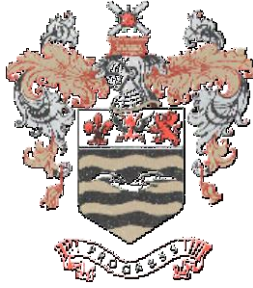


# Public Document Pack



## BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 15 November 2016

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Blackpool Council** to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Blackpool on Wednesday, 23 November 2016 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Lewis'.

Director of Governance and Partnerships

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### **Business**

#### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

- (1) the type of interest concerned; and
- (2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

#### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2016** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2016 as a true and correct record.

#### **3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

**4 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - COUNCILLOR TONY BROWN** (Pages 7 - 8)

Councillors will be asked to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Councillor Tony Brown who sadly died on 16 October 2016.

Group Leaders and/ or representatives will be invited to pay tribute to Councillor Brown and to pass a resolution of condolence.

**5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS** (Pages 9 - 30)

To consider the attached reports to Council from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs) and the Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities).

Members are reminded that:

- Each Senior Executive Member has up to three minutes to present their report, after which there will be a period of no longer than 15 minutes per report for questions/comments (a green card will give a one minute warning, red for the end of the debate).
- There will be three minutes per question/ comment from any Councillor on anything within the portfolio and no limit to the number of times a Councillor can ask a question.
- There will be a period of up to ten minutes for a response from the Senior Executive Member (or relevant Cabinet Member) at the end of the questions/ comments for each report.

**6 BLACKPOOL TRAMWAY EXTENSION TO BLACKPOOL NORTH STATION (SECOND REPORT)** (Pages 31 - 46)

To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 7 November 2016 relating to the application of the necessary order to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station.

**7 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES** (Pages 47 - 60)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 7 November 2016 relating to updating the Council's constitution and also changes to Committee membership following the appointment of Councillor Benson to the Executive and subsequent Committee changes.

**8 PROPER OFFICER DESIGNATIONS** (Pages 61 - 64)

To consider the updating of Proper Officer designations and appointments to certain positions in the health sector relating to the North West.

To consider the reports of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the joint Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a 12 month review of allowances for Independent Persons (in relation to Standards matters) and Non-Executive Directors of wholly-owned companies.

**Venue information:**

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477034, e-mail [yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk)

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at [www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk).

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### **Present:**

Councillor Mrs Rowson (in the Chair)

### **Councillors**

Benson	I Coleman	Hutton	Ryan
Blackburn	Cox	Jackson	Singleton
Brown	Critchley	Kirkland	Smith
Cain	Cross	Matthews	I Taylor
Callow	Elmes	Maycock	L Taylor
Mrs Callow JP	Galley	Mitchell	L Williams
Campbell	Mrs Henderson MBE	O'Hara	T Williams
Clapham	Hobson	Owen	Mrs Wright
D Coleman	Humphreys	Robertson BEM	
G Coleman	Hunter	Roberts	

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services/ Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Sally Shaw, Head of the Corporate Delivery Unit

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised that following the Council decision at the last meeting, the special meeting to award the Duke of Lancaster Regiment Freedom of Entry status, would be held in the lead up to Armed Forces week in June 2017, in order to allow the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion to attend.

On permission of the Mayor, Councillor Owen thanked the Council for its tribute to his late wife at the last meeting as well as support and attendance at her funeral.

### **3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2016**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 June 2016, be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

#### **4 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - COUNCILLOR EDDIE COLLETT**

Members observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect, following the sad loss of Councillor Eddie Collett on 25 July 2016. The Council was invited to pay tribute to his life and work and consider a resolution of condolence.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

‘This Council and the Townspeople of Blackpool were deeply saddened to learn of the death on 25 July 2016 of Councillor Eddie Collett, former Mayor of the Borough in 2013/2014 and member for Tyldesley Ward.

Eddie was first elected to Blackpool Borough Council in 1991, after a career in maintenance management and was a tutor at Blackpool and the Fylde College. During his time at the Council Eddie had held the positions of Deputy Leader of the Council and his other Portfolios included Education, Tourism, Economic Regeneration and Crime and Community Safety. He most recently served as the Cabinet Member for School Improvement and Children's Safeguarding and was also Chairman of the Governing Body of Waterloo Primary Academy, as well as a past Chairman of "Marketing Blackpool".

As Mayor and Mayoress of Blackpool, Eddie and Heather attended many events throughout a busy mayoral year. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Heather, David and Sian in their great loss.’

The Mayor and Councillor I Taylor also paid tribute to Councillor Collett.

**Motion carried:** The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried unanimously.

#### **5 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

Mr Pauline Duncan, spokesperson for Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) addressed the Council in relation to the State Pension Age (SPA) for women born on or after 6th April 1951. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Blackburn, responded on behalf of the Council.

#### **6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS**

The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Secretary presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in their own portfolio area and those portfolios under their responsibility. The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners. Council representatives of the Fire Authority also presented a report on the work of the authority from the meetings held in April and June 2016. Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

## 7 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD STRATEGY

The Council received the report from the Executive in relation to the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy that had been recommended for approval. Members noted that Strategy had been produced based on the vision and the four main priorities that had been agreed by the Board and reaffirmed in December 2015 which were: housing; tackling substance misuse; building community resilience and reducing social isolation; and early intervention.

**Motion:** Councillor Cain proposed (and Councillor Cross seconded):

‘To approve the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.’

**Motion carried:** The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

## 8 RELATIONSHIP WITH SANYA, CHINA

The Council was informed of the request from the City of Sanya, in the south of Hainan in China, to enter into a ‘sister city’ agreement over a five year period in order to formalise and strengthen the current cultural, educational and economic areas between the city and Blackpool.

Members noted that discussions had already taken place with government officials in Sanya, regarding developing tertiary education in the catering and hospitality field, as well as investment discussions and sharing of learning and opportunities.

The Council was also aware of Blackpool’s existing business links with a Chinese company in relation to the investment in the Illuminasia attraction in the Winter Gardens and noted that the Blackpool Dance Festival in Shanghai would also bring in significant income over the next five years.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

- ‘1. To agree that the proposed arrangement with the Chinese City of Sanya is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of Blackpool and its inhabitants.
2. To confirm the arrangement to enter into the proposed ‘sister city’ agreement and twinning arrangement with Sanya.’

**Motion carried:** The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

## 9 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Members were reminded that in November 2015, the Council had appointed two additional members of the Independent Remuneration Panel following a recruitment process and after consultation with the two Group Leaders. The Director of Governance and Partnerships reported that one of the newly appointed members had stood down due to work related relocation and therefore requested that Council considered the

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

appointment of the third interviewee, Mr G Molyneux, who had met all the criteria to be appointed.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor T Williams seconded):

‘To agree to appoint Mr G Molyneux as an Independent Remuneration Panel member.’

**Motion carried:** The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

### 10 BLACKPOOL SPORTS CENTRE

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor T Williams proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

‘Blackpool Council recognises the important contribution that Mr Brian London has made in regard to the sport of boxing in the UK and by association representing his long term adopted home town of Blackpool.

Brian was British and Commonwealth champion, fought Muhammad Ali for the world championship and fought many great fighters all over the world including at large venues in the USA.

When he retired he became a successful businessman employing hundreds of local residents in his world famous night club the 007. Many celebrities were regular faces at the club and it attracted visitors from across the UK.

As well as being a sporting celebrity and successful businessman Brian has been a very active supporter of local charities including the Variety Club and many local sport related associations.

He has lived close to Stanley Park for more than 40 years and used the perimeter of the park every day up until recently to train and keep fit.

The Council is therefore requested to rename Stanley Park Sports Centre to become The Brian London Stanley Park Sports Centre in recognition of Brian's successful historic contribution to the sport of boxing and as a positive ambassador for Blackpool.’

Members then went on to debate the motion.

**Motion lost:** The motion was submitted to the Council and lost.

### 11 STAND AGAINST RACE/HATE CRIMES

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor O’Hara proposed (and Councillor Mitchell seconded):



## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

'The people of Blackpool are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Hate crimes are utterly abhorrent regardless of whether they target a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity.

Blackpool Council condemns this unequivocally and will not allow hate to become acceptable and will work with other organisations, as appropriate, to ensure local bodies and programmes have resources needed to fight hate crime. It seeks to reassure all people living in Blackpool that they are valued members of the community.

As a further commitment to this stance, the Council hereby resolves to support the #saynotohate campaign that the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office is coordinating during hate crime awareness week 8 to 15 October.'

**Motion carried:** The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

### 12 STATE PENSION AGE FOR WOMEN

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor Mrs Wright proposed (and Councillor L Williams seconded):

'The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951 who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification. This affects many women in Blackpool and the Chief Executive is asked to write to the Secretary of State to outline the Council's position.'

**Amendment:** Councillor T Williams then proposed (and Councillor Galley seconded) the following amendment:

'This Council recognises that both women and men are living longer than the ages at which the State Pension was introduced in 1940. At that time pension age for women was paid to those reaching 60 years of age.

Under this arrangement women were spending 40% of their adult lives in receipt of SP as opposed to 31% for men.

This imbalance was also recognised by the Labour Government in 2007 when they announced that both men and women would see their retirement age go up to 66 between 2004 and 2006.

To ensure the sustainability of the UK pension scheme it is recognised by all parties that equalisation is essential to ensure a fair and generous provision.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

This Council calls upon the Government to consider their current equalisation scheme against all other alternative proposals and suggestions that have been submitted when making their final arrangements. This will ensure that the very best possible sustainable pension scheme is delivered. The Chief Executive is asked to write to Secretary of State to outline the Council's position.'

Debate then took place on the amendment.

**Amendment lost:** The amendment was submitted to the Council and lost.

Debate then took place on the original motion and prior to voting, five members of the Council requested that the vote on the original motion be recorded. The voting was as follows:

### Recorded vote on the original motion:

**For the original motion:** Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Cain, Campbell, D Coleman, G Coleman, I Coleman, Critchley, Cross, Elmes, Hobson, Humphreys, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Mrs Rowson, Ryan, Singleton, Smith, I Taylor, L Taylor, L Williams, Mrs Wright - **total 28.**

**Against the original motion:** None - **total 0.**

**Abstentions:** Councillors Brown, Mrs Callow, Callow, Clapham, Cox, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Maycock, Roberts, Robertson, T Williams - **total 11.**

**Motion carried:** The original motion was therefore carried.

### **Mayor**

(The meeting ended at 8.55 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance  
Tel: 01253 477127  
E-mail: [lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk)

## **RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR COUNCILLOR TONY BROWN**

This Council and the people of Blackpool were deeply saddened to learn of the death on 16 October 2016 of Councillor Tony Brown, former Deputy Mayor of the Borough in 2015/ 2016 and member for Warbreck Ward.

Councillor Tony Brown was born in a mining town in Nottinghamshire before moving to Blackpool in 1948. After leaving Tyldesley Secondary school he eventually joined the Royal Artillery serving in Germany and Hong Kong.

Tony worked for the Atomic Energy Authority at Salwick and was self-employed for many years. His last business venture before retiring was to buy a bankrupt hotel with his wife Angela which they quickly turned into a successful business.

Tony was elected to represent Greenlands and Warbreck wards on Lancashire County Council in 1989 and was on the Lancashire Valuations Tribunal for several years. Tony has represented Warbreck ward on Blackpool Council since 2000 and during this time held the position of Chairman of the Employment and Appeals Committee and was a long standing member of both the Licensing and Planning Committees.

He was greatly honoured to have been asked to deputise for Councillor Peter Callow during his mayoral year.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Angela and family in their great loss.

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Executive Member Report to the Council  
23 November 2016

## AGENDA ITEM 5(a)

### LEADER OF THE COUNCIL –‘CORPORATE’ PORTFOLIO AREA COUNCILLOR SIMON BLACKBURN

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The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council’s website at  
<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

#### Corporate Issues

##### **Benefit Claims, Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt Collections**

The average number of days to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme claims and changes in circumstances remains static at 20 days whilst work is ongoing to clear older items of changes in circumstance work.

The call answer rate for Customer First for September was 45%, a slight improvement on the same time last year.

At the end of quarter two, Council tax in-year collection performance was 52.4%, a reduction of 0.7% compared to the previous year, this equates to £338,000 based upon the Council Tax Net Requirement excluding Police and Fire. Business Rate collection was 51.63%, a reduction of 0.48% compared to a like for like comparison with the previous year. This equates to £128,000 for the Blackpool element. Recovery activity, including court action when necessary, is well underway in respect of outstanding current year debts.

Sundry debt collection was 88.00%, which was significantly higher than the previous year when it was 70.64%.

##### **Lancashire Combined Authority and Devolution**

A total of 14 of the 15 Local Authorities in Lancashire came together as the shadow Lancashire Combined Authority (LCA) in July 2016, electing me as Chairman. I am delighted that in recent meetings we have agreed which Leader will act as the lead member for the many different strands of work we now need to progress. The shadow LCA has now met three times, making solid progress in a number of areas only made possible by coming together in this way. For example, Lancashire, via the Combined Authority, has now secured access to the Government’s One Public Estate programme, following successive failures to get on the programme by a number of individual Lancashire local authorities over the last two years. We have secured an initial £260,000 of government support for 2016/ 2017 to begin to orchestrate a Lancashire One Public Estate programme. More funding will follow in 2017/ 2018. Partners have just submitted a list of projects to government for funding next year, including several in Blackpool. It is very encouraging that Government’s One Public Estate team has recently made it clear that

they wish to work with us and the Ministry of Justice, on the relocation of the courts away from the Central Station site as part of enabling its redevelopment.

Partners remain hopeful that an Order can be presented to Parliament that will enable the Lancashire Combined Authority to come into formal legal existence in the spring of next year. I am now working very closely with key partners such as Edwin Booth, Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, on preparations for early discussions with Ministers on both the formal creation of the Lancashire Combined Authority and the onset of devolution negotiations. In this respect, a single political voice trusted to speak for Lancashire, alongside the LEP, is already paying obvious dividends in gaining traction within Government.

### **Corporate Delivery Unit (CDU)**

The CDU is now operational and the first board meetings were held in October. These initial meetings have been used to set the priorities for the team and work is underway in key areas to improve the visibility of service performance and support effective decision-making. Stocktake reports are being compiled for the next meetings, with the team working alongside services to facilitate information gathering, access to research and evidence and designing or refining performance management systems.

### **Human Resources**

#### Leadership Charter

Human Resources has been working with the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to develop a Leadership Charter, which has now been through consultation with Council Managers and has been refined through valuable feedback. When completed, the next step will be to develop a leadership development programme, which complements the charter and supports the organization to grow and develop valued leaders.

#### Apprenticeship Levy

A project group has been set up to understand the draft funding rules for levy-paying employers participating in the new Apprenticeship programme from 1 May 2017.

### **Strategic Issues**

#### **Financial Monitoring**

Financial performance monitoring in the early part of 2016/ 2017 highlighted financial pressures emerging in Children's Services, Strategic Leisure Assets, Concessionary Fares and Property Rationalisation with estimated working balances forecast to fall by £2,880,000 against the budgeted position over the year to a level of £2,756,000.

In the context of £35.0m of Earmarked Revenue Reserves and with seven months of the financial year remaining, there should still be sufficient time to redress the position and revised service and financial plans are underway to do so.

The latest month five financial performance report for 2016/ 2017 was reported to the Executive on 7 November.

The Budget for 2016/ 2017 required total savings to be found of £25.1 million. As at 31 August 2016 (month five) 81% of the 2016/ 2017 savings target had already been delivered and the full-year effect of the 2016/ 2017 savings in 2017/ 2018 amounts to 91% of the £25.1 million target.

Following significant feedback, the Government has announced its decision to defer the introduction of Local Housing Allowance rates for Supported Accommodation until 2019/ 2020 when it expects a new funding model to be introduced. As further details are announced, the Benefits Service will work with other services and providers to understand the implications of any changes.

## **Policy Issues**

### **Benefits**

The lowered Benefit Cap took effect in Blackpool from 7 November 2016 for existing cases and 5 December for new ones. The new maximum amount of benefit allowable is:

- couples or lone parents of working age will no longer be entitled to receive more than £384.62 per week (previously £500)
- single adults of working age with no children will no longer be entitled to receive more than £257.69 per week (previously £350).

Whilst exact numbers are not yet known it is estimated that around 300-400 households in Blackpool will be affected. The Department for Work and Pensions wrote to potentially affected claimants in September to inform them that they may be subject to the lowered cap.

The Benefits Service will be working with affected customers to identify whether a Discretionary Housing Payment would be appropriate.

## **Transforming Services**

### Channel Shift

An on-line form is now available on the Council website to allow customers to report problems with roads and pavements.

## **Working with Partners**

### Blackpool Museum

The Gateway meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund referred to in my last report was postponed and will now take place in January.

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**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (TOURISM, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOBS) –  
COUNCILLOR GILLIAN CAMPBELL**

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The Places area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Fred Jackson (Environmental Services and Highways),
- Councillor Mark Smith (Regeneration, Enterprise and Economic Development) and
- Councillor Mrs Christine Wright (Housing).

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at  
<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

## **Corporate Issues**

### **Plymouth Road Bridge**

The service diversions (preparation works) for the Plymouth Road Bridge reconstruction project have now been completed successfully and the full bridge closure has now been implemented as of Monday 7 November, with the plan being for the bridge to be back open to traffic for Easter 2017 (weather permitting).

The official diversion route for traffic is now in place, Warbreck Hill Road, Devonshire Road, Talbot Road, Westcliffe Drive and Poulton Road for southbound traffic and the reverse for northbound traffic.

The patch repair work programme has now been undertaken on all roads surrounding the bridge prior to the bridge being closed.

The Highway and Traffic team has altered 19 different signal junctions across the town to deal with the issues because of the bridge closure with the aim being to help the traffic flow across the town with these temporary measures.

Plymouth Road/ Warbreck Hill Road junction has been modified as part of the signal junction works and will operate as a three-arm traffic signal junction now the full closure is implemented. The phasing of the lights will be altered to extend the timings of the right turn from Bispham Road and the left turn from Warbreck Hill Road, as maximum green time will help the traffic flow at the junction.

Temporary double yellow lines will be implemented along the diversion route to help facilitate the passing of larger vehicles and emergency service vehicles as per meeting with key stakeholders.

### **Blue Flag**

It is fantastic that all of the Fylde's beaches passed the stringent European water quality tests for the 2016 bathing season. In particular, it is brilliant that South Shore retained its 'excellent' status and in doing so, retained 'Blue Flag'. This is tremendous news for Blackpool, the Fylde and the North West.

The Environment Agency has applauded the work that has been undertaken on our coastline to improve water quality, which has paid huge dividends and is a credit to all concerned.

### **Anchorsholme Sea Defence**

At the public consultation meetings held in the summer regarding the Anchorsholme sea defence scheme, the public were promised the opportunity to walk the length of the scheme prior to the area opening.

This happened on Saturday 5 November 2016, where members of the public, many of whom had been involved throughout the consultation process of the scheme and works walked the new promenade.

It was an extremely positive experience, with excellent feedback regarding the scope and quality of the scheme.

United Utilities is now programmed to reinforce the pumping station roof and Balfour Beatty will return in January 2017 to build the defence wall at this particular point.

### **Charity Fraud Prosecution**

Officers have successfully prosecuted Marvin Trussell and his trading company "Army of Heroes" regarding fraudulent charity collections supposedly benefitting wounded ex-servicemen. The jury at Preston Crown Court following a week-long trial returned a guilty verdict. Although based in Blackpool and mainly collecting in Blackpool, bogus collections were also detected as far away as Manchester and Liverpool. Mr Trussell was remanded in custody awaiting sentence. There are a number of similar investigations ongoing.

### **Litter Enforcement – 3GS**

The partnership enforcement regime is now operational between Blackpool Council and 3GS Environmental Services. In the first two months a total of 150 offences were dealt with by means of issuing Fixed Penalty Notices. As a rule of thumb, all cases of non-payment are reported for consideration of prosecution. As a result of this the first 19 offence reports have already been reported and all 19 have been forwarded to Legal Services for prosecution.

### **Vulnerable Victims of Scams**

Officers continue to work with the National Scams Hub to engage with and protect suspected repeat victims of scams. The most recent referrals contained the details of 82 potential victims. All have now been through the initial stages of contact and visits. These initial enquiries have already identified five confirmed serious victims, with many more cases already thought to be victims. All are under investigation, ongoing assistance is being provided and Truecall machines fitted where appropriate funded from Proceeds of Crime.

### **Additional Licensing Central Area**

The Additional Licensing scheme covering larger rented properties in the central wards of Blackpool is now “live” and the inspection regime has now commenced.

### **Public Space Protection Order**

The Order has enabled officers to prosecute effectively for a number of problematic issues such as the sale of publications of for example “gag mags” and begging around cash machines etc. Consideration is currently being given to extending/ amending the Order, including taking Counsel’s advice to see if it can be used to tackle the ongoing problems from street trading.

### **Contracts awarded since the last meeting are as follows:**

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>PROVIDER (Locations)</b>	<b>TERM IN YRS (including extensions)</b>	<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>	<b>NO. OF BIDDERS</b>
Commercial Gas Servicing and Maintenance	The James Mercer Group Limited (Preston)	2 + (1+1)	£500,000	4
Pool Sample Testing	Clearwater Technologies (Surrey)	1 + (1+1)	£1,827	3
Consultant for Conference Centre and Hotel Scheme	Genecon (Manchester)	Ad-hoc – 2 months	£15,200	11
Occupational Health Physician – ESPO Framework	IMASS (Plymouth)	2 + (2)	£240,000	1
Removal of Dead Bodies on Behalf of HM Coroner Blackpool and Fylde District	Helen Ashmore Funeral Service (Thornton Cleveleys)	2 + (1+1)	£300,000	2
Quality Corridors – 1) Church Street – detailed designs	Wilde Consulting Engineers (Stockport)	Ad-hoc – 4 months	£11,000	4

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>PROVIDER (Locations)</b>	<b>TERM IN YRS (including extensions)</b>	<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>	<b>NO. OF BIDDERS</b>
Purchase of Caged Tipper Vehicles – YPO Framework	Iveco – Walton Summit (Preston)	One-off purchase	£228,050	3

As part of the Council agenda, Council will be asked to approve an update to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules aimed at simplifying the document providing greater clarity and ease of use and a change to the manner in which tenders are evaluated to strengthen the Council's ability to maximise Social Value deliverables from the Council's tendering and contracting arrangement.

### **Social Value**

In addition to build on the Social Value work undertaken to date a number of prescriptive outputs and outcomes linked to the priorities in the Council Plan 2015/ 2020 have been agreed for inclusion in all Council tenders. Furthermore, the introduction of a new criteria (in addition to quality and price) will be introduced into the Council's evaluation model for assessing tenders. These initiatives will allow the Council to examine the ability of prospective suppliers to deliver Social Value against key priority objectives.

### **Built Heritage and Conservation**

A grant of £500,000 towards the cost of repairing the Spanish Hall roof in the Winter Gardens has been confirmed by Historic England. This represents around 40% of the total cost of the works, which are intended to form the next phase in addressing the condition of the Grade II listed structure. The grant is particularly remarkable because it represents just under 50% of the annual budget for grants offered by Historic England's north west office, underlining their commitment to working with Blackpool and assisting us to deliver a more sustainable future for our listed buildings. The whole project is estimated to cost around £1.25m and a case for prudential borrowing is currently being assembled/assessed.

### **Strategic Issues**

#### **Winter Gardens Conference and Exhibition Centre**

The conference and exhibition centre continues to progress. Initial scheme plans have been completed and outline planning permission has now been granted. Architects have been engaged in order to continue to develop designs to allow a full planning application to be submitted late November.

Other areas of activity, which continue to, progress include:

- State Aid compliance work
- Economic appraisal

Grant funding bids have been submitted for Growth Deal Three (GD3) monies £15m and Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) £2.9m. Confirmation of progression to round two of CCF has been received and work is currently taking place in order to ensure requirements in this regard are satisfied. Updates on GD3 progression are expected later this year.

As part of the planning process, consultation is now underway on the design. The consultees include, but are not restricted to, Historic England and the Theatres Trust

### **Planning – New Significant Development Applications**

Applications have recently been lodged for the hotel in Leopold Grove (reference 16/ 0553), a hotel and retail units at The Sands venue (reference 16/ 0674) involving a combination retail/ hotel development and Wilkinson's relocation to Coronation Street/ Tower Street (reference 16/ 0671). An application for housing and a smaller retail store on the former Booths site, Highfield Road (reference 16/0564) has also been received.

The reserved matters application for the Police Divisional Headquarters on the former Progress House site, Clifton Road has been approved and applications to discharge the conditions attached to the outline and reserved matters applications are currently being considered.

### **Palm Beach Hotel**

Demolition has begun on the former Palm Beach hotel and the neighbouring Bourne Hotel. The Palm Beach had been burnt-out in an arson attack and was one of the biggest eyesores in Blackpool. The demolition will also require the removal of asbestos which has become mixed with other materials due to the fire, this process will create 12 jobs. Once the ground is cleared, work will begin on a new £8.5m hotel run under the Hilton's Hampton brand – at the height of the building work it is expected to employ around 100 people, most of which will be local. This is due to be completed by spring 2018 in advance of the summer season.

### **Great Place Scheme**

The Council is looking to consolidate and build on a range of recent successful cultural projects i.e. LeftCoast and protect the core cultural activities of the Council to ensure their sustainability and long-term economic and social impact on the town.

The Council recently led a bid to the new Great Place Scheme set up by the Heritage Lottery Arts Council of England and Historic England, which is offering grants of up to £1.5 million to support activity that embeds arts, culture and heritage into the vision and plans for a particular place. The outline bid requests support for the creation of a new Culture Company that would be asset backed and therefore would not rely heavily on public sector funding after an initial set up period. We are also looking to establish a Blackpool Cultural Partnership.

Our initial bid has been successful in going through to the next round of the Great Place Scheme. Detailed applications are due in by early January 2017 and the outcome on whether or not we have been successful will be known by 31 March 2017. The funding would be available to cover a period of up to three years starting in April 2017 if we are successful.

Match funding of 10% is required as a minimum. The Scheme will be funding only 12 projects across the country and this includes four projects that are based on rural areas.

### **Enterprise Zone**

A memorandum has been signed by the Government for the Enterprise Zone, which has already created around 400 jobs and is set to create a further 3,000 jobs. The Enterprise Zone is a crucial part of Blackpool Council's plans for the site, which will seize upon the Fylde Coast's unique opportunities in the energy sector, particularly renewables and offshore oil and gas. The Council has worked hard to secure the future of the airport, including the protection of key infrastructure such as the main runway, as it is a key advantage of the site for many businesses looking to invest.

### **Policy Issues**

#### **Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document**

Work is underway on Part 2 of the Local Plan. The new Blackpool Local Plan for 2012/ 2027 comprises two parts: Part 1 is the Core Strategy, which sets out the strategic policies guiding development, which was adopted in January 2016 and Part 2 is the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document.

Part 2 of the Local Plan will:

- Allocate sites for new development including housing, employment and retail and identify areas for safeguarding and protection e.g. public open space, greenbelt;
- Designate areas where particular policies will apply e.g. local centres;
- Include policies to be applied when considering applications for development e.g. design, amenity and transport.

The policies contained within Part 2 provide further detail to the strategic policies set out in the Core Strategy.

There are a number of stages we must follow in preparing the Local Plan Part 2 and we are currently at the first stage and preparing a draft Regulation 18 Scoping Document. This document will be subject to public consultation seeking views on what policies Part 2 of the Local Plan ought to contain to ensure we have the right planning policies for Blackpool.

The initial meeting of a new Member Working Group to steer the development of Part 2 of the Local Plan will be convened in December to consider the contents of the draft Regulation 18 document prior to seeking Executive approval in January 2017 to undertake public consultation. At the same time as the Regulation 18 Scoping consultation, the Council will also be consulting on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report. The SA Scoping Report is designed to draw together information about Blackpool to establish a sustainability baseline and determine the key challenges for the area. The information compiled in the SA Scoping Report will form the

foundations of the sustainability appraisal, which will be used to test how well the Local Plan Part 2 aligns with sustainability objectives.

### **Built Heritage Strategy**

The Built Heritage Strategy will be considered by the Executive in December for final approval after its extended consultation and revision period. The Strategy sets out how the Council will manage and respond to changes and developments affecting our historic buildings, landscapes and neighbourhoods in the next few years and looks at how communities can be involved in participating and leading on some of these initiatives. The strategy also sets out some short to medium term objectives/ projects to position Blackpool as a regional leader, boosting confidence with the statutory body and as a consequence, greater leeway in development decisions.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Planning**

Planning has now signed up for a Planning Advisory Service (PAS) peer review via the Local Government Association (LGA) to look at a range of challenges facing the division in the wake of significant legislative change and wider resourcing issues for the authority. The review is scheduled to take place in January 2017. It is envisaged that the review will help the team create a positive template for change and take on board best practice from other authorities in order to make our planning services both more resilient in the face of continued pressure on resource, and the requirement to deliver processes to support economic growth in the town.

### **Economic Development**

The Healthworks building project is now almost complete with the ground and first floors now open and operational. The building should be fully open by the end of November.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Great Exhibition of the North**

Blackpool was unsuccessful in its bid to host the Great Exhibition of the North (GEOTN). It went to Newcastle Gateshead. However, the GEOTN programme also includes a £15 million legacy fund. Details of this fund, how to apply for it and what the criteria will be are expected before Christmas. It is not clear yet whether the fund will award a small number of major grants or a larger number of small ones. Blackpool is positioning the Blackpool Museum as an ideal GEOTN legacy project as it will be a nationally significant museum with the potential to deliver a regional impact. Blackpool has already flagged this with board members for the GEOTN and Department for Culture, Media and Sports officials.

‘Joint Intentions for Partnership Working’ with both the Victoria and Albert and the EMI Archive Trust Group have been reached and formalised. Over 200 people attended the museum’s community consultation event with Variety performers at St John’s Church on 29 September

2016. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has rescheduled the development review for January 2017. The project is scheduled to make the HLF Round 2 submission in March 2017.

### **The Magic Club, Claremont: Successful Funding Application**

The Magic Club, supported by Laura Brennan, Transience Co-ordinator, has just successfully received £92,500 in external funding via the United Utilities Lancashire Community Fund. This is to offer a range of activities for young people to reduce social isolation and increase skills, provide opportunities for training and volunteering and employment, provide access to specialist support providers and to build relationships with the wider community and encourage positive life choices.

The Magic Club was set up this year, the group came together to provide a dedicated youth facility and support the development of opportunities and informal learning for young people aged 7-16 in Claremont. Membership and supporters currently consist of a local Councillor, school governor, community engagement specialist, Anti social behaviour Officer, youth and family worker and business connector, each with a keen understanding of the area and the barriers young people face to making positive steps on their own journeys.

This programme will provide a full time facility for the community of Claremont. This facility will offer a safer and secure environment primarily for local young people, between the ages of 7 and 16, to support the development of life skills, informal learning and help build positive relationships within the community. There has not been a permanent youth facility here for over thirty years; Claremont has high deprivation levels for young people including high levels of youth crime and anti-social behavior, poor levels of educational attainment, the highest levels of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people in Blackpool and poor health outcomes.

It is anticipated that refurbishment work will start in early 2017, offering volunteering and training opportunities for local young people.

### **Bumper Season for Resort Passes**

For the first time, over 1 million pounds worth of Resort Passes have been sold this year, with an additional £100,000 spent on purchasing bolt-ons.

A total of 17,098 were sold between January and November this year, compared to 12,607 in 2015, this equates to a 37% increase in sales. A survey of those who purchased the Resort Pass revealed that 89% stayed overnight and 31% stayed more than five nights in the resort. Of those purchasing the passes, 99% were visiting from outside Blackpool, Fylde or Wyre.



## CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

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The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Kathryn Benson (Schools and Learning)
- Councillor Amy Cross (Adult Services and Health), and
- Councillor Maria Kirkland (Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services).

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

### Corporate Issues

#### Head Start – Information and Analysis.

Interest has been high in the recruitment of key posts to support the performance monitoring and management of the Head Start programme in Blackpool. We have now made positive appointments made for evaluation, research, performance management and analytics with a wealth of experience from varied backgrounds. Proving a positive, in depth monitoring of the implementation of the schemes and ensuring that there is evidence to support the positive impact of investment will be key to ensuring the work is sustainable and effective. We have also agreed an innovative collaborative research approach with Brighton and Newcastle Universities.

### Strategic Issues

#### Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The new SEND vision and overall next steps (0-25) was recently agreed by the various Health bodies and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Blackpool Council and the local Health Trusts have completed a self-evaluation framework (SEF). The SEF is in preparation for a potential inspection by Care Quality Commission (CQC) and OFSTED. This will be into the local area in terms of how it assesses and provides for 0-25 year olds with SEN and/ or a disability and their outcomes. The SEF incorporates data, parent/ young people views and the inspection framework. It is being further refined and then will be discussed with parents again. It is envisaged that the current service plans across health and the Council will be combined as far as possible to reflect the local area.

Further work to prepare for inspection includes the re-formatting of the current strategic groups, working across agencies to ensure services/ providers are all prepared and learning from the initial inspections since they commenced in May 2016.

### **Children's Social Care**

The service is experiencing significant demand pressures with the highest level of looked after children and children on a child protection plan in place (507 and 419 respectively). Immediate measures have been put in place to manage and service this demand. This includes harnessing additional social work resources from across children's services, agreeing a sub-regional agency hourly rate and creating a wellbeing support package for staff. Also in development is a more detailed demand management strategy, which includes a revised approach to early help and our partners role in this, more robust edge of care support through the re-modelling of one of the children's homes, the development of a PAUSE project to prevent multiple removals from the same family and the creation of better services for our most vulnerable adolescents through co-locating in a hub. The service has also undertaken regional and national benchmarking in relation to placement provision and costs and has had an internal audit review in this area to test further.

### **Release of the Public Health Annual Report 2015**

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has recently published the Public Health Annual Report 2015. The DPH has a statutory duty to write an annual report on the health of the local population and the Local Authority has a duty to publish the report (section 73B (5) and (6) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the 2012 Act). The purpose of the Public Health Annual Report is to present the DPH's independent assessment of local health needs, determinants and concerns.

This year's report looks at a selection of work from the past year with examples of particularly notable projects from each of the three domains of public health practice, protecting the public's health, promoting health and wellbeing and healthcare public health. On the subject of health protection, the report describes the introduction of a tattoo hygiene rating scheme to improve infection control practices in tattoo and piercing premises, the Love my Beach campaign, which is successfully improving the quality of local bathing waters and the modernisation of local sexual health services. Within the health promotion section the report looks at developments in the areas of reducing smoking and promoting healthier weight. The final section discusses the opportunities for improving public health offered by the NHS-led Fylde Coast New Models of Care programme and the NHS Health Check Programme, which is commissioned by the Local Authority. The report presents a number of recommendations aimed at improving the uptake of vaccinations, particularly the seasonal influenza and preschool booster for MMR, encouraging partners to follow the Local Authority's lead in supporting and promoting healthier weight, taking innovative action to reduce smoking in pregnancy and maximising opportunities for prevention through the NHS New Models of Care.

The report is published electronically to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website [www.blackpooljsna.org.uk](http://www.blackpooljsna.org.uk) and circulated to key leaders and partners across the town.

## **Policy Issues**

### **Department for Education**

The Department for Education has recently announced 10 'new opportunity' areas. Blackpool has been named as one of the said areas and shall be able to draw down national funding to improve outcomes across the life span of a child. Further details are awaited at this stage although early indications suggest that this will be led by a Partnership Board taking a structured project management approach.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Adult Care and Support Services**

#### Transforming Care (Learning Disabilities/ Autism) – Workforce Development:

The Department of Health in collaboration with Skills for Health, Skills for Care and Health Education England have developed a "Learning Disabilities Core Skills Education and Training Framework". This framework comprehensively outlines what a whole variety of different employees, across both health and social care, need to learn about, to enable people with a learning disability to successfully reach their full potential and live meaningful lives. It covers nineteen different topic areas that are of key importance to people with a learning disability. It gives the desired learning outcomes for each topic and links to key references and documents that will be valuable to those planning training and curriculum content. Importantly it recognises and encourages transferability of knowledge and skills between sectors encouraging integration between health and social care.

In Blackpool, the Learning Disability Provider Forum partners supported by the Council's 'Care and Support Service Manager' and 'Learning Disability Portfolio Commissioning Manager' will be contributing to a Learning Needs Analysis (LNA). Working with Health Education England, the Forum, will help provider organisations supporting learning disabled people in Blackpool to understand the existing knowledge and skills within their workforce, where and if there are any skill gaps and better understand the opportunities to respond to those areas to ensure the skills of this particular workforce broaden and improve. The data will be accessible to each individual provider and available to the Council, which will ensure more effective procurement of training going forwards as this will be targeted towards specific areas required by the workforce.

The information from Blackpool will also feed into the work being carried out by the 'Lancashire Transforming Care Partnership' and as funding becomes available from the Department of Health for training and development, the partnership will be in a stronger position to allocate specific funds to particular areas to support them to respond to the skill needs. In Blackpool, we are positioning to receive funding for training when it is available and therefore as a Council we will be supporting those providers who support learning disabled people to contribute to the learning needs analysis over the coming months and to lead the drive towards the upskilling of the learning disability workforce.

## **Schools, Standards and Effectiveness**

Following a restructure of the School Improvement Service there are a number of changes currently being implemented.

Blackpool will continue to act as an Appropriate Body for the registration of Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) within Blackpool schools, the NQT's and their Mentors were briefed on this process at the annual NQT Conference, which was held on 22 September.

Additionally, in line with the White Paper, schools are being encouraged to collaborate with the Local Authority as a partner within a School Led System. This model was introduced at an event at the Winter Gardens on 14 July and has now been developed further after the inaugural meeting of the Blackpool School Improvement Board. This inaugural meeting was used to address priorities for Blackpool Pupils and to enable the development of a collaborative system that would identify and share strengths, as well as challenging and supporting areas of weakness.

The Blackpool Challenge will continue to function and will address town wide issues that impact upon pupil outcomes and will support the Blackpool School Improvement Board. These have been developed into four 'Summits' and will form key conferences throughout the year. The Summits include Aspiration, Recruitment and Retention, Inclusion and Parental Engagement and Employment and Skills.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Camerados "The Living Room"**

Camerados "The Living Room" started life as a four-week pop up café in May 2016 and has continued to operate since the day it opened. The Living Room is located in the town's Central Library and deliberately situated opposite the main local job centre. It operates as a social enterprise café, providing a solution to most big social problems from daily strife all the way to homelessness, addiction and abuse by focusing on two things friends and purpose.

The Camerados Living Room is about providing a safe and approachable space for individuals who are not involved with services and not particularly associated with any particular client group. It is a space that is available for the public and has no stigma and no pressure attached. The Living Room will provide the first answer in diffusing the chaos in the lives of the vulnerable people. It will provide a non-judgmental atmosphere with comfort and companionship. Similar to The Samaritans, but in a Living Room format, the project does not present as an intervention, although it does ask people to help others in tough situations.

Although the Living Room is open to the public it has been designed for individuals who are lonely, socially isolated and/ or having a tough day who need a bit of company and comfort. The Living Room offers a unique environment, which feels more like a high street coffee shop than a community centre. It will be a place where services in the town can send or take people who are not involved in statutory services, but who are clearly in need of some

support in a non-clinical setting. It is also a place that will be accessible for people to use on a regular basis and a place that will provide a community facility for running group sessions such as knitting, art and other social type meetings. Visitors to the café will also benefit from regular friendship and social help on hand, reducing their likelihood to relapse, offend or recreate the behaviour that was costing the public purse.

Initially the project was run by volunteers, but since then the Council has commissioned a twelve-month extension to the Living Room to support the project to become self-sustainable through its sale of hot drinks and meals. Funding was allocated from a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the value of £57,800. The additional funding will be used to develop and test the model and to have the café operating at different times of the day/night. The funding will enable Camerados to employ three trainee workers in the café where they will learn about food preparation, cooking and management skills to make them more employable. It is anticipated this facility will improve health and well-being of the community with outcomes around hospital admission, GP attendance, mental health referrals and healthy eating.

An example is Client B who had been a heavy alcohol user for the last 20 years. Immobile due to the effects of excessive drinking, she was chronically isolated and had been exploited by a number of abusive partners. Over the last few months, Client B has made her own way to the Living Room via public transport and has been engaging with members of the public, assisting in the co-ordination of arts activities within the Living Room. Client B now reports feeling less vulnerable and more confident being around others and has reduced her drinking away from her previously dangerous levels.

Client A had been chronically isolated and bored for a number of years, having no family or social connections. After becoming a prolific caller to emergency services, Client A was listed on the '999 frequent caller' list until Camerados invited Client A to come and help at the Living Room. Of his own accord, Client A transformed the outside area of the library and regularly receives praise and requests from a number of people attending the library. Client A no longer calls 999 and socialises every day, he regularly says that he does not know what he would do without the Living Room and that it has enhanced his life and sense of wellbeing.

These are just two examples of the dozens of people who have already been helped out by the Living Room, which helps to improve their mental health, teach them new skills and reduce the chance of them re-offending or relapsing to NHS or police services.

### **Autism Update**

The Council submitted its fourth self-assessment exercise (the Autism SAF) on the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy (as amended by Think Autism in 2014) to the Department of Health on 17 October. The purpose of the self-assessment is to enable local strategy groups to review their progress and support future planning with partners including people with autism and their families. Whilst it is important that the focus of implementation of the autism strategy is at a local level, the Government has a duty to monitor progress

towards the implementation of the goals identified in the strategy. As in previous years, the information submitted will be collated and analysed by Public Health England to provide the Cross Government Autism Programme Board with a report of the findings, before the information is widely shared.

The Autism SAF includes sections on planning, training, diagnosis, housing and accommodation, employment and criminal justice. Completion allows localities to celebrate areas where progress has been made, such as training for staff, but also highlights areas where further action is required, for example refining our current diagnostic pathways. As a result, a small working group of officers from Blackpool Council, Blackpool CCG and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals has been established to develop and oversee the local action plan.

### **Carer of the year awards**

The Blackpool Care at Home Provider Forum held its Third Annual Carer of the Year awards on the 19 October 2016 at the Baronial Hall in the Winter Gardens. The Honorable Alderman, Mrs Sylvia Taylor, together with the Mayoress, Ms Joan Goldin, represented the Mayor at the event and presented awards to the Best Newcomer, Tom Boyle from Homecare For You, Best Office Worker, Emma Hay from Safehands, Most Improved Carer, Sophia Rea from Carewatch, Best Double Up, Julie Hatch and Winnie Mason from I Care and Long Service Award, Eric Woodcock from I Care. Yvonne Farnworth from Carewatch was awarded the Carer of the Year.

Approximately 100 people attended including representatives of The Villa Group, who sponsored the event, representatives from the Blackpool Carers Centre, the Head of Contracts and Commissioning Val Raynor, the Commissioner for Care at Home, Julie McGowan, the Lead Nurse from CCG, Alison Small, and providers and carers.

### **Care Quality Commission Ratings of Blackpool Care Services**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. It is the CQC's responsibility to make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and encourage care services to improve.

- The CQC monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety and publishes the findings, including performance ratings to help people choose care.
- Blackpool Council contracts with 71 Residential Care providers. There are two providers who have yet to be inspected or who have been inspected and we are awaiting the CQC's inspection report.
- Blackpool Council contracts with 17 Care at Home providers. There are four providers who have yet to be inspected or who have been inspected and we are awaiting the CQC's inspection report.

- The following tables show how the percentage of each rating compares with national figures for Residential Care and Care at Home respectively.

National figures are correct as of 4 October 2016 and local figures are correct as at 7 October 2016.

RESIDENTIAL CARE	Blackpool	National Total
Outstanding	4.44%	0.84%
Good	80.60%	70.98%
Requires Improvement	13.43%	25.88%
Inadequate	1.49%	2.30%
	100.00%	100.00%

- Blackpool has a higher proportion of Residential Care Homes rated Outstanding and Good than the national average.
- Blackpool has a lower proportion of Residential Care Homes rated Requires Improvement and Inadequate than the national average

CARE AT HOME	Blackpool	National Total
Outstanding	0.00%	1.25%
Good	86.67%	78.07%
Requires Improvement	13.33%	19.26%
Inadequate	0.00%	1.43%
	100.00%	100.00%

- Blackpool has a higher proportion of Care at Home agencies rated Good than the national average.
- Blackpool has a lower proportion of Care at Home agencies rated Requires Improvement and Inadequate than the national average.

These results reflect the continuing success of Blackpool Council and Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group's joint policy for managing poor contractor performance.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

Several North West local Authorities, led by Blackpool have been meeting to learn from each other in terms of Education, Health and Care Plans. These have been in operation since September 2104, replacing Statements of SEN. They cover the age range up to 25, are far more outcome focussed based on aspirations from a person centred perspective. The last meeting looked at Plans a year on and how the outcomes were measured by the initial annual review. Mutual learning occurred and the SEN Officers at the meeting all took away good ideas to feed into their own local systems. Blackpool represents four local authorities (Blackpool, Lancashire,

Cumbria and Blackburn with Darwen) at the NW SEND network, which feeds NW views on the SEND changes to the DFE and mutually supports the NW local authorities in terms of training and other developments.

#### **14-19**

Summer Ventures, Blackpool Council's Connexions service summer programme for young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and school leavers at risk of becoming NEET, has completed its third year of delivery. A total of 70 young people have completed the programme with 68 progressing into Education or Training.

Connexions and Virtual Schools continue to work together to provide all 16-24 Looked After Children who are in education with specialised Careers Guidance, financial advice and early intervention for those at risk of disengaging. This project has also allowed us to know what the current destinations of our Children in Care including the qualifications they are undertaking and progress against them. Currently 11 of 'Our Children' are undertaking degree level qualifications.

The "September Guarantee", which is the promise of an offer of learning to all 16 and 17 year olds, has seen a year on year increase in the number of offers made. In 2016, the number of offers made was 96.6%, up from 95.3% in 2015.

The Corporate Parent Pledges from businesses continues to have an impact with "Our Children" A number of Departments and external businesses are offering work experience placements and/ or a priority offer of employment to "Our Children". The Connexions Service, led by Theresa Knighton, works closely with the Over 12's team to support "Our Children" to take advantage of the pledges. For example, Blackpool Sandcastle employed four of "our Children" through this scheme.

#### **Youth Employment**

Throughout the academic year 2015/ 2016, Blackpool has seen an increase in participation of education, employment of training against previous year. The Department of Education has released its annual "scorecard" <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-people-neet-comparative-data-scorecard>. In 2015/ 2016, participation in education or training for 16 and 17 year olds has increased from 86.7% to 87.9%. Blackpool Council Connexions service is also in the top quintile nationally for successfully re-engaging the NEET group.

Blackpool Council's Connexions service has continued delivery of its pre-traineeship programme, Advance, for long term NEET 19-24 year olds with the support of the Adult, Community and Family learning team. Over the academic year 2015/ 2016, 65 young people have taken part with 37 moving onto employment or training. The 2016/ 2017 academic year has started well with nine young people on the first programme.



### **Adult, Community and Family Learning**

In Family Learning, a range of workshops were offered over the summer in children's centres including craft sessions, science, rock pooling and beachcombing alongside workshops to support the Summer Reading Challenge in libraries. Overall, 147 families participated in the summer workshops. This term Family Learning courses are running in 15 schools and children's centres delivering a range of programmes including Family English, Family Maths, Safeguarding for Parents and Child Development. The new course this term is 'Amazing Animals', which is currently being delivered in seven schools with more scheduled. The programme has been designed as an introduction to Family Learning for families in Key Stage 1 and provides an introduction to progression in reading, writing and maths. Families are using the ROGO books in the sessions and learning is embedded using an animal theme with one session taking place at Blackpool Zoo where families take photos and discover facts for their family scrapbook.

Blackpool Council is now delivering Project Search in its entirety through the Adult Learning Service. The enthusiastic 10 interns are all now placed in their first work experience placement ranging from working with OWD to the Dungeons in Blackpool Tower. All the interns are raring to go and willing to work hard to achieve their aims of getting a job.

Over recent months, Adult Learning has looked at using Facebook to advertise some of its ICT courses. This is proving to be a success as last week a digital photography course was filled within four days of the advert going out. Further use of Facebook as part of the marketing strategy will be introduced over the coming months.

### **Children's Social Care**

The service is currently working with partners to revise the way early help services are delivered. This includes a revision of the Getting it Right framework and new processes are being established which support better work in relation to universal services being able to support at an early stage. This work was coordinated by a Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board summit on the 18 November.

Also established recently is a multi-agency sub group to look specifically at domestic abuse services and improve outcomes in this area. This group has developed a draft strategy, which is currently going through sign off processes and will be coming to Executive as soon as possible.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Place
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 November 2016

## BLACKPOOL TRAMWAY EXTENSION TO BLACKPOOL NORTH STATION

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 7 November 2016 relating to the application of the necessary order to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To confirm the resolution made at the Council meeting on 29 June 2016 to promote a Transport and Works Act Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station; and to authorise:

(1) The Director of Place, after consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs), to take all such steps as required for the Council to promote the Order, including dealing with any objections to the application, entering into agreements or commitments in relation to the Order.

(2) The corporate seal of the Council being affixed to any documents required to be sealed in connection with the promotion of the Order.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 Extending the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station would facilitate:

- Connectivity and integration between the existing tramway and National Rail services at Blackpool North railway station. At present, there is no connection between the tramway which runs alongside the Promenade, and the railway station. The tramway extension will improve connectivity both within Blackpool and to the wider sub-region for commuters, and for visitors accessing the resort;

- the use of public transport, by enabling visitors and residents to access the existing railway station from the tramway network, thus encouraging modal shift and reducing transport emissions;
- Regeneration and economic growth, by improving transport provision and accessibility to jobs and services, and improving the connectivity between the economically important seafront and the redeveloping town centre. The tramway extension will facilitate urban realm enhancements in the town centre as well as improving access for employers in Blackpool to a larger labour pool; and
- The promotion of quality of life through a safe and healthy built and natural environment.

3.2 In order to extend the tramway, powers are needed to construct, maintain and operate the tramway extension, and to acquire necessary land rights. The most convenient way of obtaining these powers is through a Transport and Works Act Order.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

It would have been possible to apply separately for planning permission for the Extension, and to seek to acquire all the necessary land rights voluntarily. However, this is a more complex course of action than making a single application for a Transport and Works Act Order. In addition, the Transport and Works Act Order can clarify the relationship between the operating powers for the Extension and those for the existing Tramway, which would not be possible through a planning application. The 29 June 2016 Council meeting therefore resolved to pursue a Transport and Works Act Order.

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 A Transport and Works Act Order under the 1992 Act provides approval for the construction, operation and maintenance of a transport system. An order authorises the construction of the works and provides the necessary rights over land on a permanent and temporary basis. Blackpool Council intends to apply for such an

Order to undertake an extension to the Blackpool Tramway from North Pier to Blackpool North Station. The Order application will be accompanied by a request to the Secretary of State to give a direction as to deemed planning permission, along with draft planning conditions.

- 5.2 A notice was published on two separate occasions in the Blackpool Gazette to inform members of the public and other interested parties of the application. This notice was published on two separate occasions. Further notices were posted along the route of the proposed works, and sent to affected owners, occupiers and statutory consultees. The application documents were deposited in the local area (at Blackpool Central library and Fleetwood library), at instructed solicitors' offices in London and on the Council website.
- 5.3 After the application for the Order was submitted on 13 July 2016, there was a statutory period where representations, supportive comments or objections could be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport. Two representations were made by statutory undertakers (United Utilities Water Limited and National Grid Gas plc) which did not object, but flagged matters to be considered by the Council in pursuing its scheme. It is proposed to make some minor changes to the draft Order as a result.
- 5.4 Twenty six letters of support were registered. In total, seven objections were received by the Secretary of State, of which three have since been withdrawn. Of the remaining four objections, none are from a statutory objector – that is an owner or occupier of land directly affected by the application. Three of the remaining objections are from individuals who do not live on the route and the other is from the Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators' Association.
- 5.5 As none of the remaining objectors has a statutory right to be heard and the Secretary of State is satisfied that the issues raised by the application and the outstanding objections to it can be adequately presented and examined through the written representations procedure.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 6(a) - Executive Decision Notice EX48/2016

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive and can be found on the [Council's website](#)

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 Preparation and submission of the application for the Order accorded with all relevant procedures and processes, guided and led by a Parliamentary Agent. The resolution recommended in this report is the second of two such resolutions required to make the application for the Order, the first being made on at its meeting on 29 June 2016.
- 6.2 By virtue of Section 20 of the 1992 Act, local authorities have the power to apply for Transport and Works Act Orders. In conjunction with other ancillary consents, such an Order would provide the Council with the necessary authorisation to build, maintain, and operate a relevant scheme. The power to promote an Order is, by virtue of s.20 of the 1992 Act and s.239 of the Local Government Act 1972, subject to the same conditions as would apply to a local authority were it to promote a Bill in Parliament. This means that the resolution to apply for an Order must be passed at a meeting of the Full Council and confirmed at a further meeting of Full Council after the application has been made. The first resolution was passed by Full Council at its meeting on 29 June 2016, by 26 votes to 11, with one abstention, and subject to the approval of the Executive, it is anticipated that the second resolution will be considered on 23 November 2016. In each case the necessary resolutions must be passed by a majority of the Full Council (i.e. not a majority of those present, but a majority of all Members).

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 Staff time will be needed to produce documentation and manage the process, which can be found internally and through necessary specialist consultancy support.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

- 9.1 The cost of preparing and submitting the application for a Transport and Works Act Order does not deviate from information provided in Executive Decision Notice EX30/2014.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 For the project to proceed, it is vital that the required resolutions are passed by a clear majority of members of the authority. If the required resolutions are not made, the application cannot be progressed.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 A stakeholder and public consultation process was undertaken as documented in the Consultation Report forming part of the application for the Order. Statutory consultees (including the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Blackpool Council (Flood Risk)) have also been consulted. None of those statutory bodies have raised any issues with the scheme.

Additionally, the proposal was featured in the Spring 2016 edition of Your Blackpool. A public exhibition was held in Blackpool to coincide with the submission of the application in July 2016. Further, as noted above, various notices were posted and sent and application documents were made available for public consideration, during the 42 day objection period.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX48/2016
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Place
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 November 2016

## **BLACKPOOL TRAMWAY EXTENSION TO BLACKPOOL NORTH STATION (SECOND REPORT)**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 Following the resolution by Full Council on 29 June 2016 an application for an Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station was submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport on 13 July 2016. In accordance with section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972, a second approval is required from Full Council to confirm its resolution to promote the Order.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To recommend Council to confirm the resolution of the Council made at its meeting on 29 June 2016 to promote a Transport and Works Act Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station; and to authorise:

- (1) The Director of Place, after consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs), to take all such steps as required for the Council to promote the Order, including dealing with any objections to the application, entering into agreements or commitments in relation to the Order.
- (2) The corporate seal of the Council being affixed to any documents required to be sealed in connection with the promotion of the Order.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 Extending the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station would facilitate:
- Connectivity and integration between the existing tramway and National Rail services at Blackpool North railway station. At present, there is no connection

between the tramway which runs alongside the Promenade, and the railway station. The tramway extension will improve connectivity both within Blackpool, and to the wider sub-region for commuters and for visitors accessing the resort;

- The use of public transport, by enabling visitors and residents to access the existing railway station from the tramway network, thus encouraging modal shift and reducing transport emissions;
- Regeneration and economic growth, by improving transport provision and accessibility to jobs and services, and improving the connectivity between the economically important seafront and the redeveloping town centre. The tramway extension will facilitate urban realm enhancements in the town centre as well as improving access for employers in Blackpool to a larger labour pool; and
- The promotion of quality of life through a safe and healthy built and natural environment.

In order to extend the Tramway, powers are needed to construct, maintain and operate the extension, and to acquire necessary land rights. The most convenient way of obtaining these power is through a Transport and Works Act Order.

- |      |  |     |
|------|--|-----|
| 3.2a | Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? | No  |
| 3.2b | Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?                  | Yes |
| 3.3  | Other alternative options to be considered:  |     |

It would have been possible to apply separately for planning permission for the Extension, and to seek to acquire all the necessary land rights voluntarily. However, this is a more complex course of action than making a single application for a Transport and Works Act Order. In addition, the Transport and Works Act Order can clarify the relationship between the operating powers for the Extension and those for the existing Tramway, which would not be possible through a planning application. The 29 June 2016 Council meeting therefore resolved to pursue a Transport and Works Act Order.

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 4.1 | The relevant council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool". |
|-----|--|

**5.0 Background Information:**

5.1 A Transport and Works Act Order under the 1992 Act provides approval for the construction, operation and maintenance of a transport system. An Order authorises the construction of the works and provides the necessary rights over land on a permanent and temporary basis. Blackpool Council has applied for such an Order to undertake an extension to the Blackpool Tramway from North Pier to Blackpool North Station. The Order application was accompanied by a request to the Secretary of State to give a direction as to deemed planning permission, along with draft planning conditions.

5.2 The Order is to provide for, amongst other matters: The power to construct, maintain, and operate the tramway, including powers to keep apparatus in streets, to undertake relevant street works, to survey and investigate land, and to give the necessary rights over the land, including temporary use of land for construction and maintenance of the tramway. It will also modernise the operating powers for the existing Tramway, where appropriate.

5.3 The following documents were submitted:

- Letter of application
- Draft Order
- Explanatory Memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of each article and Schedule in the draft Order
- Statement of aims of the proposals
- Consultation Report summarising the consultations that have been undertaken
- Declaration as to Status of the applicant
- List of all consents, permissions or licences required under other enactments for the purposes of the powers sought in the application
- Funding Statement, giving details of the applicant's proposals for funding the cost of implementing the Order
- Estimate of cost of carrying out the works provided for in the proposed Order
- Request for a direction under section 90(2A) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 including elements of the proposed development and proposed planning conditions
- Planning statement
- Plans and drawings comprising:
  - Location and Key Plan
  - Works and Land Plan
  - Sections
  - Traffic Regulation Plan
  - Planning Direction Drawings
- Book of Reference relating to the Works and Land Plan

- Additional documents, comprising:
  - Air Quality Assessment
  - Flood Risk Assessment
  - Heritage Assessment
  - Transport Assessment
- Screening letter

5.4 A notice was published in the Blackpool Gazette to inform members of the public and other interested parties of the application. This notice was published on two separate occasions. The first notice was published on 11 July 2016 prior to the date of the application. The second notice was published on 18 July 2016 after the date of the application. Further notices were posted along the route of the proposed works, and sent to affected owners, occupiers and statutory consultees. The application documents were deposited in the local area (at Blackpool Central library and Fleetwood library), at instructed solicitors' offices in London and on the Council website.

5.5 After the application for the Order was submitted on 13 July 2016, there was a statutory period (which ran until 26 August 2016) where representations, supportive comments or objections could be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport. Two representations were made by statutory undertakers (United Utilities Water Limited and National Grid Gas plc) which did not object but flagged matters to be considered by the Council in pursuing its scheme. It is proposed to make some minor changes to the draft Order as a result. Twenty six letters of support were registered. In total, seven objections were received by the Secretary of State, of which three have since been withdrawn. Of the remaining four objections, none are from a statutory objector – that is an owner or occupier of land directly affected by the application. Three of the remaining objections are from individuals who do not live on the route and the other is from the Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators' Association.

5.6 The remaining objectors raise a range of issues, including:

- a general concern about the cost of the extension;
- concern about traffic issues on the Promenade, and between Blackpool and Lytham St Anne's;
- a suggestion that the extension should run to Blackpool South instead;
- concerns about the impact of the existing bus lane on Talbot Road;
- claims that the extension would not be attractive to passengers;
- a suggestion that a bus station should be prioritised over the extension;
- concerns about the operation of the junction between Talbot Square and the Promenade; and
- impacts on taxis.

To the extent that these issues relate to the Order, the project team is content that

they are all capable of being addressed adequately through the written representations procedure.

- 5.7 As none of the remaining objectors has a statutory right to be heard and the Secretary of State is satisfied that the issues raised by the application and the outstanding objections to it can be adequately presented and examined through the written representations procedure, the Secretary of State determined (notifying the Council by letter on 22 September 2016) not to conduct a local public inquiry, but to follow the written representations procedure.
- 5.8 The written representations procedure (as set out in rule 24 of the Transport and Works (Applications and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006) provides an opportunity for those wanting to take their representations and comments further to put forward their views in full. Likewise, the Council will be able to set out its case for the scheme. The procedure involves the submission and exchange of representations in writing. The Council submitted its representations on each of the objections, along with evidence and supporting documentation, to the Secretary of State by 21 October 2016. These were passed on to the objector who has until 18 November 2016 to respond. The Council then has until 9 December 2016 to make any further representations. At this point – or earlier if at any stage either the Council or objectors confirm that they do not wish to respond further – the Secretary of State may proceed to decide whether to grant the application for the Order, and whether any changes to it are required. The Secretary of State may also request further information at this stage, if he feels that this is needed to determine the application.
- 5.9 The Secretary of State’s decision will be given in writing. It will also be advertised and those who participated in the written representations procedure will be sent a copy of it.
- 5.10 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 5.11 **List of Appendices:**  
  
None
- 6.0 **Legal considerations:**
- 6.1 Preparation and submission of the application for the Order accorded with all relevant procedures and processes, guided and led by a Parliamentary Agent. The resolution recommended in this report is the second of two such resolutions required to make the application for the Order, the first being made on at its meeting on 29 June 2016.

6.2 By virtue of Section 20 of the 1992 Act, local authorities have the power to apply for Transport and Works Act Orders. In conjunction with other ancillary consents, such an Order would provide the Council with the necessary authorisation to build, maintain, and operate a relevant scheme. The power to promote an Order is, by virtue of s.20 of the 1992 Act and s.239 of the Local Government Act 1972, subject to the same conditions as would apply to a local authority were it to promote a Bill in Parliament. This means that the resolution to apply for an Order must be passed at a meeting of the Full Council and confirmed at a further meeting of Full Council after the application has been made. The first resolution was passed by Full Council at its meeting on 29 June 2016, by 26 votes to 11, with one abstention, and subject to the approval of the Executive, it is anticipated that the second resolution will be considered on 23 November 2016. In each case the necessary resolutions must be passed by a majority of the Full Council (i.e. not a majority of those present, but a majority of all Members).

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Staff time will be needed to produce documentation and manage the process, which can be found internally and through necessary specialist consultancy support.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The cost of preparing and submitting the application for a Transport and Works Act Order does not deviate from information provided in Executive Decision Notice EX30/2014.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 For the project to proceed, it is vital that the required resolutions are passed by a clear majority of members of the authority. If the required resolutions are not made, the application cannot be progressed.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 A stakeholder and public consultation process was undertaken as documented in the

Consultation Report forming part of the application for the Order. Statutory consultees (including the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Blackpool Council (Flood Risk)) have also been consulted. None of those statutory bodies have raised any issues with the scheme.

- 12.2 Additionally, the proposal was featured in the Spring 2016 edition of Your Blackpool. A public exhibition was held in Blackpool to coincide with the submission of the application in July 2016. Further, as noted above, various notices were posted and sent and application documents were made available for public consideration, during the 42 day objection period.

**13.0 Background papers:**

- 13.1 None

**14.0 Key decision information:**

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? No
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:
- 14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

- 15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No
- 15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed:

Date approved:

**17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

- 17.1 Councillor Mrs Wright declared a personal interest in the decision, the nature of the interest being that she was a Council appointed director of Blackpool Transport Services Limited.

**18.0 Executive decision:**

- 18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend Council to confirm the resolution of the Council made at its meeting on 29 June 2016 to promote a Transport and Works Act Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station; and to authorise:

- (1) The Director of Place, after consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs), to take all such steps as required for the Council to promote the Order, including dealing with any objections to the application, entering into agreements or commitments in relation to the Order.
- (2) The corporate seal of the Council being affixed to any documents required to be sealed in connection with the promotion of the Order.

**18.2 Date of Decision:**

7 November 2016

**19.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

Extending the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station would facilitate:

- Connectivity and integration between the existing tramway and National Rail services at Blackpool North railway station. At present, there is no connection between the tramway which runs alongside the Promenade, and the railway station. The tramway extension will improve connectivity both within Blackpool, and to the wider sub-region for commuters and for visitors accessing the resort;
- The use of public transport, by enabling visitors and residents to access the existing railway station from the tramway network, thus encouraging modal shift and reducing transport emissions;
- Regeneration and economic growth, by improving transport provision and accessibility to jobs and services, and improving the connectivity between the economically important seafront and the redeveloping town centre. The tramway extension will facilitate urban realm enhancements in the town centre as well as improving access for employers in Blackpool to a larger labour



- pool; and
- The promotion of quality of life through a safe and healthy built and natural environment.

In order to extend the Tramway, powers are needed to construct, maintain and operate the extension, and to acquire necessary land rights. The most convenient way of obtaining these power is through a Transport and Works Act Order.

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

8 November 2016

**20.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

**20.1 Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair**

Councillor Cain, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

Apologies were received from Councillor Campbell who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

**21.0 Call-in:**

**21.1**

**22.0 Notes:**

**22.1 The following non-Executive members were in attendance: Councillors Benson and Singleton.**

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships and Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 November 2016

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 7 November 2016 relating to updating the Council's constitution and also changes to Committee membership following the appointment of Councillor Benson to the Executive and subsequent Committee changes.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the revised Petitions Scheme at Appendix 2(a) to the Executive report.
- 2.2 To approve the revised definition for a key decision, as set out in paragraph 5.2.3 in the Executive report.
- 2.3 To agree the amendment to the Executive Procedure Rules set out at paragraph 5.2.5 in the Executive report.
- 2.4 To approve the revised Contracts Procedure Rules at Appendix 2(b) to the Executive report.
- 2.5 To approve the amendment to the Protocol on Member/ Officer Relations as set out at paragraph 5.5.2 in the Executive report and the revised Protocol at Appendix 2(d) to the Executive report.
- 2.6 To agree the appointment of the following Committee Chairman and Vice Chairmen:

Chairman – Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Debbie Coleman

Vice Chairman - Planning Committee – Councillor Alistair Humphreys

Vice Chairman – Audit Committee – Councillor Jim Elmes

Vice Chairman – Licensing Committee – Councillor David Collett

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 It is considered timely to report to Council on these proposals following this annual review of the constitution. The proposed changes will add clarity and consistency to the ways of working of the Council. The change to financial thresholds for Executive decisions will allow the speedy acquisition of property/ land and easier intervention in terms of support for small and medium sized businesses. Decisions delegated to officers will be of a level reflecting the regular payments made by the Council.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To make different recommendations to Council on these proposals.

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The proposals in particular help the Council achieve the priority 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.'

### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The proposals requiring Council consideration seek the necessary approvals to update the Council's constitution to reflect the Council's future direction.

5.2 The appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairman of Committees can be undertaken by either the Council or the Committees themselves and this is normally undertaken at Annual Council meetings. Due to changes to the Executive membership, a number of changes have been to Committee membership and the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen positions, require Council approval.

(The appointment of the Vice Chairmen for the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for the Licensing Committee to deal with).

5.3 When the Executive considered the report regarding the Protocol on Member/ Officer Relations it noted that although the recommendation for the response time to Member enquiries would be amended to ten working days, every intention would be to responds earlier, where possible. It was also noted that members could raise enquiries in a number of ways.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a) - Executive Decision Notice EX46/2016

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive and can be found on the [Council's website](#)

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 A Council has to have an agreed definition for a key decision, a Petition scheme and Contracts Procedure Rules. This report again seeks to update the current definition and schemes to make them more relevant and also has revised the Executive Procedure Rules to take account of the current Executive structure.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 Equality considerations would be considered as part of the decision making process when each Executive and Cabinet Member decision is taken.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

- 9.1 There are no other financial considerations relating to the proposals in this report, other than changing the decision making thresholds as set out.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 Additional clarity over corporate governance arrangements will reduce the risk of decisions being taken at the wrong level or not properly recorded.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

- 11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 12.1 Consultation has taken place with similar authorities relating to their key decision thresholds.

**13.0 Background papers:**

- 13.1 None.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX46/2016
<b>Relevant Officers:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships and Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting :</b>	7 November 2016

## CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek the necessary approvals to update the :-
- Council's constitution to reflect the Council's future direction.
  - Council's Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations to reflect realistic approval limits.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend Council:
- To agree the revised Petitions Scheme at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report.
  - To approve the revised definition for a key decision, as set out in paragraph 5.2.3.
  - To agree the amendment to the Executive Procedure Rules set out at paragraph 5.2.5.
  - To approve the revised Contracts Procedure Rules at Appendix 2b to the Executive report.
  - To approve the amendment to the Protocol on Member / Officer Relations as set out at paragraph 5.5.2 and the revised Protocol at Appendix 2d to the Executive report.
- 2.2 To agree the Executive decision making criteria as set out in Appendix 2c, to the Executive report.
- 2.3 To agree the revised Financial Regulations at Appendix 2e, to the Executive report.

- 2.4 To agree the revised Corporate Scheme of Delegation at Appendix 2f, to the Executive report.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 It is considered timely to report to Council on these proposals following this annual review of the constitution. The proposed changes will add clarity and consistency to the ways of working of the Council. The change to financial thresholds for Executive decisions and will allow the speedy acquisition of property/land and easier intervention in terms of support for small and medium sized businesses. Decisions delegated to officers will be of a level reflecting the regular payments made by the Council.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To make different recommendations to Council on these proposals.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

- 4.1 The proposals in particular help the Council achieve the priority 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.'

**5.0 Background Information**

**5.1 Petitions Scheme**

- 5.1.1 The current petition scheme has been in place since 2012. The new scheme – attached to the Executive report at Appendix 2a, aims to be more reader-friendly and offers alternatives for residents to 'have their say', including options such as contributing suggestions through the Council's website and taking part in consultations.

- 5.1.2 The revised scheme also clarifies a number of arrangements, such as the inclusion of petitions in any ongoing consultations, exceptions to the petition scheme, outlines the process for if an organiser feels that a petition has not been dealt with properly and now also includes a privacy policy section.



## 5.2 Key decision definition

5.2.1 In February 2016, the Council at its budget meeting agreed to inject new resources into key areas of the Authority to enable it to drive increases in recurrent revenue generation, in particular through property-led investments and development. This 'growth and prosperity' initiative is a direct response to Government's financial relocalisation agenda, with central grant funding withdrawn by 2020-2021. It is now essential that Councils take the lead in growing their own revenue base, including Council Tax and Business Rates in particular. The Council intends to take a more pro-active approach to generating new revenue via property-based development, thereby increasing its tax base to ensure the longer term financing of public services, and also contributing directly to the continued economic development of the town.

5.2.2 A proposed change to facilitate this new approach is alterations to the decision making thresholds for property and land purchases. The Director of Place has undertaken research on the approaches neighbouring authorities are taking to financial relocalisation. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, for example, is working in close partnership with Capita to pursue a similar growth agenda, targeting property based development to increase longer term tax yields.

5.2.3 Currently the purchase of property or land up to £199,999 can be made as a significant officer decision as long as it is at or below market value. Any purchases between £200,000 and £249,999 form a Cabinet Member decision with the key decision threshold at £250,000.

In line with the limits now used by the Blackburn with Darwen scheme it is recommended that property or land up to £499,999 can be made as a Cabinet Member non-key decision subject to it being at or below market value. As is currently the case, all property will be valued by a Registered Valuer (either internal or external to the Council depending on the property) to establish the market value via a Red Book valuation. Only in very rare circumstances would the Council consider paying over the recommended market value, and in this event the proposed purchase would need to be accompanied by a compelling business case prior to any decision being taken. Any purchases over £499,999 would therefore be a key decision.

5.2.4 It is also proposed that the £499,999 threshold is applied in the same as above to the Blackpool Investment Fund. This Fund, originally made up of interest and repayments from existing Council business loans, and monies from the High Street Innovation Fund, aims to support small and medium sized enterprises that are not achieving high levels of growth, or are striving to maintain turnover and market share, through offering attractive rates of financial support.

**5.2.5** The updated definition for a key decision would therefore read as follows:

An Executive decision will be a key decision if it comes within any of the following categories:

- a) It involves expenditure or savings (including receipt of or loss of income) of £250,000 or over in relation to the budget for the service or function to which it relates, but excludes any decision:
  - taken as a consequence of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for the current financial year;
  - taken as a direct consequence of an earlier key decision;
  - involving the purchase of property or land unless the amount is £500,000 or over and only then if it is at market valuation
  - involving the grant of loans, including those under the Blackpool Investment Fund, unless the amount is £500,000 or over
  - identified within the Council's agreed Budget for the current financial year where there is a clear intention of the decision to be taken.
- b) It is likely to have a significant positive or negative impact on the people living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.
- c) It makes recommendations on the Council's Policy and Budget Frameworks.
- d) If the decision is to approve a 'plan or strategy', reserved for Executive approval only, as set out in the constitution.

The other parts of the Executive decision making criteria have had some minor changes (name changes etc) but not to alter the understanding of them. These are attached to the Executive report at Appendix 2a.

**5.3** Executive Procedure Rules

- 5.3.1 The Executive Procedure Rules in part 4d of the Constitution currently state at paragraph: 3.1.1 "If the Leader of the Council is present he/she will preside. In his/her absence, the Deputy Leader of the Council shall preside. If neither is present, a person appointed to do so by those present shall preside." In order to bring parity to the current Executive makeup, it is proposed to include reference to the Cabinet Secretary.
- 5.3.2 Therefore a revised paragraph would read: 3.1.1 "If the Leader of the Council is present he/she will preside. In his/her absence, the Deputy Leader of the Council shall preside. If neither is present, the Cabinet Secretary shall preside. If none of

these are present then a person appointed to do so by those present shall preside.”

**5.4     Contracts Procedure Rules**

- 5.4.1   A review has also been undertaken into the Contracts Procedure Rules. No changes have been made to existing financial thresholds, however, the revised version (see Appendix 2b) is written in a more user friendly manner.

**5.5     Protocol on Member/Officer Relations**

- 5.5.1   As part of this review of the Constitution it is also considered prudent to revise the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations on a ‘light touch’ basis to make it more user-friendly.
- 5.5.2   The current Protocol states that routine service-related enquiries should be initiated whenever possible through the electronic member enquiry system and that in normal circumstances a full response will be given within five working days. Given the Council’s move towards digital services as part of the ‘Channel Shift’ programme, it is suggested that the Protocol is amended to include reference to online reporting through the Council’s website. Furthermore, with diminishing Council services and the impact that this has on services’ ability to respond, it is also recommended that the response time for ward enquiries is changed to ten working days. The requirement for Chief Officers to maintain separate records of enquiries has also been removed as has the need for annual review of the Protocol.
- 5.5.3   A revised version of the Protocol in line with the above amendments is attached to the Executive report at Appendix 2d

**5.6     Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation**

- 5.6.1   At the same time as the other reviews listed above there has been the opportunity to review the Council’s Financial Regulations and Corporate Scheme of Delegation. While no major changes have been proposed some minor amendments have been made to reflect changes in the officer structure and to reflect the level of contract payments made on large scale payments such as Waste PFI and the Better Care.

- 5.7       Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**5.8     List of Appendices:**

Appendix 2a – Revised Petitions Scheme  
Appendix 2b – Revised Contracts Procedure Rules  
Appendix 2c – Revised Executive Decision making criteria  
Appendix 2d – Revised Protocol on Member/Officer Relations

Appendix 2e – Revised Financial Regulations

Appendix 2f – Revised Reservation of Powers to the Executive and Corporate Scheme of Delegation

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 A Council has to have an agreed definition for a key decision, a Petition scheme and Contracts Procedure Rules. This report again seeks to update the current definition and schemes to make them more relevant and also has revised the Executive Procedure Rules to take account of the current Executive system.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 None

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 Equality considerations would be considered as part of the decision making process when each Executive and Cabinet Member decision is taken.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

- 9.1 There are no other financial considerations relating to the proposals in this report, other than changing the decision making thresholds as set out.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 Additional clarity over corporate governance arrangements will reduce the risk of decisions being taken at the wrong level or not properly recorded.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

- 11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 12.1 Consultation has taken place with similar authorities relating to their key decision thresholds.

**13.0 Background papers:**

- 13.1 None

**14.0 Key decision information:**

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 22/2016
- 14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

- 15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No
- 15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 28 October 2016 Date approved:

**17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

17.1 None

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1.To recommend Council:

- i. To agree the revised Petitions Scheme at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report.
- ii. To approve the revised definition for a key decision, as set out in paragraph 5.2.3.
- iii. To agree the amendment to the Executive Procedure Rules set out at paragraph 5.2.5.
- iv. To approve the revised Contracts Procedure Rules at Appendix 2b to the

Executive report.

- v. To approve the amendment to the Protocol on Member / Officer Relations as set out at paragraph 5.5.2 and the revised Protocol at Appendix 2d, to the Executive report.
- 2. To agree the Executive decision making criteria as set out in Appendix 2c, to the Executive report.
- 3. To agree the revised Financial Regulations at Appendix 2e, to the Executive report.
- 4. To agree the revised Corporate Scheme of Delegation at Appendix 2f, to the Executive report.

**18.2 Date of Decision:**

7 November 2016

**19.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

It is considered timely to report to Council on these proposals following this annual review of the constitution. The proposed changes will add clarity and consistency to the ways of working of the Council. The change to financial thresholds for Executive decisions and will allow the speedy acquisition of property/land and easier intervention in terms of support for small and medium sized businesses. Decisions delegated to officers will be of a level reflecting the regular payments made by the Council.

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

8 November 2016

**20.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

**20.1 Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair**

Councillor Cain, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

Apologies were received from Councillor Campbell who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

**21.0 Call-in:**

21.1

**22.0 Notes:**

22.1 The following non-Executive members were in attendance: Councillors Benson and Singleton.

The Executive noted that although the recommendation for the response time for members' enquiries was to amend this to ten working days there would remain the intention to respond more quickly where possible. The Executive further noted the opportunity for members to raise enquiries by other methods than just the Council's online reporting system.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 November 2016

## PROPER OFFICER DESIGNATIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the updating of Proper Officer designations and appointments to certain positions in the health sector relating to the North West.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To confirm the Proper Officers as outlined in this report, with immediate effect.
- 2.2 That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Constitution accordingly.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To update the Council's records to enable referrals to be made to the correct officers.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes
- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
- To not agree to make the proper officer changes or name different proper officers. However, this is not recommended as these are the relevant officers recommended by Public Health England with the appropriate experience and qualifications.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council priority is Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

## **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Following the creation of Public Health England North West and the recent changes in Health Protection team staff has made it necessary to update arrangements for proper officer functions for local authorities in the North West.

5.2 The PHE medical consultants are listed below at paragraph 5.3 and should be appointed as proper officers (Port Medical Officers) under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1979 and/ or Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979 as amended.

5.3 Proper Officer nominations:

- Dr John Astbury (reappointment)
- Dr Nicola Schinaia (reappointment)
- Dr Anjila Shah
- Dr Caroline Rumble
- Dr Evdokia Dardamissis
- Dr Joanna Cartwright
- Dr Kristina Poole
- Dr Matthieu Pegorie
- Dr Merav Kliner
- Dr Richard Jarvis
- Dr Rosemary McCann
- Dr Samuel Ghebrehewet
- Dr William Welfare

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### **List of Appendices:**

None.

## **6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Council's Constitution provides for the authorisation of Proper Officers to undertake certain duties.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 There are no additional Human Resources considerations.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 There are no additional financial considerations.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Failure to update the Proper Officers records would put the Council at risk of not fulfilling its statutory duties.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Notification has been received from Public Health England of the changes.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 Letter from Public Health England dated 7 October 2016.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 November 2016

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the reports of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the joint Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a 12 month review of allowances for Independent Persons (in relation to Standards matters) and Non-Executive Directors of wholly-owned companies.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panels, as set out in the reports at Appendix 9(a) and (b) namely:
  - 2.1.1 That in relation to Independent Persons:
    - (a) the remuneration be set at £700 per annum with effect from 1 May 2016 (subject also to the agreement of Fylde Borough Council)
    - (b) the remuneration be included in the Members Allowances Scheme, without the annual uprate, but reviewed after a period of three years (alongside a review of other allowances within the Scheme), unless circumstances require a review in the meantime.
  - 2.1.2 That in relation to non-executive directors of Council wholly-owned companies:
    - (a) the remuneration for non-executive chairmen be set at £3,500 per annum and £1,750 for other non-executive directors, with effect from 1 April 2017
    - (b) the payments be reviewed in 18 months' time and that the annual uprate (the National Joint Council for Local Government Pay award) would therefore not apply.
- 2.2 That subject to the decision of Council, the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly (if necessary).

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 The reasons for the recommendations from the Panels are set out in the attached appendices.

### **4.0 Background Information**

- 4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme of members' allowances and amounts to be paid.

- 4.2 There have been two recent meetings of the Panel:
- A joint meeting held on 22 September 2016 between Blackpool's Panel and Fylde's Panel to review the special responsibility allowance for independent persons (for standards matters).
  - A meeting of the Blackpool Panel held on 24 October 2016 to review the payments to Chairmen and non-executive directors of the Council's wholly owned companies.

### **5.0 List of Appendices:**

- 5.1 Appendix 9(a) – Report from the Joint Meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panels of Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council held on 22 September 2016
- Appendix 9(b) - Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel meeting held on 24 October 2016

### **6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent regulations set out the process to establish and maintain a Members Allowances scheme. The Independent Remuneration Panel appointed under that legislation has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme of members' allowances and amounts to be paid. The current Members Allowances Scheme is part of the Council's Constitution at this link. <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Council-constitution.aspx>
- 6.2 The Articles of Association for the wholly owned companies allow for the Council, as Shareholder, to set the remuneration for non-executive directors. Those for councillors who are non-executive directors of Blackpool Transport Services Ltd are contained within the Members' Allowances Scheme.

**7.0 Equalities Considerations**

- 7.1 One of the roles of the Independent Remuneration Panel under the Local Government Act 2000 and associated legislation is to recommend what it considers fair and appropriate allowances in relation to levels paid to members working in comparable authorities.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

- 8.1 If the proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme were agreed in full then this would amount to an extra £300 for Blackpool Council in total per annum in relation to the independent person allowance (Fylde Borough Council, if the payment is agreed, would meet the other £300 ie half of the costs). The additional cost for the councillor non-executive directors of Blackpool Transport Services Ltd would amount to £2,500 in total per annum. The Council's wholly owned companies would meet the costs of payments of all other non-executive directors.

**9.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 9.1 None.

**10.0 Ethical considerations:**

- 10.1 None.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 11.1 None.

**12.0 Background papers:**

- 12.1 None.

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Report of: The Joint Meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panels of Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council

To: Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council

## **Review of the honoraria payment to Standards Independent Persons**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council have each appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to advise on the adoption of a scheme of members' allowances and any individual allowances within the Scheme for their respective authority.
- 1.2 Both Panels were asked to meet jointly to consider the remuneration for Independent Persons, as there was a shared arrangement between the two authorities in that a pool of three Independent Persons worked across the authorities, in respect of allegations of misconduct for members.
- 1.3 The Joint Meeting took place on 22 September 2016 and comprised:
  - Mr Peter Whitehead (Blackpool) - appointed as Chairman of the joint meeting
  - Mr David Cam (Fylde)
  - Mrs Helen Hockenhull (Fylde and Blackpool)
  - Mr Greg Molyneux (Blackpool).
- 1.4 The following also attended the meeting to answer questions from the joint Panel:
  - Mr Mark Towers, Monitoring Officer for Blackpool and Deputy Monitoring Officer for Fylde Council
  - Ms Tracy Morrison, Monitoring Officer for Fylde Council
  - Mrs Lorraine Hurst, Deputy Monitoring Officer for Blackpool Council
  - Mr Ian Curtis, Head of Governance, Fylde Council.
- 1.5 The Panel noted that Mr Tony Mozley, member of Blackpool's IRP was not present due to a conflict of interest as an Independent Person.
- 1.6 It was reported that Mrs Mary Wilson and Mr Michael Brown had stood down from Fylde IRP and Mr Hugh Evans had stood down from Blackpool IRP. The Panel asked for their best wishes to be passed on to the former members.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 In considering the role of Independent Person, the Panel noted that the role had arisen out of the Localism Act 2011 as a means of providing an independent view in relation to complaints of member misconduct. Statutorily, the role of the Independent Person would come into play when the Monitoring Officer referred a matter for investigation, at which point he/she was obliged to seek the views of an Independent Person, as well as the member subject of the complaint having recourse to an Independent Person for their views.
- 2.2 In view of the requirements of the Act, the Panel was aware that a pool of three Independent Persons had been appointed to work across Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council in this respect. The Panel also noted the expectations from both authorities that the Independent Persons would undertake training as part of this role.

- 2.3 Panel members were aware that following the appointment of the original 'pool' of Independent Persons, both Councils (following recommendations from their respective Independent Remuneration panels) had set an honoraria payment of £500 per annum (plus travel/subsistence expenses). This was in 2012 and the honoraria amount had not been reviewed since that time.

### **3. Considerations**

- 3.1 The Panel then considered how the role of Independent Person had worked in practice. Both Monitoring Officers (MOs) felt that contributions from Independent Persons were above and beyond that set out in legislation. For example, both MOs had sought the assistance of the Independent Person in the majority of complaints received, even if the complaint had not been referred for investigation, as it was felt that that was important in that it gave an added element of independence and assurance to the complaints process. Fylde Borough Council had also used an Independent Person as part of the informal resolution of a complaint which had had beneficial results.
- 3.2 It was also clear that the Independent Persons were proactive in undertaking their role. As well as taking part in training, they had regularly attended network events, attended Standards Committee meetings, Parish Council meetings and had taken part in workshops to review the Code of Conduct and consider the new responsibilities as 'Designated Independent Persons' (DIP).
- 3.3 The Panel went on to consider the workload of the Independent Persons. Panel members noted that while the number of misconduct complaints at Blackpool remained relatively static, Fylde Borough Council had not witnessed a decrease in complaints, but local issues (eg fracking) and referrals in relation to Parish Councils had meant that complaints remained relatively frequent.
- 3.4 The Panel also noted that legislation introduced in July 2015 had increased the responsibility of the role to include that of 'Designated Independent Person' – ie to make recommendations to the respective Council in cases of disciplinary and dismissal of certain senior statutory officers (The Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer). It was also noted that the legislation prohibited authorities from making any additional payment to the independent persons for these responsibilities.

### **4. Benchmarking information**

- 4.1 The Panel was provided with comparative information on allowances from authorities in the North West including district councils and unitary councils as well as a sample of allowances nationally. Panel members noted that although some authorities did not pay their independent members, the allowance paid from those authorities that had agreed to do so, ranged from £268 (district council example) to £1,716 (city council example), with many of the district councils paying an allowance of £500 per annum.
- 4.2 The Panel was mindful that the Independent Persons worked across both Blackpool and Fylde Councils and therefore felt that the allowance paid by a joint authority (£700) provided a useful comparator in this respect.

### **5. Treatment of allowances**

- 5.1 The Panel also considered the possibility of the remuneration of Independent Persons being included in the Members Allowances Scheme for both Councils. However, upon further discussion Panel members noted that the two schemes differed in that Blackpool's Members'

Allowances Scheme was automatically uprated each year in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) staff pay award, whereas Fylde Borough Council's panel considered member allowances each year and did not apply an automatic uprate.

- 5.2 It was therefore felt by the Panel that although the remuneration for Independent Persons could be included in the Members' Allowances Schemes, it would be more appropriate and practical not to apply an uprate, but to review the allowance after a period of three years ie every fourth year, alongside a main review of the Members Allowances Scheme.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 In making recommendations the Panel took into account the following factors:
- the comparative information from authorities for Independent Persons
  - that the allowance had not been reviewed since 2012
  - that both Monitoring Officers regularly conferred with Independent Persons and in the majority of referrals
  - that Independent Persons were proactive in their role and involvement in standards matters.

## **7. Recommendations to Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council**

- 7.1 That the remuneration for Independent Persons is set at £700 per annum with effect from 1 May 2016.
- 7.2 That the remuneration should be included in the Members Allowances Scheme of both Councils and that a review of the allowance should be considered after a period of three years (alongside a review of other allowances within the Scheme), unless circumstances require a review in the meantime.

Mr Peter Whitehead, Chairman of the Joint Meeting  
Mr David Cam  
Mrs Helen Hockenhull  
Mr Greg Molyneux

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Report of: The Meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel of Blackpool Council

To: Blackpool Council

## **Review of the payments to non-executive directors of Blackpool Council's wholly owned companies**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme was undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel in late 2014 and early 2015 and the Panel's recommendations were agreed by Full Council in July 2015. As part of the review, the Panel considered whether there should be payments made to Non-Executive Directors who serve on Council companies.
- 1.2 Following recommendations from the Panel, Full Council agreed a payment of £2,500 per annum for Non-Executive Chairmen and £1,000 per annum for other Non-Executive directors, which was to be reviewed in 12 months time.
- 1.3 In line with this recommendation, the Panel was asked to meet to review the current remuneration paid to Non-Executive Directors of Blackpool Council's wholly owned companies.
- 1.4 The meeting took place on 24 October 2016 and comprised:
  - Mr Peter Whitehead (Chairman)
  - Mr Tony Mozley
  - Mrs Helen Hockenhull
  - Mr Greg Molyneux
- 1.5 Also in attendance were:
  - Mr Mark Towers, Monitoring Officer
  - Ms Catherine Jones, Member Services Officer

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Since the full review of the Members Allowances Scheme, there had been two new members appointed to the Panel. At the original review, the Panel had noted that in a growing number of Councils, particularly unitary and county councils, increased functions and services were divested in council 'wholly owned' companies. This allowed those companies to act with some independence and with greater powers and autonomy over income and business development.
- 2.2 The importance of the roles of Chairmen and the Non-Executive Directors appointed had also been noted and the position and accountability that their roles held. The Council and the companies had sought to appoint independent directors to the relevant Boards and this had proved difficult given that no remuneration had previously been paid for such roles.

- 2.3 Following recommendation from the Panel, Full Council had agreed that companies make a payment of £2,500 per annum for Non-Executive Chairmen and £1,000 per annum for other non-executive directors, which was to be reviewed in 12 months time. One of the reasons the Panel had recommended a review was because this was a new area the Panel was being asked to look at and that the ALMO Board Governance Survey, which had been used to inform the recommendations, was dated 2010 and another survey was due to be done in the next 12 months. These payments (except for Blackpool Transport Services) fell outside of the Members Allowances Scheme and councillors would therefore qualify for payment. Payments were to be uplifted in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Pay award and made by the companies.

### **3. Considerations**

- 3.1 The Panel noted that the Council had five wholly owned Council companies with the Board size ranging from eight to 12. All Board members were Non-Executive, except for Blackpool Transport Services, where the three executive directors also served on a Board of nine Directors.
- 3.2 In the last 12 months, each of the five Companies had adopted a model Governance Framework, to help define their roles and responsibilities and set the expectations for Board members. All five Companies also now had an Audit Committee and an Appointments and Remuneration Committee constituted.
- 3.3 The workload of Board members was discussed, including the time dedicated to the roles, frequency of meetings and the different levels of responsibility for the Chairmen and other Board Members. It was considered that the introduction of remuneration had made a difference to the retention and recruitment of Board Members.

### **4. Benchmarking information**

- 4.1 The Panel was provided with information on good governance framework in relation to the wholly owned companies and the summary findings of the ALMO 2016 Board Governance Survey, published on 4 October 2016, with particular reference to Part 3: Payment methods for Chairmen and Board Members, which compared different levels of payments for these positions.

### **5. Treatment of allowances**

- 5.1 The Panel looked at payments referenced in the ALMO Board Governance Survey 2016 and there was a general commitment from the Panel to moving towards average payment in line with the ALMO survey.
- 5.2 The Panel also considered if the allowances for Non-Executive Board Members should increase in line with the pay award. However, as the allowances would be reviewed in 18 months time, it was felt appropriate to keep them separate to the National Joint Council for Local Government Pay award, therefore not receive the annual increase.

**6. Conclusions**

6.1 In making recommendations the Panel took into account the following factors:

- the comparative information from the ALMO Board Governance Survey 2016
- that the Non-Executive Director roles were relatively new, therefore still developing
- there was a view to revisit the allowances when the board roles were more established

**7. Recommendations to Blackpool Council**

- 7.1 That the remuneration for Non-Executive Chairmen be set at £3,500 per annum and £1,750 for other Non-Executive Directors, with affect from 1 April 2017.
- 7.2 That the payments be reviewed 18 months from the 1 April 2017 and be kept separate to the National Joint Council for Local Government Pay award, therefore not receive an annual increase.

Mr Peter Whitehead, Chairman  
Mr Tony Mozley  
Mrs Helen Hockenhull  
Mr Greg Molyneux

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