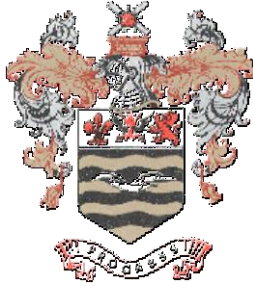


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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Mr 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, 28 June 2017 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.



Director of Governance and Partnerships

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 15 MAY 2017

(Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2017 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 EXECUTIVE, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL (Pages 7 - 10)

To consider proposed changes in relation to time limits on speeches relating to Executive, Audit Committee and Combined Fire Authority reports to Council.

NOTE: The Council's Constitution sets out an order for item to be considered on a Council agenda. This item would therefore normally be scheduled later in the agenda. However, due to the recommendations potentially affecting the next agenda item, Council is asked to consider this report first.

5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS, COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (Pages 11 - 26)

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).

6 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (Pages 27 - 34)

To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to an allowance for an independent member of the Audit Committee.

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

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Present:

Councillor Rowson (in the Chair)

Councillors

Benson	Collett	Hunter	D Scott
Blackburn	Cox	Hutton	M Scott
Cain	Critchley	Jackson	Smith
Callow	Cross	Kirkland	Stansfield
Mrs Callow JP	Elmes	Mitchell	I Taylor
Clapham	Galley	O'Hara	L Williams
D Coleman	Mrs Henderson MBE	Robertson BEM	T Williams
G Coleman	Hobson	Roberts	Mrs Wright
I Coleman	Humphreys	Ryan	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships/Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Adam Ogden, Media Manager

1 THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor D Coleman and

Resolved: That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Ian Coleman be elected Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool for the municipal year 2017/ 2018.

2 THE MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor I Coleman made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Mayor according to the requirements of the law and thereupon took the Chair.

3 THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by the Mayor, Councillor I Coleman, seconded by Councillor Blackburn and

Resolved: That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Gary Coleman be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool, for the municipal year 2017/ 2018.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 15 MAY 2017

4 THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Gary Coleman made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor according to the requirements of the law.

5 THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor, Councillor I Coleman, addressed the meeting.

6 CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INCOMING MAYOR

Councillors Blackburn and T Williams congratulated Councillor I Coleman upon his election as Mayor. Bürgermeisterin Monika Budke also offered her congratulations on behalf of the people of Bottrop. The Council also paid tribute to the late Councillor Tony Brown who had been due to take up the mayoralty this municipal year but had sadly died in October 2016.

7 APPRECIATION TO THE EX-MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Blackburn seconded by Councillor Cross and

Resolved:

'It is with great pleasure, that Blackpool Council places on record its appreciation of the duties so very ably and enthusiastically undertaken by Councillor Kath Rowson, as Mayor of Blackpool for the mayoral year 2016 to 2017. Her dedication for the town, together with her many years of service on the Council have stood her in good stead for her year as Blackpool's civic head.

The Blackpool Mayoralty again maintained its status as a busy one this year with a variety of civic engagements.

Kath and Joan began the mayoral year with the Royal Garden Party in London and opened the World Dance Championships at the Winter Gardens.

Throughout the year, they attended many high profile local events such as the Pride Launch, Lytham Proms and the Manchester to Blackpool Car Run. Kath and Joan also met with Simon Cowell, Ant and Dec and the Britain's Got Talent crew, as well as supporting Graham Liver with his bed push for BBC Lancs Children in Need.

Blackpool still attracts a large number of conferences and the Mayor and Mayoress attended a variety of annual gatherings such as; National Pensioners Convention, UK Bus Driver of the Year Awards, WMCIU, Royal Pigeon Racing Association and USDAW Congress to name a few.

Many Ex-Service organisations still hold their Annual Reunions in Blackpool and Kath and Joan attended reunions of the Canal Zoners, the Royal Artillery Association, Aden Veterans, the Royal Air Force Association and the HMS Penelope Association. National Armed Forces Week, during June, was again a great success attracting thousands of

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 15 MAY 2017

visitors to the town and the Mayor and Mayoress attended a variety of events during the week.

This March the Mayoralty was privileged to have a visit from our affiliated submarine HMS Triumph. With 100 submariners in attendance the Mayor and Mayoress, together with Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, were able to host a reception within a week where the submariners were visiting Blackpool for some much needed down time.

Town Twinning played a significant part in this mayoral year with a visit from Oberbuergmeister Bernd Tischler and his delegation for mayor making and the Blackpool Mayoralty travelled over to Bottrop for the June Stadtfest.

Kath took great pleasure in welcoming our new citizens to the town at the many very popular Citizenship Ceremonies that were held throughout the year.

This year, the Mayor chose Trinity Hospice as her charity to benefit from the Mayor's Charity Appeal. Kath has had considerable support from various friends and groups with her charity events and, after a very successful Cocktail Evening at the Winter Gardens in April, Kath raised over £20,000 this year for Trinity Hospice.

A special reference has to be made to the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Gary and Debbie, for their support and contribution to this mayoral year and to Rev Dr Simon Cox who acted as Mayor's Chaplain and has assisted at Council Meetings and other civic events.

This resolution would not be complete without particular reference to the Mayoress, Joan, who supported Kath at all major events throughout the year.

To Kath and Joan, Blackpool Council places on record its sincere appreciation of their services as Mayor and Mayoress, and expresses the hope that memories of their mayoral year will stay with them forever.

The Council extends to them both, every good wish for the future'.

8 THE EX-MAYOR'S REPLY TO THE RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Councillor Rowson replied to the resolution of appreciation.

9 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 2017

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council held on 29 March 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council received the report on the appointment of committees for the 2017/ 2018 municipal year. As part of the report, Members considered proposals to combine the scrutiny of the portfolio areas in relation to adult services and health, in line with the Government's health and social care integration agenda.

Members also considered the appointment of an appropriately qualified independent co-opted member to the Audit Committee to serve on the committee with non-voting rights.

With regard to other committees (namely the Appeals Committee, Planning Committee, Standards Committee, Chief Officers Employment Committee and Licensing) it was recommended for those to be reappointed according to their current powers and duties.

A full schedule of committees was submitted to the Council based upon the political balance calculations and which contained the notified names of committee members, Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship nominees. The Leader of the Council advised members of a proposed change to the nominations since publication of the list of nominees, in that Councillor D Coleman was proposed as Vice-Chairman of the Appeals Committee and Councillor Humphreys was proposed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Cain seconded):

- '1. To appoint the following Council committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 11(a) and to agree that the powers and duties remain as set out in the Council's Constitution:
 - Audit Committee (membership of ten and with a composition of six Labour, three Conservative plus one co-opted member)
 - Appeals Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
 - Planning Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
 - Standards Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
 - Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
2. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to consider a suitable allowance for an independent member of the Audit Committee and report back to Council accordingly.
3. That in relation to scrutiny:
 - (i) To appoint the following committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 11(a) and the revised responsibilities for functions set out in Appendix 11(b):
 - Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 15 MAY 2017

- and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Resilient Communities and Children’s Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative).
 - Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- (ii) To appoint two diocesan co-opted representatives and the two governor co-opted representatives to the Resilient Communities and Children’s Scrutiny Committee
- (iii) To agree that all three scrutiny committees are assigned the power to deal with any ‘call-in’ requests initiated in line with Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution
- (iv) To agree that the Chairman position in all three scrutiny committees is filled by a majority group councillor and the Vice Chairman position is filled by an opposition councillor representative.
4. That the Licensing Committee also be re-appointed with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fifteen and a composition of ten Labour and five Conservative).
5. That the Licensing Committee be requested to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
6. To note the appointment of members to committees as set out in Appendix 11(c) (subject to the proposed changes reported to the meeting by the Leader of the Council) and thereafter any nominations or changes to nominations reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader.
7. To agree to the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those committees and the Health and Wellbeing Board as identified at Appendix 11(c) based on the above recommendations.
8. To confirm the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Appendix 11(c).
9. To agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

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

12 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Council considered whether to make any changes to the scheme of delegation for which it had responsibility.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Cain seconded):

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 15 MAY 2017

'To agree that no changes are made to the scheme of delegation for which the Council has responsibility'.

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

13 PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Council considered a programme of meetings for the municipal year 2017/ 2018.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Cain seconded):

' To approve the calendar of meetings and the start times of meeting as set out in Appendix 13(a) to the Council report.'

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 3.51 pm)

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

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	28 June 2017

EXECUTIVE, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider proposed changes in relation to time limits on speeches relating to Executive, Audit Committee and Combined Fire Authority reports to Council.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree that Procedural Standing Order 10.3 for Council meetings is amended to allow for a period of not more than 25 minutes for questions and comments on the report of each Senior Executive Member, a nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee and that respondents are given a period of not more than 25 minutes to answer.
- 2.2 That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To allow for sufficient time for questions to be raised of Senior Executive Members, the nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee and for responses to be given.

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 remain with the current time limits for questions to / responses from Senior Executive

Members, the nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The proposed change will help the Council achieve all of its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 On 8 July 2015, the Council agreed a revised procedure for reports of Senior Executive Member reports, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and a representative from the Combined Fire Authority. This included the provision for a period of 15 minutes for oral questions or comments from members on each report, at the expiry of which, respondents would be given ten minutes to answer.

6.0 Proposals

6.1 There have been a number of occasions at recent Council meetings, where members have agreed to additional time for questions / comments from members as well as time for respondents, in order that reports from Senior Executive Members can be debated more fully.

6.2 The proposals therefore ask the Council to consider amending the Procedural Standing Orders to extend the time limit to 25 minutes for questions or comments and similarly extend the time limit to 25 minutes for responses. This would apply to reports of Senior Executive Member reports, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and a representative from the Combined Fire Authority.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 Any changes to the Constitution require Council approval.

8.0 Human Resources considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Equalities considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Financial considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Risk management considerations:

11.1 The proposals ensure that Executive Members are held to account.

12.0 Ethical considerations:

12.1 One of the Council's values is accountability and these proposals help enforce this principle.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None

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Executive Member Report to the Council
28 June 2017

AGENDA ITEM 5(a)

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

The Corporate area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Ivan Taylor (Cabinet Member for Projects and Partnerships)

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

Council Tax and Sundry Debt

At the end of March 2017, council tax in-year collection performance was 90.0%, 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 93.9%, a reduction of 1.2% compared with the previous year with disappointing collection yields from some central government departments and agencies. This equates to £318,000 for the Blackpool element. Collection and recovery of outstanding 2016/ 2017 debts are continuing and will be vigorously pursued, assisted by further staff investment from the Transformation Fund.

The four-year collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates were 96.2% and 96.9% respectively and such debts, even beyond this term are still actively pursued. In cash terms, the amount of Council Tax collected is £46.5m and for Business Rates it is £23.8m in respect of the Blackpool element.

On a positive note, sundry debt collection was 94.2%, which was 3.5% higher than the previous year when it was 90.7%. The additional notional amount collected compared to last year equates to £2.4m.

Regarding creditor payments and the National Public Sector Payment Policy of paying supplier invoices within 30 days of receipt of invoice or service delivery (whichever comes later) the Council achieved a performance of 95.5% in 2016/17 with all local supplies being targeted at 10 days to bolster their cash flow. This compares to 94.4% in 2015/ 2016.

ICT – Cyber Threat

On Friday 12 May, a massive Cyber Attack in the form of ransomware hit the NHS IT systems across large parts of the country. NHS systems in Blackpool and across the Fylde Coast were seriously impacted and consequently a decision was made to disconnect temporarily the Council network from the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the wider N3 network

(NHS national broadband network). This remained in place until Friday 19 May when a decision was made to reconnect after assurances had been provided that the Blackpool NHS network was safe. Whilst this affected upon some Council staff who work closely with the NHS, the wider Council network remained unaffected by the Cyber Attack. The Council's IT Service worked tirelessly through the weekend of 13 and 14 May and ensured all the Council's systems were fully secured against the vulnerability that the Ransomware was exploiting. The Council's IT Service also fielded several of its own staff to support the recovery effort within the NHS on the Fylde Coast.

The Council continues to treat the risk of cyber-attack as a high priority and this risk was recently scrutinised in detail at Audit Committee on 2 March 2017. The Council has made and continues to make investment in its IT security systems and wider IT estate to reduce risks in this area. All organisations are at risk and as the Council and wider society continues to increase its dependencies on digital systems it is important that we recognise ongoing investment in this area will need to continue to reduce the Council's exposure to this growing risk.

Blackpool Museum Project

The Planning Application has been withdrawn to enable us to hold further discussions with key consultees. We intend to resubmit again in due course. We have agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund for the decision on our project to be deferred to September 2017 to enable this to happen. As I have said previously, if it is possible to proceed with the project from a financial point of view (i.e. without it requiring an ongoing annual subsidy) we will do so, if not, we will not.

Strategic Issues

Financial Management

The 2016/ 2017 Final Accounts have been completed. These will now be examined by the Council's external auditor, KPMG, and reported to Audit Committee on 14 September. At the end of a financially challenging year in which Children's Services overspent against budget by £5.4m the draft Accounts show that the Council's working balances as at 31 March 2017 are below the £6 million target at £3.2 million. A review of earmarked reserves has been undertaken and the Director of Resources has recommended a re-designation of £3m of specific reserves into working balances to compensate.

The Budget for 2017/ 2018 required total savings to be found of £18.7 million. Early indications from budget forecasts as at months zero and one are that 2017/ 2018 will prove to be the most financially challenging year yet, something which we have always known would be the case.

Benefit and Customer First and Revenues and Exchequer

It is pleasing to report that as the Lend A Hand Mortgage Scheme, of which Blackpool Council was a designer and first participant nationally, comes to a conclusion Blackpool Council was

able to assist 90 first-time mortgage borrowers (of which only one has gone into arrears) to achieve life-changing freehold ownership whilst making a cash surplus itself on its underwriting bank deposit. This Scheme was 'copied' by the Government with its Help to Buy Scheme, which proved 2.5% more expensive due to the unforeseen Mortgage Insurance Premium that was triggered by the lower level of underwriting offered.

The average number of days to process Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme new claims and changes in circumstances for April was 15 days. Despite significant amount of work being undertaken to re-assess claims for the new financial year we have managed to maintain performance levels compared to April last year.

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, one of the largest in the UK, was established in 2016 and over its 25-year life span will transform the Blackpool and the Fylde Coast's economic base with over £300 million of private investment and the creation of 3,000 jobs supported by new infrastructure. This 141-hectare site has already grown with over 35 companies and 450 (circa 150 brand-new) jobs since 2016 (including the newly constructed Lancashire Energy Headquarters) established by Blackpool and the Fylde College. Whilst this site targeted at the energy, aerospace, food and drink manufacture and digital and creative sectors, has the capacity to host a wide range of manufacturing and service businesses within the existing Blackpool Business Park and Squires Gate Industrial Estates. The specific incentives for business include business rates reduction and enhanced capital allowances as well as design and build opportunities.

Following a competition run by the Department for Communities and Local Government, an award of £50,000 commercial support was secured in January 2017 to support the provision of detailed master planning for the Enterprise Zone. In March 2017, following completion of a competitive tendering process a consultant team led by Mott McDonald and including How Planning, BE Group and IBI architects, were appointed to undertake the Masterplan preparation for the Enterprise Zone. Work is now well underway with significant stakeholder engagement a key part of the process with the target of producing a draft Masterplan by July 2017.

The Masterplan will, in addition to producing the overall development phasing and plan framework, look at land for future development, additionally considering future market opportunities for development of aviation services. It will undertake a full audit of existing highways and utility capacities and make recommendations as to required upgrades and significant phased infrastructure investment to deliver the Masterplan.

Work is also progressing on the Implementation Plan and the Masterplan will be key to formulation of the site marketing strategy and provide primary marketing collateral for Marketing Lancashire in progressing International marketing of Lancashire's four Enterprise Zones.

Investment Marketing

In view of the range of development opportunities either being developed or in the pipeline (including Talbot Gateway Phase 2 , Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, Central Leisure Quarter, the new Conference Centre, Business Loans Fund and Railway Electrification the Tramway Extension etc.) work is being undertaken to promote Blackpool in a more concerted way as an investment location. This work includes developing appropriate marketing materials and began by supporting an event organised by “The Built Environment on 14 June at the Winter Gardens, focusing on Blackpool’s key development plans and projects. In addition, work is being undertaken in collaboration with Marketing Lancashire to understand more of perceptions of Blackpool by developers and investors, so that we can focus our marketing efforts most effectively in the coming months and years.

Manchester Arena Tragedy

Following the tragic events in Manchester late last month we worked with partners across Lancashire to ensure that the people of our town received the support and reassurance that was needed. We continue to provide this support as people try to come to terms with what happened both in Manchester and London. We also had to consider an appropriate response to how we make Blackpool as safe as we can for visitors. We will continue to carry on providing a great place to live and visit, but our thoughts and prayers are with Jane Tweddle and all of those touched by this atrocity and subsequent events. We must ensure that we continue to be one community in the face of this tiny, but violent and twisted minority.

Working with Partners

Parliamentary Election

As members are aware we had a General election called quickly since the last meeting and this was a mammoth task to arrange. I would like to place on record my thanks to the (Acting) Returning Officer and his staff in organising the election for the two constituencies, which cover Blackpool. Some 450 people worked on the election and Polling day and the count was very well supported and efficiently delivered.

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

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

Quality Corridors

Growth and Blackpool Local Transport Plan funding of £7.4m has been allocated to improve key roads within the town centre network over the next four years. The first phase of work, which is Church Street between Cookson Street up to St John's Square, is now complete.

Cookson and Caunce Street are the next phase of Quality Corridor works and due to start in September 2017, followed by Dickson Road, which will start in February 2018.

Transport Hub

The Transport Hub on Market Street is now complete, with the Highways Division having worked extremely closely with Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators Association and Blackpool's Highway Forum in relation to the scheme.

Plymouth Road Bridge

Plymouth Road Bridge is now nearing completion, with an excellent working partnership having been formed with Network Rail, who contributed circa £1m to the overall cost of £6.1m. Based on a proportional approach on the total bridge funding, the total cost for Plymouth Road Bridge of £6,532,735.93 is as follows; Network rail - £1,696,830, Department for Transport - £2,369,593, Local Transport Plan Funding - £918,821 and LEP - £1,547,489. The works, are ahead of schedule and within budget.

Blue Flag Award

Blackpool South Beach has received an international quality mark for the second time. The stretch of beach at Blackpool South has been once again named in the prestigious global list of Blue Flag beaches that includes the Mediterranean Sea and the Pacific coastline. The award

recognises coastal destinations that boast the highest quality of water, facilities, safety, environmental education and management.

The beach, which is located opposite Blackpool Pleasure Beach, originally became eligible for Blue Flag status in 2015 after being classed as having ‘excellent’ seawater quality by the Environment Agency. It went on to achieve the accolade for the first time last year.

Three other areas of beach in Blackpool have also been granted Seaside Awards for the fourth successive year, giving the resort an entire coastline of award winning beaches.

Contracts and Procurement

Contracts awarded since the last meeting are as follows:

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (years - including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BLACKPOOL BIDS
Architect for further RIBA stages – Winter Gardens Conference Development	Bisset Adams (London)	1 year (no option to extend)	£1,200,000	1	0
Highways Operatives – Flexible Labour Force – Church Street and Bus Hub	George Cox and Sons (Bolton) Bethells (Manchester)	7 months (no option to extend)	£250,000	2	0
Recycling of Wood Waste	SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Ltd (Maidenhead)	2 + (1+1)	£200,000	5	2

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (years - including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BLACKPOOL BIDS
Highways Operatives 2017/ 2018 – Any Highways Work Arising	W H Tarmacadam (Blackpool) George Cox and Sons (Bolton) Bethells (Manchester)	1 year (no option to extend)	£150,000	3	1
Enterprise Zone – Consultancy and Works	Mott MacDonald (Liverpool)	3 months or until satisfactory completion of work	£120,000	3	0
Winter Gardens Conference Centre – Pre-Construction Phase (PCP) Upon successful completion of the PCP a contract will be awarded for the full construction of the Conference Centre	McLaughlin and Harvey (Ireland)	4 months or until satisfactory completion of the work	£105,950	7	1
Quality Corridors and Congestion Relief Highways and Public Realm Detailed Design	Wilde Consultants (Stockport)	9 months (no option to extend)	£55,745	4	0

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (years - including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BLACKPOOL BIDS
Surface Treatment of Algae	Water Saving Techniques Ltd (Renfrewshire)	2 + (1+1)	£40,000	5	0
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy	The Environment Partnership (Warrington)	6 months or until satisfactory completion of work	£24,950	2	0
Staff Uniforms	MWUK Ltd t/a Alexandra (Bristol)	2 + (1+1)	£20,000	5	0
Consultant – Blackpool Football Facilities Investment Strategy	LK2 Sport and Leisure Ltd (Lincolnshire)	6 months or until satisfactory completion of work	£15,250	9	0
Vehicle Removal	JD Macadam and Son Ltd (Keighley)	2 + (1+1)	Income	2	2 Although both bidders' registered offices are outside of the FY postcode areas, both companies have offices based in an FY postcode and the service is delivered from an FY postcode

Strategic Issues

Talbot Gateway

The first phase of Talbot Gateway Central Business District, completed in 2014, saw £80m of investment with over 1,000 employees brought into the town centre based in Grade A1 office accommodation with accompanying retail units. This transformative scheme is supporting the town centre by providing top quality accommodation and facilities, including a Sainsbury's flagship store surrounded by much improved public spaces and traffic management. The planning application has now been submitted for Phase 2, which is set to commence in 2018 with site clearance and construction of a new four-star hotel, tramway extension, transport interchange (connecting the tram to the rail system) and wider developments.

Central Leisure Quarter

The Central Leisure Quarter site sits in the heart of Blackpool and this 7.15-hectare site presents a fantastic opportunity to expand Blackpool's tourism and leisure offer. Plans are now being developed subject to the exclusivity deal arranged at IAPPA in Orlando last year to provide innovative, high-quality attractions and accommodation that provide year-round reasons to visit and broaden the resort's overall appeal. (The Council is now working closely with a developer to explore and ultimately bring to life the many exciting opportunities that exist, the proposal has at its heart a tourist attraction and facilities that would support that). These are subject to commercial confidentiality. Work on site assembly is also continuing with a grant having been received from the Government's One Public Estate scheme to explore options for the relocation of the Magistrates Courts.

Winter Gardens Conference and Exhibition Centre

McLaughlin and Harvey has been selected as the main construction contractor preferred bidder following a rigorous tender exercise, they have already worked on the development of a conference centre in Belfast attached to a listed building. Work has begun in organising and tendering individual works packages that will be offered to local sub-contractors, which in turn will form the overall project activity programme. It is anticipated work on site will commence in the autumn of this year however, options for an enabling works package, to begin prior to the main construction period, are also being evaluated.

Technical design is now nearing completion allowing the submission of a revised planning application in June to address project changes as the scheme has developed. Formal Coastal Communities grant funding award of £2,900,000 has now been received. The £15,000,000 Growth Deal Three grant funding application evaluation process is now at an advanced stage. It is anticipated that formal notification of award will be received before August this year.

Policy Issues

Tower Street - Wilkinsons

We are still awaiting drawings from the architects for this scheme so it is not yet clear when it will be scheduled to go to the Planning Committee. We have set out a number of design criteria, which the building will need to meet and highlighted the fact that Historic England will need to be consulted on design as the scheme is both within the Town Centre Conservation Area and will affect the setting of a Grade II listed building (Winter Gardens). That said, the approach and dialogue so far has been positive.

Transforming Services

Performance in dealing with planning and other applications

As part of the Development Management commitment to improving the speed and quality of decision-making, the service is now reporting statistical performance to the Planning Committee through the published Committee report. This makes performance a matter of public record. Performance for the quarter ending March 2016 is as follows:

Major development decisions (target 60%) - January to March Quarter 100%.

Minor development decisions (target 70%) – January to March Quarter 86 %.

The last reported month (April) sees an improvement in Minor Decisions, which have been confirmed at 100% within time for that month.

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

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>

Strategic Issues

Vitaline - Telecare Services Association (TSA) Inspection:

The Council's Vitaline Telecare Service was inspected by the Telecare Services Association (TSA) in April 2017 and successfully achieved Accreditation Status for 2017/ 2018. With the aim of supporting independent living, the Council's Vitaline Service provides a wide range of individually designed assistive-technology/ telecare packages coupled with a personal mobile response to emergency calls. Equipment ranges from basic pendant alarms through to the very latest wireless controlled environmental sensors that can detect a potential problem without the need of client input e.g. movement sensors that will detect if there has been no movement in a property – a possible indication of a fall.

The Council continues to invest in this important service to ensure it can maintain the high quality of provision currently being delivered thus ensuring the protection and safeguarding of some of the most vulnerable residents of Blackpool.

The Extra Support Service - Transforming Care (Winterbourne) - Positive Behavioural Support:

Two celebration events took place in May 2017 to mark the successful completion of a bespoke training package by staff working for the Council's Extra Support Service, supporting vulnerable adults who may express their feelings through behaviours that challenge services.

The Extra Support Service worked in partnership with Blackpool and the Fylde College to develop Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) training for staff supporting vulnerable adults in the service. The training was designed to help improve their understanding of any behaviour displayed that may be deemed as challenging as well as equipping staff with skills to better support individuals with complex communications needs. The aim of the training was to improve care for people whose behaviour may challenge services.

North West Care Homes and Care Quality Commission (CQC)

According to a published and widely reported analysis by Independent Age, the North West is the worst performing region in England when it comes to the proportion of satisfactory care homes.

The charity based their analysis on Care Quality Commission inspections of care homes which rate homes as either 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires improvement' or 'Inadequate'. They regarded homes rated 'Requires improvement' or 'Inadequate' as being poor performers.

Blackpool fares very well in the report having the second lowest proportion of poor homes in the North West (11.6%).

At the time of the Independent Age report Blackpool had one Inadequate contracted home, we currently have none.

Nationally, Blackpool sits less than a percentage point outside the top 20 of Local Authority Areas in terms of the proportion of Good and Outstanding care homes.

The figures used by Independent Age relate to January 2017.

Advocacy Services

Following a tender exercise Empowerment has been awarded the Advocacy contract. The service was previously covered through three contracts delivered by three provider organisations. The new Blackpool Advocacy Hub model will be implemented during July and provides a single point of access for all statutory advocacy. The aim of the Service is to provide a coordinated and joined up Advocacy Service to deliver all Independent Advocacy detailed in this specification for eligible adults, children and young people with health and social care needs living in Blackpool

Independent Better Care Fund (IBCF) £4 million spend schedule

We are working with local partners to develop a spending plan for the IBCF, which meets the specified national conditions and supports the high impact changes needed to reduce delayed transfers of care and aligns to the outcomes for the local health and social care economy.

The Public Mental Health Action Plan 2016/ 2019

The Action Plan uses a public health approach to promoting mental wellbeing in Blackpool and preventing mental health problems. Mental health is a significant issue in Blackpool. For example, our suicide rate is 17 per 100,000 (compared to a national average of 10 per 100,000 and the rate of self-harm is 596.6 per 100,000, the highest in the country and over three times the England average.

The overall aim of the action plan is to provide a framework for the promotion of mental health and resilience in Blackpool, creating a supportive environment for individuals and communities to flourish.

The plan aligns with Priority 2 of the Council Plan and has been adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board, with performance monitored by the Health and Wellbeing Strategic Commissioning Group. The plan focuses on four key areas:

- Promoting good mental health and resilience across the population;
- Preventing mental ill health and suicide;
- Reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness; and
- Improving the quality and length of life of people living with mental illness.

Policy Issues

Children's Social Care Act – Safeguarding Boards

The Children and Social Work Act is now law and although there is a short hiatus with the election holding up proactive communication, the following timeline is likely to apply:

- Revision of working together – November 2017
- Local Authorities/ Clinical Commissioning Groups/ Police to publish and consult on their plans for local safeguarding arrangements.
- Existing statutory requirements of local safeguarding boards will remain in place until the date that new arrangements are initiated.
- National learning panels will be developed to undertake learning reviews.
- Further details should be available soon.

Transforming Services

Schools, Standards and Effectiveness

The Council continues to develop the School Led System, the Blackpool School Improvement Board (BSIB). This is now gathering momentum through the five priority areas, as below:

- Aspiration and Achievement
- Developing Leadership
- Teaching and Learning
- Inclusion and Welfare
- Effective Transition

The five priority areas, which are all led by Head teachers and/ or representatives of the Academy Sponsor, have now formed sub groups who in turn have identified key actions to address within their priority area.

In addition, a national fund called the School Improvement Fund, has allocated up to £140 million for use within regional school led systems to be used to support key areas for school improvement. Each of the five areas are currently drafting a bid that will be submitted towards the end of June, which will hopefully release funds to support the actions and projects that

each group has identified. This fund will be used to complement any bids and monies identified as part of the Opportunity Area Bid.

Young People on the Edge of Care

The 'Link' is now up and running and provides outreach support to young people and their families to prevent the need for accommodation. Respite facilities will be available in the near future.

The Vulnerable Adolescent Hub (Phase 1) will commence on the 1 July 2017. The Hub brings together a number of service areas to include youth Offending, Care Leavers and Connexions to provide a one-stop, one-worker approach to early intervention and prevention.

Commissioning

The Lancashire Children Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Programme has been underway since Autumn 2015, in line with the national improvement programme for children's emotional well-being and mental health. A pan-Lancashire, multi-stakeholder Transformation Plan was published in January 2016 and refreshed in January 2017. The plan describes a number of service improvement initiatives that are being mobilised to deliver better performance and outcomes in key areas of the system.

In 2017/ 2018, three specific challenges have become apparent. These are described below:

- i. The introduction of the new national CAMHS Access Target. 35% of children with a diagnosable mental health condition will be treated by NHS funded community services 2020/ 2021.
- ii. The disinvestment of £1.1m from Tier 3 CAMHS services by Lancashire County Council, from August 2017, this does not affect Blackpool.
- iii. Delivery of services on the new Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) footprint, to include South Cumbria, with all the on-going expectations of delivery against STP footprint targets, STP assurance requirements and on-going, consistent and sustainable improvements.

Commissioners and key partners have been working since February 2017 to establish a process to take forward a redesign project.

The recommended approach is outlined below:

- The scope of the project will include all NHS funded services (partially or fully) that could or should deliver activity towards the new national CAMHS Access target.
- The new model of service (the care model) will be commissioned via direct negotiation with existing providers (through a clear and rigorous commercial roadmap).

Working with Partners

Threshold Criteria and Early Help Assessment Tools

The Blackpool Safeguarding Board has agreed a revised threshold document and easier to use early help assessment tool. The guidance and tools will be launched at multi-agency events for implementation on the 1 September 2017.

Adult Learning

Work with Housing Options

The “Keys to Your Home” course continues to be successfully delivered. The four-week programme aims to provide current and future tenants with the essential knowledge and skills to be able to find accommodation and maintain their home. Topics include managing your home and keeping your tenancy, managing your money, being a good neighbour, getting to know your community and your rights as a tenant. Eleven courses have been delivered to date with 108 learners completing the course. The potential for rolling the course out to Care Leavers to assist with their independent living skills is being explored.

Social Workers – Neighbourhoods

As part of the development of new models of care delivered to people outside of hospital, the Fylde Coast partners have undertaken to develop new models of integrated care across their footprint. The principles behind this are, as stated in the Fylde Coast Vanguard value proposition published in 2016/ 2017.

In Blackpool, as part of this second phase of the new models of care developments, six neighbourhoods’ teams were established and staff in the teams started to come together last autumn. These were predominantly Health Professionals, (nurses), Allied Health Professionals, (e.g. Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists etc.) and Health and Wellbeing Support staff. The next phase is to locate in each team adult social care, by employing a dedicated qualified Social Worker for each team, with a Social Work Team Manager providing management support to the staff and developing and overseeing the consistency of approach.

They will provide the professional social work input into the team and the link with other adult social care teams and services. The recruitment process has started and we hope to have recruited to all the Teams by the end of the summer. Their work will include Care Act assessments, statutory reviews, specialist advice and guidance in relation to the Mental Capacity Act and Adult Safeguarding, along with general advice and guidance for team colleagues in relation to adult social care.

Integrated Commissioning

From the 8 May 2017 as part of the integration with the CCG commissioning function the Council Commissioning team for Children and Adults Social Care has been relocated to The Stadium. The key principles of the partnership approach, in order to maintain stability in the

commissioning of Health and Social Care Services to meet local care needs, have been agreed between the CCG and the Council.

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting	28 June 2017

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to an allowance for an independent member of the Audit Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out at Appendix 6(a).

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).

2.3 That a recruitment process be initiated, with an interview panel consisting of the Chairman of the Audit Committee (to be Chairman of the Panel), an Executive member, the Chief Internal Auditor and the Monitoring Officer and a report be brought back to September's Council meeting with a recommendation for a preferred appointment.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 At the Annual Council meeting, the Independent Remuneration panel was asked to consider an appropriate remuneration for the newly created position of independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee. The Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the Panel but may make its own decisions.

4.0 Background Information

4.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel was formed by the Council in 2001 and has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme (or parts of its scheme) of members' allowances and amounts to be paid.

4.2 The Panel's terms of reference are to consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following:

basic allowance – the amount to be paid to all members of the Council.

special responsibility allowance – the roles for which this allowance should be paid and the levels of the allowance in each case.

travel and subsistence allowance – the duties for which this allowance should be paid and the amount.

co-optees allowance – whether this allowance should be paid and at what level.

childcare and dependent carer’s allowance – whether this allowance should be paid, at what level and how it should be calculated.

backdating allowances – whether any allowance should be backdated to the beginning of the financial year in the event of the scheme being amended.

annual adjustment of allowances – whether annual adjustments may be made by reference to an index, and, if so, how long such a measure should run.

- 4.3 The Panel met on 31 May 2017 and attached at Appendix 6(a) is the report of the Panel, including its recommendations. Should Council agree an allowance then it is envisaged that a recruitment process will take place over the recess period with a recommendation on a preferred candidate to the September Council meeting.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5.0 Legal considerations:

- 5.1 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>

6.0 Equalities Considerations

- 6.1 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.

7.0 Financial considerations:

- 7.1 If the proposal of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a payment of £700 per annum for an independent co-opted member is agreed then this can be met from the Members Allowances' budget.

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

To: Blackpool Council

Level of remuneration to be paid to co-opted Independent Member of the Audit Committee

1.0 Introduction and background

1.1 At the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2017, consideration had been given to the appointment of an appropriately qualified independent co-opted member, who would serve on the Audit Committee with non-voting rights. This was considered by Council in line with the recommendation of the Audit Committee as part of the review of the action plan from the current Annual Governance Statement. It was believed that this would help strengthen the assurance and challenge role for that committee.

1.2 The Council subsequently agreed to appoint an independent co-opted member. In line with this recommendation, the Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to meet to consider a suitable allowance for an Independent member of the Committee and report back accordingly.

1.3 The meeting took place on 31 May 2017 and comprised:
Mr Tony Mozley (Chairman for the meeting)
Mrs Helen Hockenhull
Mr Greg Molyneux

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Peter Whitehead.

1.4 Also in attendance were:
Mr Mark Towers, Monitoring Officer
Ms Catherine Jones, Member Services Officer

2.0 Considerations

2.1 As laid down in the Council Constitution, the Audit Committee was made up of nine elected members (six Labour members and three conservative members) and chaired by a member of the Opposition Group, to help highlight the challenge role. The Committee had responsibilities relating to governance, risk and control, internal and external audit, financial reporting and accountability arrangements within the Council.

2.2 The role of a co-opted member to the committee would undertake an independent, non-voting role on the Audit Committee, providing external challenge, support and advice, promote good governance and to bring additional knowledge and expertise to the Committee and reinforce its political neutrality and independence.

- 2.3 The Panel was advised that Blackpool Council's Audit Committee currently met six times per year. Due to the scope of the Committee and the required skill-set / expertise required of an Independent Member, it was considered appropriate to consider the offer an allowance for the position, to provide some recompense for attending evening meetings, reading reports and undertaking research.
- 2.4 The Panel considered the remuneration to be paid to a co-opted Independent Member on the Audit Committee. Not all Councils had such a position but it was one which was becoming increasingly more common as the focus on good governance increases in Councils. The Council's external auditors, KPMG, had also endorsed the role.

3.0 Benchmarking information

- 3.1 The Panel was provided with information on comparative data from a range of authorities around the country, including number of meetings an Independent person would be required to attend each year and the amount of remuneration that they received. The Panel was also advised that the Independent Person working with the Monitoring Officer and Blackpool Council's Standards Committee currently received an allowance of £700 per annum.
- 3.2 The Panel considered the difference between a Standards Independent Person and an Audit Independent Member and whether this would impact on the amount of remuneration to be paid. For the role of the Independent Standards Person, the number of meetings each year was not fixed, as they varied depending on what issues were arising. In terms of the Audit Independent Member role, meeting dates were fixed and knowledge and experience in the financial sector was required. Whilst the Audit Independent Member would not need to be a qualified accountant, it could suit someone with an audit and / or financial background and it was important to have the skills to be able to challenge within the Committee.
- 3.3 It was noted that the Audit Committee had a training programme that ran prior to committee meetings throughout the year, which would assist in the building of knowledge and experience of the Audit Independent Member.

4.0 Treatment of allowances

- 4.1 The term of office for the Independent Member of Audit Committee was considered. At other authorities, the term tended to be for a three-year period with a maximum overall period, for example three, six or nine years. It was considered that the term at Blackpool should be comparable with the Standards Independent Person. Therefore, there would be no maximum term, but there would be a requirement to reapply for the position every three years.
- 4.2 The Panel considered that once Council had made its final decision, a review of the role should be undertaken in the lead up to the next Local Elections in 2019 (as would be the case for all Member Allowances), with the review to commence

towards the end of 2018.

- 4.3 Once Full Council had received a report back on an allowance for this position, it was proposed that a recruitment process be initiated, to take place towards the end of the summer recess.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 In making recommendations the Panel took into account the following factors:

- comparative information from other authorities.
- the remuneration paid to Blackpool Council's Standards Independent Person and the skills required for the Audit Independent Member.
- the opportunity to review the allowance, along with the full Members' Allowances Scheme in late 2018/ early 2019.

6.0 Recommendations to Blackpool Council

- 6.1 That the remuneration for the co-opted Independent Member of Audit Committee be set at £700 per annum and the term of office be for a three year period, in line with the Standard's Independent Person.
- 6.2 That the allowance be reviewed in the full review of the Members' Allowance Scheme in late 2018/ early 2019.

Mr Tony Mozley, Chairman for the meeting
Mrs Helen Hockenhull
Mr Greg Molyneux

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