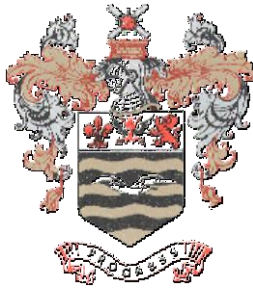


# Public Document Pack



## BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 12 September 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, 20 September 2017 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 MEETINGS HELD ON 28 JUNE AND 19 JULY 2017** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 28 June and 19 July 2017 as true and correct records.

#### **3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

#### **4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS** (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive a representation from a member of the public in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.

#### **5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS** (Pages 9 - 28)

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) and the Combined Fire Authority report  
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 25 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 25 Minutes for a response from the Senior Executive Member \* (or relevant Cabinet Member) at the end of the questions/ comments for each report.

\* or Combined Fire Authority representative

#### **6 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** (Pages 29 - 32)

The Council will be asked to consider the appointment of a Vice Chairman for the Appeals Committee, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972 and following a recruitment process, to consider the recommendation of the Recruitment Panel (chaired by Councillor Galley) for the appointment for an independent member of the Audit Committee.

#### **7 RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMPANIES** (Pages 33 - 44)

To consider the proposals with regard to the Council's role with its wholly owned companies.

#### **8 MOTIONS AT COUNCIL** (Pages 45 - 48)

To consider the attached motions, which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1.

**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 I Coleman (in the Chair)

### **Councillors**

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

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Diane Booth, Director of Children's 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

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jackson who was on official Council business.

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2017**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 May 2017, be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor read the letters from the Mayor of Bottrop, Bernd Tischler, who had contacted him to express his shock and condolences with regard to the recent terror attacks in Manchester and London. The Mayor also read the letter from Bürgermeisterin Monike Budke thanking the Council for its hospitality at the recent town twinning visit.

#### **4 EXECUTIVE, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Members considered proposed changes in relation to time limits on speeches for Executive, Audit Committee and Combined Fire Authority reports to Council. In doing so they noted that there had been a number of occasions at recent Council meetings, where additional time had been agreed for questions and comments from members as well as time for respondents.

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

- '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. 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.

#### **5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS, COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and the 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.

Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

Notes:

- (1) In response to an issue raised by Councillor Collett regarding the recent report of 700,000 medical documents that had been undelivered between GPs and hospitals in 2016, the Leader agreed to write to the Chief Executives of the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group to ascertain if there were any human and financial costs to Blackpool residents.
- (2) The Deputy Leader agreed to look into the issue and then respond to the concerns expressed by Councillor D Scott that the promenade in North Shore had been neglected with weeds covering some of the pedestrianised area and that patches of grassed areas had been killed during weed treatment.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017

- (3) Councillor Campbell also agreed to provide a written update to:
  - Councillor Galley on the progress of the Public Space Protection Order for parks
  - Councillor T Williams on the progress of the programme of works for the Arts Hotel at the rear of the Metropole.
- (4) Following presentation of her Cabinet Member report, Councillor Campbell left the meeting.
- (5) In response to a request from Councillor T Williams, the Cabinet Secretary agreed to provide a written answer on the Council which had been rated as having the lowest proportion of poor homes in the North West.
- (6) Councillor Cain also agreed to provide a written answer to Councillors T Williams and Humphreys, on the breakdown of the suicide rates in Blackpool, based on the location of residency.
- (7) Councillor Cain also agreed to provide Councillor T Williams with clarification on the outcome of the analysis and the report that had been undertaken in relation to the underlying issues in the number of Looked After Children in Blackpool.

### 6 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council considered a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a proposed Special Responsibility Allowance for the independent member of the Audit Committee.

Members were aware that the appointment of an appropriately qualified independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee had been agreed at Annual Council on 15 May 2017 and would serve on the committee with non-voting rights.

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

- '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 Standards Committee's Independent Person.
2. That the allowance be reviewed in the full review of the Members' Allowance Scheme in late 2018/ early 2019.
3. That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017

4. 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.'

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

### Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.35 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)



## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2017

### **Present:**

Councillor I Coleman (in the Chair)

### Councillors

Benson	Critchley	Maycock	Smith
Blackburn	Elmes	O'Hara	Stansfield
Cain	Galley	Owen	I Taylor
Callow	Mrs Henderson MBE	Robertson BEM	L Williams
Mrs Callow JP	Hobson	Ryan	T Williams
Clapham	Hunter	D Scott	Mrs Wright
D Coleman	Hutton	Mrs Scott	
G Coleman	Jackson	Singleton	

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Alan Cavill, Director of Place

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

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Cross who was on official Council business.

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (FREEDOM OF ENTRY) - THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT**

It was proposed by Councillor Blackburn seconded by Councillor T Williams and

### **Resolved:**

‘That in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of, and the debt of gratitude to The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and in recognition of the long and close association between the Borough of Blackpool and The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, the Council resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment and its successors for all time and that it be granted the right, privilege, honour of marching through the streets of Blackpool on ceremonial occasions with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying.’

## **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2017**

Councillor Ryan, Armed Forces Champion, also spoke in support the award.

Following the resolution of the Council, Brigadier Rafferty MBE, responded on behalf of the Regiment.

### **Mayor**

(The meeting ended at 2.25 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)

Council:  
20 September 2017

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## PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

NAME	SUBJECT
1. Ms Zoe Walsh	<p>Ms Walsh wishes to speak on the following issue:</p> <p>“The Council announced that the Star Buddies breastfeeding peer support programme, which has been in place for 10 years, would close on 30 June. There was no public consultation prior to this decision. The service is highly valued by local families and has helped to increase breastfeeding rates in Blackpool, which are among the lowest in the country. We believe this is a short-sighted decision and it will result in additional anxiety for the resort's families. It will also result in falling breastfeeding rates – leading to increased childhood illness, GP visits, hospital admissions and childhood obesity. We call on the Council to extend the service while it conducts a thorough public consultation and equality impact assessment”.</p>

Response to be given by the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health, Councillor Amy Cross

**NOTE:** The representative will be able to speak for up to a maximum of five minutes.

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Executive Member Report to the Council  
20 September 2017

**AGENDA ITEM 5(a)**

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

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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**

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

At the end of July Council Tax in-year collection performance was 34.2%, an increase of 0.4% compared to the previous year, and this equates to £203,000 based upon the Council Tax Net Requirement excluding Police and Fire. Business Rate collection was 33.2%, a reduction of 0.6% compared with the previous year. This equates to £152,000 for the Blackpool element. Recovery action through the Magistrates Court is taking place against defaulting individuals and businesses.

The most significant impact on collection is locality, where transience and ability to pay create additional challenges for collection in Blackpool. The impact of locality in this regard can be clearly shown as Blackpool and Fylde operate a shared service for collection of Council Tax and Business Rates; indeed Fylde district, with the exact same staffing, systems and processes, consistently have higher collection levels than Blackpool. At year-end, in-year collection for Fylde was over 6% higher for Council Tax and over 3% higher for Business Rates when compared with Blackpool. The impact of locality therefore, and the specific challenges facing our population in comparison to our neighbours, should not be underestimated.

At the end of July, sundry debt collection was 76.2%, which was 10.7% lower than the previous year when it was 86.9%. This indicator can fluctuate significantly from month to month if large invoices are raised within the month. This was the case in July when an additional £3m became due from three large organisations, two of which were paid in early August. The notional amount uncollected at the end of July compared to last year is £2.3m.

The average number of days to process Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme new claims and changes in circumstances for April was 22 days.

The call answer rate for Customer First was 45% for July, a 12% improvement compared to the same period last year.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Financial Monitoring**

Financial performance monitoring in the early part of 2017/ 2018 highlighted financial pressures emerging in Children's Services, Strategic Leisure Assets, Parking Services, Treasury Management/ Business Loans Fund and Places with estimated working balances forecast to fall by £3,475,000 against the budgeted position over the year. This fall is in the context of unaudited working balances at the start of the year of £6,166,000, an erosion of 56%. However, in the context of £34.0m of Earmarked Revenue Reserves and with nine 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 three financial performance report for 2017/ 2018 was reported to the Executive on 11 September. The Budget for 2017/ 2018 required total savings to be found of £18.7million. As at 30 June 2017 (month 3) 22% of the 2017/ 2018 savings target had already been delivered and the full-year effect of the 2017/ 2018 savings in 2018/ 2019 amounts to 63% of the £18.7 million target.

### **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 is poised to transform the Blackpool and the Fylde Coast's economic base. Over its lifetime the Enterprise Zone is anticipated to attract over £300 million of private investment, and lead to the creation and safeguarding of 3,000 jobs supported by new infrastructure. This 141 hectare site has already experienced positive growth since its launch a year ago, with over 39 companies and 580 (circa 180 brand new) jobs locating since April 2016. This early growth includes the newly constructed Lancashire Energy HQ, which will be formally opened on the 6 October 2017. Since the establishment of the Enterprise Zone three new commercial developments, two conversions of existing buildings and a new food store have commenced or completed construction, supporting new employment and generating additional business rates income which is to be retained to support the cost of future enabling infrastructure provision for the site.

A team led by international consultants Mott McDonald are currently undertaking a comprehensive masterplan for the Enterprise Zone and are due to complete this work by October 2017. A large stakeholder and marketing perceptions consultation was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September in partnership with Marketing Lancashire to give business and other key parties the opportunity to help shape the final detail of the plan. The masterplan will be presented for formal approval in October 2017.

Work is also progressing on the formal Enterprise Zone Implementation Plan, required by the Department for Communities and Local Government toward the end of the year. The masterplan is key to this. The Implementation Plan will include a site marketing strategy and provide primary marketing collateral for Marketing Lancashire in progressing International marketing of Lancashire's four Enterprise Zones.

The four Lancashire Enterprise Zones, at Warton, Salnesbury, Hillhouse and Blackpool Airport, will be launched for international marketing under the LAMEC (Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster) brand at MiPiM UK, which takes place at Olympia in London on the 18/ 19 October 2017. This early marketing activity will include the provision of new high quality interactive web sites for each individual Enterprise Zone. Blackpool and Fylde Councils will be assisting Marketing Lancashire in the promotion of Lancashire's Enterprise Zones at MiPiM UK.

### **Northern Powerhouse Ministerial Visit and the Future of Joint Working in Lancashire**

On the morning of 15 August, I was delighted to host a visit by the Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry MP. During the first half of the morning, the Minister and I discussed options for future joint working in Lancashire and a small number of senior colleagues from the Local Enterprise Partnership and neighbouring Local Authorities joined us. It was a very positive discussion. The Minister acknowledged that Lancashire had shown appropriate ambition and willing in forming a shadow Combined Authority in the summer of 2016, but concurred that current Government policy regarding the future of devolution since the EU referendum remained unclear. However, the Minister urged partners in Lancashire to commit to the continuation of proposals to enhance joint working. Combined Authority working was now pulling in additional resource and powers into Manchester and Liverpool and Lancashire is in danger of slipping even further behind. We identified a number of options in discussion with the Minister and I shall be taking these for further detailed discussion with Lancashire Leaders at the next meeting of the shadow Combined Authority on the 19 September. The Minister agreed that I would write to him after this meeting in order to confirm intentions, so that he may then progress things within Government as appropriate.

Later in the morning I accompanied the Minister on a tour of the Winter Gardens, specifically to outline and showcase our plans for a new conference centre offer, with construction about to commence. The Minister showed great interest in the scheme and fully endorsed the development as a significant improvement to Blackpool's existing visitor and business tourism offer in various media interviews afterwards. The Minister also volunteered to assist Blackpool in recapturing appropriate conference trade, an offer I enthusiastically accepted.

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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**

Contracts, with a value of over £250,000 that have been awarded since the June 2017 are detailed below. Details of other, lower value, contracts awarded during the same period are available from the Director of Resources.

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (years - including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE
Provision of Portable and Fixed Appliance Testing	M (UK) Ltd (Ashton)	2 + (2)	£300,000	4	0
Provision of Stationery (Lot 1)  Provision of Paper (Lot 2)	Kingswood Office Supplies Ltd (Blackpool) H Jenkinson & Co Ltd (Liverpool)	2 + (1+1)	£320,000	15	1
Winter Gardens – Spanish Hall Roof	Conlon Construction Ltd (Preston)	Ad-hoc – 12 months (or until satisfactory sign-off)	£2million	2	1

## **Highways and Traffic Management Division**

The Highways and Traffic Management division are currently working with utilities partners on a number of crucial schemes, in particular the 50 miles of replacement of gas pipes and the 9,000m of new piping in the South Shore area, separating foul water from surface water.

The Blackpool Bridges investment programme continues on time and budget, with Princess Street, Plymouth Road and Waterloo Bridges completed. The division is carefully planning works and communications in relation to the circa £3m investment in Harrowside and Squires Gate Bridges, as well as Talbot Road tramway scheme and Quality Corridor works.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Key Development Sites**

#### **Talbot Gateway**

The planning application for Phase 2 was approved on 4 July this year. The main development for the construction of a new four-star hotel, tramway extension and transport interchange (connecting the tram to the rail system) is set to commence in 2018. In addition to this, providing we obtain the necessary agreements with Network Rail, the Council will start work on the construction of the new access ramp to Blackpool North Station from High Street in January 2018, with the new underpass being completed as part of the new Hotel development later.

#### **Blackpool Central Leisure Quarter**

The Central Leisure Quarter project at Blackpool's Central Station continues to represent the largest single opportunity and investment to revitalise the visitor economy of the resort. Earlier this year the Council entered into an 'exclusivity agreement' with an international developer. The agreement will run for a period of 18 months (ending October 2018), by the end of which, the developer will provide a full masterplan for the site, including outline design proposals, a phased programme and some initial financial modelling. The main remaining constraint on the site is the Magistrates and County Courts. Funding has been made available via the One Public Estate programme to undertake a feasibility exercise for their relocation and a number of recent meetings have been held with HMCTS, with a variety of alternative sites being put forward for their consideration. Discussions are also being held with Lancashire Constabulary regarding the handover of the divisional headquarters building on Bonny Street, in preparation for the police vacating the site mid/ end 2018.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Supporting Residents into Work**

A new back-to-work scheme in Blackpool will help more than 400 of the town's residents find employment. 'More Positive Together' is a Lancashire-wide project which will help 2,250 residents of the county's most deprived neighbourhoods to improve their skills and employment prospects. Here, Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH) will be the main provider of the

programme and will work with residents, not only in social housing, but those living in privately owned or rented accommodation. As part of the scheme's launch, BCH held a recruitment open day to promote the new project, as well as advertise the first 13 jobs available within the project.

A new work and health hub designed and funded by Blackpool Council has also officially opened its doors. The HealthWorks on Clifton Street, Blackpool, brings together a range of employment, health and lifestyle advice for local residents to help them gain and sustain jobs, as well as improve their overall health and wellbeing. HealthWorks is now home to support services including employment and self-employment advice; careers advice; online job search; work placements; benefits checks; debt and money advice; talking therapy and access to health coaches. The early activity at Healthworks also includes a £2m Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer, one of only three in the country, trialing the impact of combining specialist employment advice with talking therapies for out of work residents with unmet mental health needs such as depression and anxiety.

## **Working with Partners**

### **2017 Events Programme**

2017 has witnessed the successful delivery of both familiar and new events in Blackpool, bringing regular and brand new visitors into the town in their thousands.

#### **Air Show**

In excess of 100,000 visitors turned out to watch the two-day Blackpool Air Show, making it one of the most successful on record. An action-packed programme featuring the likes of the RAF Typhoon, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the Breitling Wingwalkers and the world-famous Red Arrows attracted visitors from all over the country. It was the first time that the Red Arrows had performed on both days of a Blackpool Air Show and their incredible finale received a rapturous reception from people lining the full stretch of the Promenade.

#### **Livewire Festival**

The brand new three day Livewire event over the August Bank Holiday weekend culminated in 20,000 people watching Hollywood legend Will Smith perform in one of only two concerts globally. The Jacksons and The Hit Factory also performed to thousands of revelers, making for an excellent weekend for music fans and local businesses. The success of the weekend means that the Livewire promoters are already planning a similar series of concerts in 2018.

#### **Illuminations Switch-on**

Laser beams and pyrotechnics lit up Blackpool Promenade as the resort celebrated the start of the 2017 Blackpool Illuminations season with an out-of-this-world Switch-On event. The Friday night event started with a "Blackpool Introduces" showcase featuring the best of talent from the local area.

The crowd was wowed by live performances from Conor Maynard, Sigala, R3wire and Varski, and the MTV Base Garage Anthems show. Diversity then again played a starring role in the event with a dazzling performance, leading up to the Switch-On moment when the dance group's creative director, Ashley Banjo, sent out a distress signal to help power up Blackpool's famous Illuminations in front of a huge audience on the Tower Festival Headland. It was then that Gabriel Lorca (actor Jason Isaacs), the captain of the brand new Star Trek: Discovery TV series, was beamed on to a giant screen to come to the rescue, enabling Diversity to trigger an explosion of lights, fireworks and confetti and kick-start 66 nights of Illuminations on Blackpool seafront.

This first "intergalactic" Switch-On was part of a unique collaboration with Netflix and CBS, to celebrate the much-anticipated release of the next chapter in the iconic Star Trek franchise later this month and it received very positive and wide-ranging media coverage. Once the Switch-On ceremony was over, Example and DJ Wire headlined an hour-long party under the Lights.

### **Winter Gardens**

The Winter Gardens has had a very successful season so far, with a wide variety of shows, events and festivals. This has included Dirty Dancing, Footloose, Rebellion, World Darts, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, as well as one of the biggest dance festivals in the world. In May, the Winter Gardens had one of its biggest month's ever, with gross revenue over £1m for the first time.

The Winter Gardens are also preparing for the future, with a new £25m conference extension and refurbishment due to open in 2019. It is fantastic that one of Britain's biggest union conferences has already confirmed its return to Blackpool on the back of the new conference offer. The GMB will stage its annual congress in the brand new state-of-the-art conference centre in June 2020, bringing more than 1,000 delegates over five days. The GMB, which supports more than 600,000 members from across the UK and Europe, has also revealed that it plans to use the proposed new hotel at The Sands Venue on Central Promenade as its conference base. The hotel is due to open for business in autumn 2018.

Local companies were invited to find out more about the conference centre construction at a special event held at the Winter Gardens earlier in the summer. The meet-and-greet event gave businesses the chance to meet with the main contractor, McLaughlin and Harvey, to talk about potential opportunities for local suppliers and subcontractors.

The world's largest magic convention has signed a deal to remain at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool for the next five years. The event, which is staged by the Blackpool Magicians' Club each February, attracts more than 3,500 delegates from as far afield as America and China. The deal means that the convention, which delivers an economic benefit to the resort of more than £1m a year, will remain in Blackpool until at least 2022. The club celebrates its 75 birthday this year and it has grown to be one of the most respected magic clubs in the industry. The annual

gathering holds a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's biggest and best attended magic convention.

The Blackpool Dance Festival will be extended by two days from next year following the success of this year's event at the Winter Gardens which saw representation from 62 countries. Indeed, following the launch of the Blackpool Dance Festival China last year, the Blackpool event saw a 24% increase in Chinese competitors in this year's Winter Gardens event. The 2018 festival in Blackpool will start on Sunday 20 May and will run for 13 days, making it the longest dance festival in the world.

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## **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**

#### **Healthy Weight Strategy**

In January 2016, Blackpool Council signed a Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight and made a commitment to support employees and residents of Blackpool to tackle the issue of obesity by encouraging individuals to make healthy choices. Since the introduction of the declaration, the Council's Public Health Directorate has been working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to influence change within the Council in line with the declaration's priorities.

As the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, I invited partner organisations, the voluntary sector and the private sector to take part in a Healthy Weight Summit. The purpose of the session was to encourage organisations to support the development of their own declaration on Healthy Weight and encouraged to pledge to tackle the issue of obesity across the town. Events have been held in February and June 2017, with lots of positive contributions and commitments. A further event is planned in October. An update report will be taken to Scrutiny.

### **Strategic Issues**

#### **Children's Services Improvement Plan**

The end-to-end review undertaken by the Corporate Delivery Unit has been completed and Dartington Research Centre has commenced work regarding a Dynamic Systems Approach. The two pieces of work have been aligned and changes are being implemented as we work through the journey of the child to ensure we will offer the most effective and efficient service to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The new Improvement Plan replaces the previous continuous improvement plan and is more focused and targeted. Mr Tony Crane who is employed by the Department for Education (DfE)

chairs the Improvement Board. The plan has been rolled out across children's social care, early help and partner agencies. A demand management plan has also been developed, which supports making the right decisions for children and young people at the right time and improving practice across the service. We are already seeing impact, with the average number of new looked after children in the last three months at 14 per month, compared to 30 per month in the previous six months.

We are also working closely with Ofsted and have agreed to be one of the pilot sites for the Self View approach to self-assessment. The review of the special educational needs service is complete, the structure is now in place and aims to streamline service delivery and prevent duplication.

### **Schools, Standards and Effectiveness**

GCSE results were announced in August. At this stage, it is difficult to make comparisons across schools and areas compared to last year as the grading schemes and exam structures used in 2017 were completely new. We are working with colleagues across the North West to analyse the data further and early indications show that there were significant improvements in results in a number of Blackpool schools, in particular Highfield and South Shore academies.

The Council continues to develop the school led system via the Blackpool School Improvement Board (BSIB). Five priority areas have now formed sub-groups and each has identified key actions. Each group has collaborated in submitting a bid towards the School Improvement Fund (SIF). These bids have been linked to the work of the Opportunity Area and the outcomes of the bids will be released in the new term. In order to progress positive communication from the BSIB, the Council is developing a communication strategy that will endorse the good work that is happening and ensure that all stakeholders, including parents, carers and the community are involved in this communication. In addition, a series of celebration events will take place across Blackpool, starting in the autumn term, further raising the profile of education.

This term the usual meetings that we hold with each sponsor will also be attended by the Regional Schools Commissioner, Vicky Beer.

The Opportunity Area work continues, following delays created by the election. The Draft Delivery Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education this month for approval.

### **Policy Issues**

#### **Homeless Reduction Act 2017**

The Act, to be implemented in 2018, places a new duty on local authorities to help prevent the homelessness of all families and single people, regardless of priority need, who are eligible for assistance and threatened with homelessness. Along with the welfare changes, there is potential for this to impact upon Children's Services and the request for more young people aged 16/ 17 years presenting as homeless.



## **Transforming Services**

### **Successful Funding Bid: Violence Against Women and Girls**

Through the Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Board, the Council has successfully secured a £400,000 bid from the Home Office, Violence Against Women and Girls, (VAWG), Service Transformation Fund. This is part of the government VAWG strategy to promote and deliver best local practice through a preventative model of early intervention over a three-year period.

### **Vulnerable Adolescence Hub**

As advised in my last report to the Council the Vulnerable Adolescence Hub (phase 1) has successfully been implemented. The service is called Blackpool Young People's Services and aims to deliver services to young people aged 10 to 25 years through a 'one door approach'. It will be allied closely to the Link (our adolescent respite and outreach unit) and other edge of care services to provide an alternative or prevent the need for young people becoming looked after. The Council has developed an exit from care plan that is proactively ensuring that children and young people exit care or current provision in a timely manner when it is safe to do so.

The Hub is currently working closely with colleagues in housing to devise and develop pathways to ensure we are Southwark compliant and will be in a position to manage the demand that the Council is likely to face with the changes to legislation regarding homelessness and welfare reforms.

### **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. In 2017/ 2018, three specific challenges have become apparent:

- 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.

In order to address the challenges highlighted above and to ensure there is a consistent approach to commissioning emotional health and well-being services across Lancashire, the

Lancashire Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (CYPEWMH) Transformation Programme is currently initiating a CAMHS Redesign Project, with a recommended approach to project scope and securing provider(s).

### **Health Service and Social Care Joint Working**

There are currently significant pressures on the health and social care sectors, in particular in A&E units and demand relating to the frail elderly. We are currently working together across the Fylde Coast to improve outcomes for residents, this includes having being designated a pilot Accountable Care System area, as part of the Sustainable Transformation Partnership. NHS England want to see much more joined up, better coordinated care breaking down the barriers between GPs and hospitals, physical and mental healthcare, social care and the NHS. In order to do this they are investing in nine areas to become 'accountable care systems' (ACSs) which will be the forefront of nationwide action to bringing together local NHS organisations, often in partnership with social care services and the voluntary sector. They build on the learning from and early results of NHS England's new care model 'vanguards', which are slowing emergency hospitalisations growth by up to two thirds compared with other less integrated parts of the country. In Blackpool, this closer working includes joint commissioning and integrating front line delivery, initially focussing on the Talbot and Brunswick area.

### **Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)**

The Spring Budget 2017 announced additional grant allocations for local authorities to be used only for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs with the aim of reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported. This allocation is referred to as the Improved Better Care Fund and has to be managed within the Better Care Fund Section 75 pooled budget (a joint health and social care budget with Blackpool CCG).

Providers of adult social care have described the pressures and difficulties faced by the care industry including:

- The inability to recruit and retain staff in a competitive labour market
- The increased costs of National Living Wage
- The increasing complexity of service users' needs and the pressure this places on staff and equipment budgets, as well as supervision and management oversight
- The difficulty in reducing costs any further, as options for the rationalisation of resources have been exhausted and management structures have been rigorously reviewed.

In order to support the local care provider market and in line with the Government's stated intentions "to support council's to continue to focus on core services, including to help cover the costs of the National Living Wage, which is expected to benefit up to 900,000 care workers" a brought forward increase in the 2017/ 2018 contract rates paid to care providers has been funded from the additional grant allocation, in addition to the following measures:

- Continuing services, where temporary funding was due to end that contributes to reducing delayed transfers of care, avoiding hospital admissions and reducing the need for ambulance calls. This includes the Vitaline telecare service, falls response service and the 'blue light' home care service.
- Changing some of the services offered by the Council's home care service to provide longer blocks of care (for example to support people with dementia at home) and a neighbourhood response/ rapid spring clean service to help get people out of hospital more quickly when there are problems with the home environment or very urgent care is needed.
- Social Worker in Accident and Emergency seven days a week.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Delivery of 'Amazing Animals' course with Primary schools**

The Family Learning team devised and delivered the "Amazing Animals" course - a five-week course for Key Stage 1 children. Thirteen courses were delivered in ten different venues (three schools ran two consecutive courses). A total of one hundred and nine adults and one hundred and nine children successfully completed the course, learning together through a variety of activities. Several months after the programme, parents were given a follow-up call to evaluate the impact of the courses. Results included:

- 97% said it helped improve their relationship with their child
- 71% said it helped improve their relationship with other families
- 68% said it improved their relationship with their child's school
- 13% said they have gone into further learning/training
- 13% said they have a new or better job
- 6% have started to volunteer

### **Adult Learning Inspection and Action Plan**

The Adult Learning service underwent an Ofsted Inspection at the end of June 2017, which resulted in the service being rated as "Requires Improvement". This is the first inspection since the new Common Inspection Framework was introduced in the Further Education and Skills sector, and there is evidence the framework is tougher than the previous framework used in 2013. A number of strengths were identified including, "managers and staff create inclusive and supportive learning environments", "managers' work effectively with a wide range of partners to provide learning for many adults who are at risk of social exclusion" and "tutors use effectively activities that interest and motivate learners". Areas noted for improvement included "tutors do not set sufficiently challenging targets", "managers' don't record and monitor data well enough on learners' progression". Work is already underway to address the improvements required. A first draft post-inspection Action Plan will be completed in September. The service is likely to be re-inspected within the next 18 months to two years.

**Delivery of “Keys to Your Home” to new tenants 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.

## **COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS JACKSON, D COLEMAN AND T WILLIAMS**

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This report updates the Council on the work of the Combined Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is made up of 25 Councillors (19 representatives from Lancashire County Council three from Blackburn and Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met on two occasions 24 April and 19 June 2017. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of those meetings and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

### **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 24 APRIL 2017**

#### **1. RETIRING MEMBERS**

The Authority expressed gratitude and sent best wishes to retiring Members who were not standing for re-election as Lancashire County Councillors namely, County Councillors Ken Brown, Niki Penney and Ron Shewan.

#### **2. UK INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM**

The Authority received a report detailing the existing commitments to the UK International Search and Rescue Team and approved the continued involvement and additional responsibilities, which had been introduced following the introduction of a new logistics role that supports the UK Emergency Medical Team.

#### **3. FIRE RELATED PROSECUTIONS**

Members endorsed a report, detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 February 2017 to 1 April 2017.

There was one successfully completed prosecution case reported. Fire protection and business support information provided included how the primary authority scheme had progressed to include new areas of regulation and to businesses that shared a common approach to compliance.

In addition, three arson convictions were reported.

#### **4. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS**

This report included information for the two Unitary and 12 District Authorities relating to Fire Safety initiatives and Fires and Incidents of particular interest.

As part of this report, Members received a presentation by Group Manager Neil Taylor who was the incident commander at a large fire at Alston Hall, a Grade 2 heritage building in Longridge on 15 March 2017.

## **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA)**

**19 JUNE 2017**

### **1. COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING**

The meeting held 19 June was the Authority's Annual Meeting and Members appointed County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively for 2017/ 2018. On taking the Chair, County Councillor De Molfetta thanked past and continuing Members for their considerable contributions to the work of the Authority.

### **2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2017/ 2018 included 11 new Members; namely, County Councillors: Beavers, Brown, Clarke, Eaton, Hennessy, Howarth, Kay, Martin, Tomlinson and Wilkins, appointed by Lancashire County Council and Councillor Coleman appointed by Blackpool Council.

### **3. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

As required by the Localism Act 2011, the Authority had a duty to promote and maintain high standards of Members, which included the appointment of one or more Independent Persons. Following consideration, the Authority re-appointed Mrs Hilary Banks as its Independent Person for a period of two years until the CFA Annual Meeting in June 2019.

### **4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION 2016/ 2017 AND ANNUAL ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer informed Members that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) had strongly sustained its performance results, highlighting that:

- There had been a 10% reduction in accidental fires in people's homes over the previous year, equating to almost 100 fewer fires, and a 24% reduction than there was five years ago;
- The number of people killed within dwelling fires had fallen by half of that recorded five years ago, and these were at their lowest since 2005/ 2006;
- Fire within buildings (other than dwellings) were at an all-time low and had reduced by 25% over the last 5 years;
- Similarly, deliberate secondary fires, which were fires related to anti-social behaviour, were at a ten year low, and had reduced by 72% over that time; and
- Accidents to staff continue to decrease with 2016/ 2017 recording one of the lowest counts over the last ten years.

LFRS continued to work with partners in reducing the numbers of road traffic collisions and improving outcomes. Through a partnership approach, LFRS had been working to improve road safety outcomes and to work with partners to deliver various initiatives, including:

- LFRS had a representative on the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. The partners worked very closely with each other and utilised the partnership strategy, 'Towards

Zero Lancashire: Road Safety Strategy For Lancashire 2016 – 2026’ in an attempt to reduce those killed or seriously injured on our roads in Lancashire;

- The Road Safety Thematic Group (attended by Road Safety Champion, Councillor Jackson) had developed a new road safe primary school package for Year Six pupils;
- LFRS had developed and promoted a young driver road safety education programme entitled ‘Wasted Lives’ which was aimed at young and pre-drivers and aimed to influence behaviour and change attitudes either as a driver or a passenger, thereby reducing risk to this specific group and other road users. To date this programme had been delivered to over 80,000 young people throughout Lancashire; and
- LFRS worked in partnership with emergency services and families affected by road collisions to present real life stories and share emotional experiences to support the reduction of young people killed or seriously injured on Lancashire’s roads. Members were actively encouraged to attend to observe a ‘Safe Drive Stay Alive’ session. To date 13,413 students had seen this hard hitting educational programme.

## **5. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/ 2017**

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that LFRS had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. The number of accidents to LFRS staff was the second lowest on record with 58 events being reported of which only 25 resulted in lost time accidents. The Health and Safety Executive was notified under RIDDOR regarding 16 events, one major specified injury, 14 for over seven day absences following accidents and one for a dangerous occurrence for a breathing apparatus set failure. LFRS continued to deliver projects to manage health and wellbeing, learn from accidents and provide operational assurance, reduce its carbon emissions, review National Operational Guidance, research and develop equipment and firefighting techniques to ensure firefighter safety etc. The health and safety and environment management systems would continue to be developed and this was supported by external reviews that advocated robust policies, systems and a positive culture were in place within LFRS.

## **6. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS**

As part of this report, Members received a presentation by Jane Williams, Prevention Support Manager on what LFRS was doing to support people living in Lancashire with dementia. This included dementia prompt stickers, dementia buddies, dementia action alliances, dementia friends and dementia cafes and events.

## **7. URGENT BUSINESS – GRENFELL TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY IN LONDON – HIGH RISE BUILDINGS IN LANCASHIRE**

Members received a presentation by Tony Crook, Group Manager that informed Members on the Grenfell Tower Fire investigation process and the actions being undertaken to reassure the public in Lancashire.

Across Lancashire there were 73 High Rise premises (residential and non-residential) listed as high-rise (six floors and above). Sixty-nine of those were residential, either students’ halls of residence or occupied by the public. All have had a fire safety audit between 2010 and 2017.

In Lancashire there were three Local Authority owned high-rise premises all of which had been re-inspected the previous week.

Since 1 January 2017, there had been 18 primary fires in dwellings of five storeys or above. All fire spread had remained within the room of origin. The total number of casualties was two at one fire. Fire crews were last trained in operational procedures in May 2017 as part of a scheduled two-year frequency. Training was updated to incorporate lessons learnt from recent high-rise fires of Harrow Court and Lakanal House. Investment had been made in telemetry and facilities to prevent entanglement as a direct result of learning from previous national incidents in high-rise premises.

Firefighters and community fire safety staff were out and about in all areas, reassuring the public, providing face-to-face guidance on key messages in respect of fire plans, the use of lifts, evacuation, smoke alarms and dialling 999. Additionally, LFRS had begun an immediate review of the high-rise accommodation fire safety provision in Lancashire, regardless of how recently they were last audited. In addition, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer would be arranging a Lancashire Resilience Forum meeting to agree the Lancashire county activities undertaken by partners and how these should be coordinated/ captured.

#### What we tell anyone reporting a fire in high rise premises

If the Fire Plan for the building is not 'Stay Put'

- Get Out Stay Out;
- Follow Evacuation Policy;
- Do not use the lift; and
- If you find that you cannot get to a safe place, ring the fire service again on 999.

Or for 'Stay Put'

- If there is a 'Stay Put' policy and the caller is safe and is not in the flat where the fire is, then stay put;
- If the situation changes, then inform the fire service immediately, dialling 999;
- If the caller wants to evacuate then we ask them to follow the building's evacuation route; and
- If they cannot get to a safe place, ring the fire service again on 999.

Support is available to assist businesses to comply with fire safety regulations; information is available from [www.lancsbusinessplus.org.uk](http://www.lancsbusinessplus.org.uk) / [www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk](http://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk)



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 September 2017

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Council will be asked to consider the appointment of a Vice Chairman for the Appeals Committee, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972 and following a recruitment process, to consider the recommendation of the Recruitment Panel (chaired by Councillor Galley) for the appointment for an independent member of the Audit Committee.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to the appointment of Councillor Vikki Singleton as the Vice Chairmen of the Appeals Committee.
- 2.2 To agree that Yvonne Russell be appointed as the independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To fill the vacancies which have been created.
- 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

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The appointment of Council committees will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

### 5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 The Council, at its Annual Meeting on 15 May 2017, agreed the appointment of its committees and associated Chairmen and Vice Chairmen. Due to a change of

Cabinet Member Assistants in July 2017, the need arose to appoint a new Vice Chairman of the Appeals Committee, but the Council can only make this appointment. Councillor Vikki Singleton is the nominated person for this role.

- 5.2 It was agreed at the meeting of Council on 28 June 2017, that a recruitment process be commenced for the newly created position of independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee. An interview panel consisting of the Chairman of the Audit Committee (also Chairman of the Panel), an Executive member (Cllr Taylor), the Chief Internal Auditor and the Monitoring Officer was established.
- 5.3 Interviews took place on Thursday 7 September and Yvonne Russell, a qualified accountant, who has worked in the audit, assurance and risk sectors for most of her career, is the recommended candidate of the Panel.

**List of Appendices:**

None.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 There are no Legal considerations.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 There are no Human Resources considerations.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

- 9.1 The allowances for the two positions are already in the current revenue budget.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

- 11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None other than those named in the report.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 September 2017

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMPANIES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the proposals with regard to the Council's role with its wholly owned companies.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note that the Chief Executive will be designating a lead officer to work on behalf of the shareholder with the Council's wholly owned companies, from within the senior/ chief officer management structure.
- 2.2 To appoint a Shareholder's Advisory Board under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, with the terms of reference as at Appendix 7(a) and with a membership of three Labour members and one Conservative member.
- 2.3 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding an appropriate level of allowance for the appointed members.
- 2.4 Subject to 2.2 above, to agree that the Chairman of the Board be an Executive member and Council be asked to consider that nomination at the meeting.
- 2.5 Subject to 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 above, the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the constitution accordingly.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To act in an advisory capacity, on behalf of the shareholder to ensure there is democratic accountability with regard to the five companies, providing accountability, influence and challenge.

- 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:**

3.3a To have the development of the relationships at an officer level, but this would limit member involvement from the Council's perspective.

3.3b To form a holding company to act on behalf of the Council into which the Council could transfer all the shareholdings it has with the separate companies. The Council would only have to deal with the holding company. This though it is considered would not address the concerns about 'democratic deficit' and there is a key issue, with this option, regarding Blackpool Transport Services Limited, which is governed by provisions in the Transport Act 1985, particularly in relation to control (sections 72 and 73 refer).

3.3c Whilst it contains no express prohibition to a Council exercising such control through a holding company, it is difficult to read the relevant provisions as meaning anything other than a requirement that the Council itself directly controls the transport company. Therefore a holding company is not an option which is recommended.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The proposals help the Council achieve both its priorities. 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool' and 'creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 In February 2012, the then Scrutiny Committee set up a Scrutiny Panel to review the relationship between the Council and Blackpool Transport Services Limited. Research had shown that a Shareholders Panel at other publicly owned Transport Companies had strengthened and clarified the relationship between the Council and the Transport Company in those areas.

5.2 Following this scrutiny review on 24 October 2012, the Executive reviewed the governance arrangements for the companies that the Council owned at that time to bring some standardisation to them and any future wholly owned Council companies. This led to a review of all of the articles of association for the companies, the introduction of independent non-executive directors on all the companies and an informal Shareholder's Panel to oversee this review and develop the relationship with between the companies and the Council. This Panel was chaired by the Leader of the Council, but was predominantly officer based and has met sporadically in the last 12 to 18 months due to scheduling issues, in particular with the increase in companies and competing commitments of attendees.

- 5.3 Since the report to the Executive in 2012, two further wholly-owned companies have been set up (Blackpool Entertainment Company in May 2014 and Blackpool Housing Company, which started trading in August 2015). All of the articles of association have been reviewed and updated and each Board now has a balance of independent and Council non-executive directors. A governance framework is now in place and each company has an Audit Committee and an Appointments and Remuneration Committee. Non-Executive Directors of the Boards are also entitled to receive a remuneration.
- 5.4 As part of the budget agreed by Council in 2017, there were proposals for two additional companies relating to Social Care and Culture. As part of the three-year budget there were also proposals around a possibility of a wholly-owned company in later years for some services from the Community and Environmental Services Directorate, should a business case support them. These business cases have yet to be brought forward for review, but it is considered that now is the time to consider how the 'democratic deficit', which could be a factor in setting up and operating this number of wholly-owned companies, can be addressed.
- 5.5 The shareholder links with the company have been predominantly the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, however as the number of companies has grown and with competing commitments then a review has been undertaken to seek greater accessibility to the Council by the companies and increase member involvement in the shareholder side to make sure there is no 'democratic deficit' in the overall strategic direction of the companies.
- 5.6 It should be recognised that all companies are subject to company law and in particular, all directors are subject to various duties under the Companies Acts.

These are listed below:

- act in the best interests of the company
- act within the powers of the company
- promote the success of the company
- exercise independent judgement
- avoid conflicts of interest
- not to accept benefits from third parties
- declare any proposed transactions or arrangements with the company and
- exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence.

With regard to councillors who are appointed as directors, they are not there to simply do the Council's bidding. They are just as much bound by the duty to act in the best interests of the company, as independent or executive directors. The shareholder has a role to provide strategic oversight/ direction for the companies and hold them to account for their performance but should not get involved in the day-to-day decision making of the different companies.

- 5.7 In helping achieve greater accessibility to the Council's senior/ chief officer core, the Chief Executive is looking to identify a senior/ chief officer to act on his behalf in liaising with the companies and it is hoped this will strengthen relationships even further and help co-ordinate the involvement of the companies in the wider agenda for the town. (This could not be the Director of Governance and Partnerships as he has a conflict of interest in that he acts as company secretary for the companies).
- 5.8 Over the years, there has been the involvement of scrutiny and also the informal shareholders panel, which have had some member involvement. In order to help strengthen the 'democratic involvement' it is proposed that a Shareholder's Advisory Board be set up act as an advisory body as referred to earlier in the report. It is suggested that this is made up of four elected members, with an Executive member as a chairman, with then two further Labour members and a Conservative member.
- 5.9 It is suggested that the Board meets with each company's representatives on two occasions per year, from a strategic and advisory perspective and proposed terms of reference are attached at Appendix 7(a).
- 5.10 It is envisaged that the meetings of the advisory board would need to be on a frequent basis to undertake the terms of reference outlined at Appendix 7(a). In addition to attendance at meetings, members of the Board would need to have a clear understanding of the role of the shareholder and the work of the company, to be able to provide appropriate challenge, influence and advice. This would involve training and preparation prior to meetings. It was therefore considered that an additional special responsibility member allowance may be relevant to be paid to those who serve on the committee.
- 5.11 The Independent Remuneration Panel has met to consider a proposed allowance and its recommendations are attached at Appendix 7(b).
- 5.12 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a) – Draft Terms of Reference

Appendix 7(b) – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 The Advisory Board would be a committee of the Council under the Local Government Act 1972, as a strategic/ advisory body. However, it needs to be recognised that the actual discharge of the functions of the shareholder would remain with the Executive.



- 6.2 Whilst the general rule relating to the Appointment of Committees in section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (ref: section 102(1)) is that committees are to be formed for the purpose of discharging functions, Section 102(4) also states that: a local authority may appoint a committee...to advise the appointing authority or, where the appointing authority operates executive arrangements, any executive of that authority...may on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions, and any such committee...may consist of such persons (whether members of the appointing authority or authorities or not) appointed for such term as may be determined by the appointing authority or authorities.
- 6.3 This provision is given to the Council and not the Executive, even though it may be a committee set up to advise the Executive.
- 7.0 Human Resources considerations:**
- 7.1 None other than the Chief Executive designating a Senior/ Chief Officer as the lead officer for liaising with its companies.
- 8.0 Equalities considerations:**
- 8.1 None
- 9.0 Financial considerations:**
- 9.1 Should the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be agreed, there will be a cost of £8,750 with regard to additional members' allowances, for a full year, which can be met from the contingency budget.
- 10.0 Risk management considerations:**
- 10.1 The proposed designated officer and Advisory Board will provide a more focused resource in the development and achievement of the Council's vision and priority outcomes.
- 11.0 Ethical considerations:**
- 11.1 None.
- 12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**
- 12.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel has been consulted on this proposal and its report is attached at Appendix 7(b).

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None

<b>Shareholder's Advisory Board</b>
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**1.1.1 Purpose**

To act as an advisory body in order to ensure that the duties and responsibilities of the Council as the sole shareholder of the company are exercised through the Company and to manage overall relationships with the Company.

**1.1.2 Membership**

Membership comprises of four elected members, on a political balance basis, chaired by an Executive Member.

A senior/ Chief Officer of the Council would also be in attendance as the representative of the Chief Executive. If there are budget/ finance items on for discussion then the Council's Statutory Finance Officer (or representative) may also be in attendance.

The Chairman of the Company and the Managing Director would attend the meetings along with the Company Secretary. Where a company has a Finance Director, this person may also be called upon to attend the meetings.

The quorum for this meeting is two representatives of the Advisory Board.

**1.1.3 Responsibilities**

- To hold regular meetings with nominated Company representatives in relation to the strategic performance of each Company, in particular the business plan objectives and long term development and in doing so to provide feedback to the shareholder (as appropriate) and to each company on behalf of the shareholder.
- To advise in relation to any reserved matters for the shareholder, as stated in relevant governance documents or as notified by the shareholder.
- To hold the company to account to ensure that the interests and responsibilities of the Council as the sole shareholder of the company are exercised in accordance with the shareholder's wishes.
- To seek assurance from each company on behalf of the shareholder, that there are appropriate controls in place for good governance and risk management matters.
- To review and monitor (as appropriate) Shareholder/ Management Agreements and Articles of Associations, in particular where there are areas of concern.

**1.1.4 Frequency of meetings**

Meetings to be held usually on two occasions per year with each company, with any others dependent on urgency of business.

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

To: Blackpool Council

## **Level of allowance for members of the proposed Shareholder Advisory Board**

### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Panel members met ahead of the Council meeting on 20 September 2017 in view of the proposals to establish a Shareholder Advisory Board.
- 1.2 The meeting took place on 8 September 2017 and comprised:  
Mr Peter Whitehead (Chairman of the Panel)  
Mrs Helen Hockenhull  
Mr Greg Molyneux  
Mr Tony Mozley
- 1.3 Also in attendance were:  
Mr Mark Towers, Monitoring Officer  
Mrs Lorraine Hurst, Deputy Monitoring Officer
- 1.4 The Panel considered an allowance to be paid to the Chairman and members of the Shareholder Advisory Board, should the Council be minded to agree to the proposed arrangements.

### **2.0 Considerations**

- 2.1 The Panel was aware that the Council wholly owns a number of companies, which carry out important functional and commercial activities, such as transport, housing, entertainment and leisure facilities. Previously, the Panel has recommended levels of remuneration for non-executive directors serving on these companies.
- 2.2 It was reported that the Council had identified a "democratic deficit" in terms of managing and overseeing its various shareholdings and that at the full Council meeting on 20 September 2017, members would be considering a report on proposed arrangements for a Shareholder Advisory Board (a draft copy was provided to the Panel members). This would be in the form of a politically balanced committee of the Council, with a proposed membership of four elected members (three Labour members and one conservative member), which would both supersede and consolidate all existing arrangements.
- 2.3 The Panel noted that the Advisory Board would have strategic oversight and guidance of the wholly owned companies, for example in receiving the business plans, considering the financial position of the company and the company group, and advising on matters of common interest across the group, with recommendations as appropriate to the Council's Executive, which would continue to exercise the

shareholder decision making function.

2.4 It was reported that external legal advice had been sought on the potential options for strategic oversight of the companies, which had included:

- a shareholder advisory committee (which was the recommended option)
- a group holding company (although due to provisions of the Transport Act 1985, this would preclude Blackpool Transport Services from the arrangement and was therefore not being put forward as the preferred option)

2.5 In clarifying the role of the Advisory Board, the Panel was assured that the legal advice which had been taken regarding the proposals had covered a number of issues and for example members would not act as 'shadow directors' of the individual companies, nor play any role in the direct decision making of those companies. The intention was to provide strategic oversight and guidance on the part of the Shareholder, a role, which was already identified in the articles of association and other governance documents but due to reasons stated in the draft report to be submitted to Council had not fully taken place for nearly 12 months.

### **3.0 Benchmarking information**

3.1 The Panel was aware that there was very little information in relation to similar arrangements in other Councils in terms of overseeing wholly owned companies, as there were few Councils who had as many companies as Blackpool. In the two examples that existed in the North West, one authority had established a separate holding company, although another was seeking to establish similar arrangements to those proposed by Blackpool Council.

3.2 Members of the Panel also noted that in terms of the Council's governance structure, the roles and responsibilities of the proposed Advisory Board were relatively unique and were not readily comparable with those of other Council committees. Members also noted that in Council committees, a special responsibility allowance was paid only to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

3.3 In considering the role that the Advisory Board would undertake, the Panel felt that the only comparator, in terms of recognition of the role and time commitment of members, was those of non-executive directors of Council owned companies, in that Advisory Board members would act 'over and above' duties as Council members on other committees. The Panel noted that the level of allowance for the Chairman of a company was £3,500 and other non-executive directors were £1,750 and considered that this would initially provide an appropriate baseline for any proposed allowance.

### **4.0 Treatment of allowances**

4.1 As a formal committee of the Council, any allowances for the Advisory Board would be included in the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme. Panel members were

aware the current Scheme only permitted one special responsibility allowance to be paid. The Panel considered that an exception ought to be made to the current Members Allowance scheme, so that members of the Shareholder Advisory Board could receive an allowance in addition to one other special responsibility allowance in recognition of the role, over and above current committee arrangements.

- 4.2 However, given that the role was new and relatively unique, the Panel did not consider it appropriate for any allowance to be uprated each year, unlike other special responsibility allowances. Instead, members felt it appropriate for the allowance to be reviewed in approximately twelve months' time and at the same as those for non-executive directors of Council-owned companies.

## **5.0 Recommendations to Blackpool Council**

- 5.1 That should the Council approve the proposals for the establishment of the Shareholder Advisory Board, the special responsibility allowance for the Chairman should be set at £3,500 per annum and £1,750 for other members.
- 5.2 That the Members Allowances Scheme should be amended in order to allow members of the Shareholder Advisory Panel to receive the allowance referred to 5.1 above, in addition to one other special responsibility allowance.
- 5.3 That the payments be reviewed in line with those for non-executive directors of the Council's wholly owned companies and therefore the annual uprate (the National Joint Council for Local Government Pay award) would not apply. (This review to take place in the autumn of 2018).

Mr Peter Whitehead (Chairman of the Panel)  
Mrs Helen Hockenhull  
Mr Greg Molyneux  
Mr Tony Mozley

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## Item 8 - Notices of Motion

To consider the following motions, which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1:

a) **Independent Regulatory Body for Football.** Councillor T Williams to propose.

English football, particularly at the highest level, enjoys unparalleled popularity with record attendances creating economic stability to both the club being supported and the local businesses and general community.

Clubs such as Leyton Orient, Leeds and the town's own club at Blackpool have received high levels of media publicity for the wrong reasons. Disputes between fans and owners, for whatever causes, fail to be rectified or addressed by the Football Association who have delegated too much of its powers and can no longer perform a proper governing role. Ill-discipline on the pitch is stringently marshalled by the FA, yet bad governance off it has been delegated to the clubs themselves to referee.

Under the banner 'Fans Not Numbers' business entrepreneur Jamie Fuller the chairman of sports clothing manufacturer 'Skins' together with 'Supporters Direct' the national supporters association with over 400,000 members, are currently lobbying local politicians and national government to set up a multi-party supported Government appointed Independent Regulatory Body. A body that can not only set, but crucially, can enforce off-pitch regulations that include the powers to sanction clubs who are non-compliant. An Independent Regulatory Body could ensure that no clubs are promoted despite breaching rules, reliant on funding from unnamed entities or rendered homeless.

The funding for the Independent Body could be met with a small percentage levy on commercial rights income generated by the leagues.

As Blackpool has obvious and evident issues between its football club and a huge majority of local and out of town fans. This Council has a duty and an economical interest to promote change to the regulatory system to ensure that energy is spent on building not destroying supporter and community relations.

The United Kingdom is only one of five countries in the world that do not have an Independent Regulatory Body.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister Mrs. Theresa May and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley MP confirming the Council's support of the concept to appoint a Government Independent Regulatory Body for football in the UK.

That the formation of the body should be supported by all political parties to address conflicts between owners and fans and to formulate a blueprint for how football governance should work and the changes to bring it about to prevent future conflicts that

result in negative community and damaging economic downturn to the towns and cities affected.

b) **NJC Pay Claim 2018.** Councillor Campbell to propose.

Blackpool Council notes that:

- NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010/ 2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
- Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage
- There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation

Blackpool Council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of Council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. Blackpool Council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This Council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to Local Government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Call immediately on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard
- Requests the Chief Executive, to write on behalf of the Council to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking additional funding to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review
- Requests the Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.

c) **Minister for Older People.** Councillor Mrs Wright to propose.

The Council calls upon the Prime Minister to consider the need for a role of 'Minister for Older People' in Government. There is currently a Minister for Disabled People who works successfully across Government to ensure disabled people are not disadvantaged in a way and is a model that could be replicated to ensure that older people are treated similarly and

fairly, including those in the Blackpool area. The Equalities Minister also has cross-government responsibilities for strategy and legislation.

The gap between the remit of the Health and Pensions Ministers needs to be addressed to deal with the unprecedented demographic change that underpins the transformation of the economy, training, work and social care.

The Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, outlining the Council's view that such a role is required.

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