ( already doing the jobs of three people). Need pay rises. The coastal housing service needs money (experienced first hand the need for this). Stop wasting money on private tenants that make stupid complaints about cats and paying for sonic devices. Wasted money!!
Employ helpful people at Bristol Ave tip, actually allow people to tip their rubbish therefore reducing fly tipping - reducing the amount spent by the council collecting & cleaning up fly tips.
Everyday at Park school there are lots and lots of tyaxis dropping kids off and picking them up, our neighbour also has there disabled child collected and delivered every day ... most of these families especially the disabled ones have motability transport, why do they need extra ttransport at our cost! Look at cutting these costs yearly so save money.
From my simple viewpoint, it seems like this and previous council's borrowing has gone out of control. At some point all this money we've borrowed will have to be paid back. When interest rates rise again, which they will, I'm worried that with the level of borrowing continuing we could reach a stage when we can no longer pay it back.
Have greenhouses in all schools and hospitals to grow more of the food our community services need. Have poo powered buses. Allow start up companies to use council owned premises to start trading on a month by month basis with pro rata rates and incentives. These will then grow into bigger businesses to bring in revenue. Think of ways to bring back community pride this will lead to reduction in police costs for a start...
Have illuminations thursday to sunday instead of all week but extend through to christmas
I do have a comment regarding planned savings in that the Connexions service seems to be abolished under current plans but is being hidden under the word "synergy". Would be nice for some honesty. Bloomfield resident
I have personally been a part of Blackpool council budget cuts and do recognize it is not easy when savings have to be made. I always felt when I was an employee that I could have made lots of savings and would have appreciated being not only asked but listened to. Ask your empolyees where saving s could be made. Even a few pounds for every little saving is a help.
I have used the Connections service, Market Street over the years for both my children and found I have always received exceptional service. Both of my children have left secondary education, not receiving any career guidance from either school and had no idea what they wanted to do. One went into 6th form and then left as it was the wrong course. My other son could have quite easily and was going down committing an offence, but due to the guidance, patience, 1:1 talks with my son, they put him on the right track and he is now in education again and staying out of trouble, I am pleased to say. Without this service, I would have had no where to go and both my sons would be unemployed in this deprived resort.
I offered central library about 50 books on Egyptian Archeology, but these were refused because some of them may have been out of print! What was wrong with them going into the reference section where they are not removed or loaned out. use your brains!
I think you need to concentrate on small business's make them successful , help the South shore area a better place , like at Christmas i have a hair salon by the the bridge no effort was made for this area but you put a tree in south shore Waterloo road what about by station road

<p>some lights to make it a better AREA . I opened my salon 2 years ago at the age of 21 , i had no funding no help from the Government . i asked Blackpool for a starter booklet on business for health and safety spoke to senior managers of blackpool council to get the things i needed to HELP ME , No HELP was given , i no you have to make cuts but cutting staff , wages , is only making blackpool Go Down HILL , we need to stick together get the acomy moving Again , start thinking of local people's views instead of concentrating on the prom or town center.</p>
<p>If the government watch programmes like Benefits Britain and Poverty Through A Ten Year Old. They would realise the mistakes they are making to British people and the real needy immigrants that live in poverty in our country</p>
<p>If voluntary jobs are available and jobseekers are made to work, then this should be reflected in their jobseeker allowance or the places should give a wage subsidised by the government.</p>
<p>If you always do what you have always done you will always get what you always got. think about it. Cuts may not be necessary if you do things differently. tourism is vital,so are residents, so please dont do anything to affect iether. good luck.</p>
<p>Improve recycling by introducing electrical, battery and advertise nearest recycle points if not a home collection service. As recycling with give more to the council budget.</p>
<p>It feels you're not being effective enough. I'm only here for the bike comments, but really, it's not fair. You claim to be improving Blackpool's roads and town center. You're making it just worse for everyone that doesn't have a car. Maybe you can actually paint some bike lanes in the road? Maybe that would be better than being, I dunno, hit by a car for the 8th time because I'm simply a cyclist? I can never call the police because they speed off. Be smart, and make a freaking bike lane, save my life before your negligence takes mine.</p>
<p>It's fairly obvious that the problem is mostly one of lack of income (due to government cuts) rather than profligate spending. There's not great deal that can be done without affecting frontline services. I'd happily take the hit of a 2% (or 1.999999999%) council tax rise to help prevent job losses and retain services. I also think it's daft that Fleetwood and Cleveleys are not covered by Blackpool Council (or a Blackpool &amp; Fleetwood Council I suppose). Not only does this make sense with regards to transport (Fleetwood and Cleveleys being primarily served by Blackpool Transport which is municipally owned by Blackpool) but I also know many Fleetwood residents in particular loath Wyre Council that always seems to prioritise Poulton over anywhere else.</p>
<p>Keep Kinrcraig Children Centre.</p>
<p>Libraries provide an essential service within the community. It can be a vital link for lonely + vulnerable people who otherwise could feel isolated. It is a wonderful service for educating all both young + old. Many people can't afford computer's and libraries are one of a very few establishments that provide computer access.</p>
<p>Limit restructory and moving locations, unnecessary</p>
<p>Look thoroughly at other options before sanctioning spending. Look at the value of projects ie Devonshire road hospital car parking site Experts being brought in to make decisions and project manage if we dont have staff with these skills why are they in post</p>
<p>Make it known that you can volunteer.</p>
<p>Make sure everything bought is value for money - best value practise, Sell off Council Housing make it a cooperative. Ensure that were ever possible services are retained for the young and elderly - look at libraris - how about the community running them - ideal candidates would be Revoe - Mereside and Boundry.</p>
<p>Make the benefit claimants earn their benefit by working in the community doing things that the council would like to do to improve the community, but don't have the resources.</p>
<p>Many councillors attend full council meetings etc but never stay to the end. Reduce there payments - if they don't full fill there duties. Cut back on senior managers double everyone up make everyone earn there money Make all bars and clubs in town pay more for there licences and ensure that they pay for the mess they leave - Ensure that all taxis pay more for licences Make sure all business that owe council and business tax that's out standing. Libraris Close small branches amalgamate them into 2 big libraris Palatine and Central - look</p>

at making smaller librarys in to community librarys
maybe people would be willing to pay a little more if they felt it was being spent on worthwhile causes and not just on the Promenade?
More jobs in job share where instead of paying agencies pay normal staff or instead of one person doing fulltime 2 people doing part time saves paying extra for going over there hours on extra hours rate,checking staffs rates what they should be coming out with to what they actually are by getting all extra hours.
My pooe son has applied for at least a thosand jobs with no luck so far he is made to walk sometimes about 6 - 7 miles to do voluntary work because he can't get a bus pass they won't reimburse. Most of the time he does a full days work without any food walking there and back I think they should be given a wage.
Need to put money into providing more vacancies in the finance department . If you run a successful business your priority would be an effective accountant and a robust and competent finance team . As precisely stated resources need to be commensurate with the business and therefore preventing debt in the first place appears more prudent .
No
One councillor per ward..
Personally i feel that seeing the council from the " inside " i do see things differently . Most Council workers i deal with genuinely do want to do the best . Maybe look at more " flexi working hours " , Weekend working / opening of council facilities . I wish you all well as you have to make these difficult & hard choices .
Re use the empty buildings around town instead of building new ones I
Really unsure where the budget is spent so impossible to state where cuts should be made. Important to keep community based toddler/ baby groups which I would imagine are low cost.
Reducing business rates on empty properties to enable small businesses to rent them. As well as being a blight on town streets and surrounding areas, they will encourage more businesses to rent, giving way to more money being spent by staff there on other local premises businesses. Reduce the amount of red tape - on pretty much anything. Seems far too much money is wasted on pointless leaflets, information sheets, etc. Same can be said for the amount of road / street signs everywhere you look, far too many, with a lot being duplicates of signs on the same street - area. Not so much reduce spending but start making better use of the facilities we have. Work closer with local businesses on attracting more shows, bands, events to the area to use the vast amount of buildings we have for such events. Realise all of the above are easier said than done, but the main concern is the amount of outside thinking money is spent on for "feedback" or "consultation" services.
Reducing services is not the way to go.
Save printing costs by asking us to fill in fewer forms.
Scrap all area forums and the like Reduce the number of councillors End support for minority events - Bpool pride etc Turn off street lighting between 3am - 5am.
See above
Sell the town hall! Remove all lease cars Reduce expenses Stop cutting the grass on the sea front in December and January. (Bispham area)
Start acting together and stop all this political nonsense. It is wasteful. Everyone knows what the town needs right now. It needs a champion. Where are these people who said they support the towns businesses?
Stop giving money to people to sit on their bums + reproduce + spend the money on services such as PCSO's + helping working families with childcare! Also CCTV + actual punishments for rule breaking yobbos!
Stop making ridiculous political dogma, policy. Open the BOOKS so that concerned members of the public may scrutinise without being blocked by lazy or inept councillors.
Stop pocketing money maybe
stop spending money on pointless statues/eyesores on prom.

Stop spending on luxury items to look at like promenade balls etc.
Stop wasting money knocking buildings down and relocating offices Getting rid of lots of computers that have nothing wrong with them just to give employees new ones.
Stop wasting money making big changes to road junctions that turn out to be very dangerous. Statues that no-one cares about. Think things through.
the council has from what i recall about 3/4 offices in blackpool ( Progress I am aware has now been demolished) why not have all working out of 1 premises
The money this council wastes on empty units and continually spending on the promenade all for holiday makers. try spending some money on the deprived areas, where people live!!!
These comments come from a Blackpool resident + ex-council worker!
Top council employees should take a pay cut. The employees (and not the elected councillors) should take a pay cut. They aren't proving to be value for money.
Transport for disabled and special needs children should not be cut or reduced as we are expecting. This is a lifeline for so many children and parents, like myself cannot be expected to be in more than one place. I have a child who attends Woodlands and I would struggle to get her there if transport was withdrawn as is rumoured.
Value volunteers and use them wisely. Help them to feel part of the team they are working in and ensure they are coached and managed. Sweat your assets-if there are spaces in the Children's Centre that could be used for groups, for example unused nursery rooms; use them for activities instead of renting another space.
Wage cuts
You need to think about 'speculating to accumulate' . Ensure that people who come into the town have visible means to keep themselves, welcome those who are innovators
You waste way to much money on projects that have been non consulted like sainsbury area and road crossings. Get the priority of blackpool correct by doing this you will clear objectives and aims. Remove dead wood from council like [NAME REMOVED] who has no common sense and clearly does not understand the people of blackpool. Encourage the use of facilities blackpool council has so it encourages use and make people spend whilst on site.

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**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor Callow (in the Chair)

Councillors

I Coleman	Hunter	O'Hara
Galley	Hutton	Smith

**In Attendance:**

Ms M Moss, Mr N Smyth, Ms J Orry and Mr D Dickinson, Unison  
Mr N Loonat, Unite  
Mr L Ridings and Mr G Fletcher, ATL

**Also present:**

Mr N Jack, Chief Executive  
Ms C McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mr S Thompson, Director of Resources  
Mr A Rajpura, Director of Public Health  
Ms D Curtis, Director of People  
Mr M Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services  
Mr J Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services  
Mr A Cavill, Director of Place  
Mr P Redmond, Chief Accountant  
Ms H Shaw, Head of Business Support and Resources  
Bernadette Jarvis, Democratic Services Senior Adviser

**1 CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, Councillor Callow would preside over the meeting.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**3 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/2016 CONSULTATION WITH TRADE UNIONS**

Mr Thompson, Director of Resources, commenced his presentation of the budget by advising that some of the suggestions made by the Trade Unions through a series of meetings held throughout the year had been taken on board.

The extent of the required budget savings over the previous four years was reported as £68m with a requirement for further savings of £58m over the next three years. Mr Thompson explained the extent of the challenges faced in meeting the budget savings since 2010 and that these savings had equated to approximately four times the staffing costs for all back office services.

**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

Mr Thompson reported that a Medium Term Financial Strategy for the next three years had been approved by Executive at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015. He outlined the key principles of the Strategy which included resourcing of services in line with Council priorities, achieving value for money and efficiency savings and the principle of keeping Council Tax levels as low as possible. The success in securing a significant amount of income through grants was reported. Another key principle of the Strategy was ensuring that risks were identified and mitigated, for example in ensuring sufficient financial reserves, and maximising prudential borrowing. Mr Thompson emphasised the Council's statutory obligation to set a balanced budget.

Mr Thompson went on to report on the increased demand on local services, particularly in relation to Children's and Adult Services. He also explained that the key drivers for the budget were the level of Government funding and the localisation of Business Rates. In relation to Business Rates, he explained that the Council would benefit from large developments such as the Central Business District and The Harbour. There were however concerns regarding the potential level and impact of successful appeals currently being determined by the Valuation Office as the Council would be responsible for contributing 49% towards the settlements.

Mr Thompson reported on other sources of funding which included the Council Tax Freeze Grant. He also advised on the impact of the redevelopment of the social housing provision on New Homes Bonus.

The pressures on the budget in relation to Children's Services and Adult Services were reported. Mr Thompson advised on a review of parking services currently taking place in an attempt to balance accessibility and value for tourists and residents whilst optimising yield for the Council.

Mr Thompson went on to report on the significant reduction in Council staff in the last few years and the increasing difficulty to deliver services as a result. A further reduction of approximately 300 posts was expected in the financial year 2015/2016 and a further estimated reduction of 300 posts in the subsequent two years. He explained the amount of earmarked reserves required year-on-year to meet redundancy payments and associated pension strain and the potential for other options to be considered beyond the financial year 2015/2016. This included the option of applying for a Capitalisation Directive for future staff termination costs which, although not a prudent solution, would be unavoidable in the event of insufficient resources available to meet the costs. Mr Thompson gave assurances that compulsory redundancies would continue to be avoided where possible, however, the enhanced voluntary redundancy payment offered to staff as an incentive to leave voluntarily had been reduced from £5,000 to £3,000 this year due to affordability.

Mr Thompson advised on the key assumptions in the budget which included the national pay award, the continuation of the voluntary five days unpaid leave and non-pay inflation rates. The budget also assumed known changes to the Settlement Funding Assessment and a freeze on Council Tax. The positive impact of low interest rates and the benefits of



**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

short-term borrowing were outlined.

The budget gap for 2015/2016 was £25.2m and although the estimated budget gaps for the two subsequent financial years had been set, there was a risk that these figures could change significantly due to the uncertainty of the level of Government funding for the next two years. The reasons for the budget gap for 2015/16 were provided and these included the increased pressures on both Children's Social Care and Adults Services, the latter which had been impacted by an ageing population, above inflation increases and the cost of domiciliary care staff travel time.

Mr Thompson reported on the savings plan adopted as a result of the expected financial challenges. Priority Led Budgeting would continue, with every service expected to deliver some efficiency savings.

There was a recommendation to maintain the level of working balances at £6m. There was currently a net overspend as at month 9 of approximately £700,000 but it was expected that this figure would reduce further by the end of the financial year. The month-on-month improvement to reduce overspends was reported and although there was an expectation that there would be overspends at year end, it was expected that this would be at an acceptable tolerance level in relation to the gross budget of c. £500m and that working balances would be close to the target of £6m.

Mr Thompson went on to report the components of the Council's spending power, not all of which it had influence over.

The final Local Government Finance Settlement figure for 2015/2016 had been announced in early February and the amount was unchanged from the Provisional Settlement other than £360,000 being provided to maintain the Local Welfare provision following consultation.

Mr Thompson advised that the General Fund Revenue Budget had been considered by Executive at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Mr Thompson concluded his presentation by referring to the Appendices attached to the report which provided further detail on the budget, the proposed savings, an equality analysis and the assessment of significant risks for the Council and reflected the requirement for the working balances to remain at £6m.

The Chairman invited the Trade Union Representatives to ask questions and respond to the budget presentation.

Unison asked for the reduction in the pay bill as a result of the year-on-year redundancies to be taken into account in the budget. It was acknowledged that this had been and would be the case.

In response to a question from Unison regarding the spending of the New Homes Bonus Grant, Mr Thompson confirmed that initially the Grant had been earmarked for new

**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

homes but out of necessity the funding had subsequently been moved to support the revenue budget. He confirmed that the funding formula was based on the national Council Tax level and confirmed the expectation that, should the funding continue, there could be an increase in the grant following the Queens Park redevelopment and Foxhall project although this was not guaranteed.

Responding to questions regarding the ringfencing of the Public Health Grant, Mr Jack confirmed the expectation that it would continue to be ringfenced in the future but this would be determined by the Department of Health.

Unison questioned the pay rise level of 2.2% and the funding to support this and Mr Thompson confirmed that this reflected the pay rise for a two-year period and had been factored into the Medium Term Financial Plan. Mr Redmond reported that the 2.2% level equated to £1.7m.

Unison asked that their concerns be noted in regard to the enhanced voluntary redundancies only being offered to at risk staff and Mrs McKeogh confirmed that note had previously been taken of Unison's concerns and that further work would be undertaken with the Trade Unions in relation to the scope of voluntary redundancies. Unison requested a breakdown of the number and cost of voluntary redundancies for the previous year.

In relation to questions from Unison regarding the measures taken in relation to the economic downturn, the ongoing work with Lancashire County Council regarding debt restructuring was outlined as were the plans to continue to minimise long-term borrowing.

Responding to questions from Unison regarding the option of applying for a Capitalisation Directive for future staff termination costs, Mr Jack confirmed that the preferred and most viable option would be to build up reserves to meet the redundancy costs.

Unison asked for the plans to achieve the working balance target of £6m to be outlined and Mr Thompson reported that continuing progress was being made in this regard and that it was expected that by the end of the financial year the working balances would be close to the target. Unison questioned the need for high levels of working balances taking into account the reduction in the Council's services and Mr Jack confirmed that it was ever more important that there were sufficient reserves with the challenges ahead and stated that future reductions in the gross budget would be taken into account.

Unison expressed concerns at the lack of specific information on the equality analysis within the budget and Mr Thompson confirmed that each service area would have a specific equality impact assessment.

Mr Thompson agreed to provide information on the organisations that had benefited from voluntary sector grants.

**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

Unison asked about plans for the costs associated with the Assessment and Rehabilitation Centre's staff terms and conditions as they understood that as part of the consultation period this proposal was going to be removed and replaced with an alternative Adult Social Care saving.

Unison raised concerns regarding the impact of Academies and it was confirmed that savings would have to be made due to the significant reduction in school funding received as a result of the conversions to Academies. It was confirmed that specific figures relating to the reduction in funding could be provided if required.

In response to a question regarding outstanding Business Rate appeals, it was confirmed that the Valuation Office currently had approximately £50m of appeals and that the Valuation Office had a target for resolving 95% of appeals by the end of July.

Unison requested further clarity on the Statutory Intervention in Schools and it was confirmed that this was under review and that more information could be provided if required.

Unison questioned the nursery provision provided by the Council and it was confirmed that a review would be undertaken which would consider all options in relation to nursery provision.

Unison requested a further breakdown in the budget gap for 2015/16 as detailed in paragraph 7.1 of the report.

Unison requested the opportunity to provide further written questions on the budget at a later date.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and provided assurances that their comments would be passed to the Executive for consideration.

**The Committee agreed:**

1. To note the outcome of the consultation with representatives of the Trade Unions.
2. To request that the observations from this meeting be forwarded to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

**Chairman**

(The meeting ended 10.45 am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor Callow (in the Chair)

Councillors

I Coleman  
Galley

Hunter  
Hutton

O'Hara  
Smith

**In Attendance:**

Ms S Johnson, Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses and Ms E Ormand,  
Blackpool BID.

**Also present:**

Mr N Jack, Chief Executive

Mr S Thompson, Director of Resources

Mr M Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

Mr A Cavill, Director of Place

Mr P Redmond, Chief Accountant

Bernadette Jarvis, Democratic Services Senior Adviser

**1 CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, Councillor Callow would preside over the meeting.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**3 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/2016 CONSULTATION WITH NON-DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS**

Mr Thompson, Director of Resources, commenced his presentation of the budget by reporting on the extent of the required budget savings. The savings required over the previous four years had been £68m with a further requirement for savings of £58m over the next three years. He reported on the significant challenges that the Council had faced as a result of the continued cuts in the Council's budget.

The steps that had been taken to mitigate against the year-on-year reductions in the budget included the adoption of different methods of service provision and the sharing of services with other local authorities. The extent of the reduction in staffing of back office services was reported. Mr Thompson advised of the increasing difficulties in the Council's ability to continue to deliver services in light of the continuing budget cuts and the potential for more radical changes to service provision in the future.

**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

Mr Thompson reported on the localisation of business rates initiative that had been introduced by Central Government with the aim of encouraging economic development. He explained how the changes in the way that the rates were now collected impacted on the budget. He reported on the positive impact on the budget from the new developments such as the Central Business District, Sainsburys and The Harbour. However, the Council's liability in funding 49% of successful business rate appeals determined by the Valuation Office placed a significant pressure on the budget and a requirement for earmarked reserves. The full actual cost would not be known until all appeals had been processed.

Mr Thompson reported on the disproportionate funding cuts for the Council compared with other local authorities in England. He advised that the budget gap for the financial year 2015/2016 was £25.2m and that bridging this gap was a statutory requirement. It was expected that the levels of budget gap for the subsequent two financial years would be approximately £20m and £13m respectively. The latest forecast overspend for the current financial year was approximately £700,000 which was considered to be an acceptable tolerance level within the context of the gross budget of c. £500m. It was expected that the overspends would further reduce by the end of the year which would result in the working balances being closer to the target of £6m.

A reduction in income from car parking, despite the increase in tourism, was reported. This was mainly attributed to the loss of car park sites and increased competition. A review of parking services was underway with the aim of improving accessibility to car parks to attract visitors to the town and promote local businesses, whilst at the same time optimising income for the Council.

Mr Thompson concluded his presentation by providing assurances that one of the Council's key aims was to promote economic development in the town.

The Chairman invited the Representatives from the Non-Domestic Ratepayers to ask questions and respond to the budget presentation.

In response to concerns relating to the impact on the Private Sector from the reduction in Council's budget and staff redundancies, the numerous interventions to mitigate the impact and reduce risk to businesses were reported. These included investment in the transport network, development of the illuminations, investment in tourist attractions and extending the holiday season.

Responding to a question from the Committee, it was confirmed that the small business rate relief had been extended to the financial year 2015/2016 but there were no guarantees that the Government would continue this in the future.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and provided assurances that their comments would be passed to the Executive for consideration.

**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND UNIONS CONSULTATION MEETING  
- FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

**The Committee agreed:**

1. To note the outcome of the consultation with representatives of the Non-Domestic Ratepayers.
2. To request that the observations from this meeting be forwarded to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

**Chairman**

(The meeting ended 11.57am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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