

# Blackpool Council

9 February 2018

To: Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Cain, Campbell, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

The above members are requested to attend the:

## EXECUTIVE

Monday, 19 February 2018 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

## A G E N D A

### ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Head of Democratic Governance has marked with an asterisk (\*) those items where the Committee may need to consider whether the public should be excluded from the meeting as the items are likely to disclose exempt information.

The nature of the exempt information is shown in brackets after the item.

### 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 either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

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 COUNCIL TAX 2018/2019

(Pages 1 - 8)

**3 MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING APPROACH - THE WAY FORWARD**

(Pages 9 - 40)

\* **4 INVESTMENT IN FYLDE COAST ECONOMY**

(Pages 41 - 82)

(This item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because this may restrict the authority's ability to obtain value for money when negotiating the purchase of property.

Notification has been given on the 15 December 2017 that this item was to be considered in private and no representations have been received in response to this notification.

**Venue information:**

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

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager, Tel: (01253) 477157, e-mail [lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lennox.beattie@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).

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 February 2018

## COUNCIL TAX 2018/19

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Proposals for Blackpool Council's level of Council Tax for 2018/19 and the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 5 February 2018 including the Final Settlement Funding Assessment announced on 6 February and the report of the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 9 February 2018 and to determine whether or not to confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19.
- 2.2 To recommend to Council approval of a level of Blackpool Council's Council Tax for the year 2018/19 of £1,511.14 at valuation band D equivalent which includes the additional 3% Adult Social Care Precept.
- 2.3 To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 of £124,365,000.
- 2.4 To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2018/19 at valuation band D equivalent was due to be agreed on 16 February 2018 and will be reported verbally at this meeting.
- 2.5 To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will meet on the morning of 19 February 2018 to set its precept for the financial year 2018/19. This again will be reported verbally at this meeting.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Executive is required to consider the outcome of consultation meetings and surveys before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 5 February 2018.

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? Not applicable – the report once approved will become the Council’s new approved Budget

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Although one of the 8 guiding principles of the Council’s Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy 2016/17 – 2021/22 is “to keep council tax levels as low as possible”, Government funding reductions alongside increasing service demands and inflationary pressures on the Council’s Budget in 2018/19, in particular Children’s Social Care pressures and Adult Social Care pressures of 2.3 times the allowable Precept (see table below), prevent a Council Tax level any lower than the capped level being prudent or practicable.

	£000	£000
Adult Social Care – 2018/19 in-year cost pressures		
- In-house pay related	272	
- National Living Wage on External Contracts	2,295	
- Other Non-pay inflation	420	
- Demographic pressures	544	
Total		3,531
3% Adult Social Care Precept		1,549

The Council Tax level recommended balances all 8 principles against the real risk of further service cuts. Although the level of Council Tax at valuation band D that is recommended is £1,511.14, the profile of hereditaments in Blackpool with bands A and B comprising 74% of the total means that the average council tax payable per dwelling in 2018/19 is estimated at £770.

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

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 At its meeting on 5 February 2018 the Executive considered a report of the Director of Resources that recommended to Council approval of a net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget of £124,365,000 that would result in a level of Council Tax for the year 2018/19 of £1,511.14 at valuation band D equivalent. This is an increase of 5.99% and includes the additional and allowable 3% Adult Social Care Precept. This decision can be viewed via the attached link-[budget decision](#)

5.2 The Final Settlement of Blackpool Council’s 2018/19 Settlement Funding Assessment was announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 6 February 2018. The 2 changes affecting Blackpool Council were:

- additional funding through Adult Social Care Support Grant
- extra compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier

5.3 The share of the non-recurrent Adult Social Care Support Grant for Blackpool is £565,000. This will be held in contingency until its conditions for use have been clarified and a plan for its utilisation agreed. As this is a net nil budget adjustment with budgeted expenditure being met by budgeted grant income, it has no impact upon the recommended General Fund Revenue Budget Net Requirement or Council Tax level.

5.4 An extra £97,000 will be received in 2018/19 for compensation regarding the under-indexing of the business rates multiplier which will be transferred into the Earmarked Business Rates Reserve. This too will have no impact upon the recommended General Fund Revenue Budget Net Requirement or Council Tax level.

5.5 As part of the final Local Government Finance Settlement the threshold for ‘excessive’ Council Tax increases was confirmed at 3%, an increase of 3% or more requiring a local referendum to be held. This 3% threshold excludes the additional 3% allowed for the Adult Social Care Precept. The level of Council Tax recommended in this report will not invoke this requirement.

- 5.6 Besides the ongoing dialogue with the Trade Unions throughout the budget-setting process, the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 and supporting information was further considered at a meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee with Trade Union representatives and Business Ratepayers held on 9 February 2018. The views presented at this meeting will be reported to the Executive.
- 5.7 The precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority for the year 2018/19 are due to be agreed on 16 and 19 February 2018 respectively and will be reported verbally to this meeting of the Executive.
- 5.8 Is it the Corporate Delivery Unit aware of this report? Yes
- The Corporate Delivery Unit will be working with Resources to ensure any service Transformation required by budget savings are addressed in the Delivery Unit workplan.
- 5.9 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 5.10 **List of Appendices:**
- None.
- 6.0 Legal considerations:**
- 6.1 There is a duty for major precepting authorities to issue a precept for 2018/19 before 1 March 2018. For other local authorities there is a duty to set 2018/19 budgets before 11 March 2018.
- 7.0 Human Resources considerations:**
- 7.1 Human Resources considerations were outlined in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 report.
- 8.0 Equalities considerations:**
- 8.1 An Equality Analysis was produced for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 report to the Executive on 5 February 2018 - this remains applicable.
- 8.2 In making this year's Council Tax proposal particular account has been taken of the impact on vulnerable groups and people who share the protected characteristics under the Equality Act. A full Equality Analysis report into the detailed budget

proposals within the Revenue Budget has underpinned this consideration. In terms of impact proposals have been balanced that will protect core services to vulnerable people and communities, together with the need to balance the budget and move to a greater self-sufficiency with regard to income and tax-raising given the future reductions in central government grant support outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy 2016/17 – 2021/22.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 As outlined in this report.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 A Risk Analysis was produced for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 report to the Executive on 5 February 2018 - this remains applicable.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 In the context of a budget savings requirement of £5.5m in 2018/19 with inevitable cuts to some services, a Council Tax increase of 5.99% which will yield £3.1m is a necessary contribution to ensure that key Council services are maintained.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation meetings on the broad budget position facing the Council have always been undertaken with the community equality groups. The Council's Director of Resources or his representative has often personally attended and briefed a number of these groups over this period.

12.2 Wider communication has also taken place via the Council's extensive corporate communication methods, which include website, social media, media briefings & press statements and interviews.

12.3 In addition to the above, this year the Council has also undertaken a public outreach exercise with the general public during September – November 2017. These sessions were held in libraries across the town and have informed the decision-making processes.

12.4 Once specific proposals were published in December 2017, detailed consultations with all affected stakeholders - amongst them staff, service users and communities of interest / equality groups – have taken place. The outcomes of these consultations have been considered by key decision makers and accordingly have informed the final proposals contained in the budget.

12.5 Consultation with the Trades Unions with regards to staffing issues has been embedded into normal working practices and has also met all formal consultation requirements.

**13.0 Background papers**

13.1 Budget working papers and above consultation minutes and feedback.

**14.0 Key decision information:**

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 29/2017

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

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

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

Date informed: 9 February 2018 Date approved:

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

17.1

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1

**18.2 Date of Decision:**



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

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

**20.0 Executive Members present:**

20.1

**21.0 Call-in:**

21.1

**22.0 Notes:**

22.1

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Jane Saleh, Head of Planning Strategy
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Economic Development
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	19 February 2018

## **MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING APPROACH – THE WAY FORWARD**

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

- 1.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2016) identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and highly valued by the local community. Policy CS26 adopts a neighbourhood planning approach for Marton Moss to enable the local community to develop a shared vision and to shape and direct development which recognises and appropriately responds to this distinctive character.

The Planning Strategy Team carried out recent consultation with local residents and businesses within the Marton Moss area on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area.

The purpose of this report is to:

- i) Present to members the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement which provides the detail of the recent consultation that has been undertaken and presents the outcomes and next steps.
- ii) To seek endorsement of the proposed way forward in respect of giving the community the maximum opportunity to commence a Neighbourhood Plan for Marton Moss.

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

- 2.1 To agree publication of the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement on the Council's website (refer Appendix 3b).

2.2 To seek endorsement of the proposed way forward in respect of giving the community the maximum opportunity to commence a Neighbourhood Plan including the distribution of a letter to local residents.

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

3.1 To provide further detailed policy to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy in order to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

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:

As part of Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach consultation two options were put forward for the community to consider.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

"The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

**5.0 Background**

5.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2016) identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and is highly valued by the local community.

5.2 Policy CS26 of the Core Strategy adopts a neighbourhood planning approach for this area (refer to Appendix 3a) to enable the local community to develop a shared vision and to shape and direct development which recognises and appropriately responds to this distinctive character.

5.3 The Council is now preparing Part 2 of the Local Plan which will set out detailed development management policies and allocate sites for development/protection. In accordance with Policy C26 the Council needs to understand which neighbourhood planning approach should be pursued for Marton Moss.

5.4 In order to inform the Council's decision on how to undertake a neighbourhood planning approach, the Planning Strategy Team commissioned Envision Consultants to carry out an independent consultation with local residents and businesses within

the Marton Moss area on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area:

**Option A:** For the local community to produce a separate Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with paragraphs 183-185 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

In order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, a Neighbourhood Forum must be set up. The Forum would oversee the whole process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan with working groups set up for specific tasks.

As a minimum, the Forum must:

- be open to all those living or working in the Neighbourhood Area,
- have at least 21 members and
- have a written constitution

The local authority has to agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Forum.

**Option B:** For Blackpool Council to take the lead and closely involve local people along with community based groups and other organisations to produce neighbourhood planning style development proposals and policies specific to Marton Moss.

In order to ensure that all residents and businesses in the area were consulted and had the opportunity to find out more information, the following comprehensive consultation approach was undertaken:

- 589 letters and information leaflets were sent to all addresses in the Marton Moss area
- Two drop-in events were held at St Nicholas C of E Primary School Hall, School Road on Saturday 18th November 2017, 10am-1pm, and Monday 20th November 2017, 5pm-8pm.

The letter and leaflet encouraged people to complete a simple online survey (hard copies of the survey were also available at the events).

## 5.5 Consultation Outcome

The results of the consultation are set out in the Marton Moss Neighborhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement (refer Appendix 4b).

In summary:

There were 83 responses at 70 addresses.

55% of respondents (44 people) stated the community should prepare their own neighbourhood plan, with 29 people willing to contribute time in the establishment of a forum. 34 people stated they would like to be considered for membership of the forum.

45% of respondents (37 people) believe that the Council should set out detailed plans for Marton Moss as part of the Council's Local Plan involving specific consultation with the local community, with 39% of these respondents interested in being involved in a formal local group which the Council may establish to develop planning proposals for the Marton Moss neighbourhood.

Although the overall level of response to the survey was limited (12%), the key result of the consultation was that a small majority of respondents favoured a Neighbourhood Plan.

Therefore, the Planning Strategy Team wishes to give the community maximum opportunity to pursue Option A: to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

## 5.6 Next Steps

It is proposed to notify all Marton Moss residents and businesses of the results of the consultation.

To help enable designation of the Neighbourhood Forum, the Council would notify separately all those people who expressed an interest in establishing a Forum and invite them to an information workshop. It is hoped this workshop will bring together all those that are keen to be involved in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and provide the catalyst for the setting up of a Neighbourhood Forum. As the community has voted to prepare its own Neighbourhood Plan, the responsibility for preparing the plan now lies with the Neighbourhood Forum. The proposed workshop will need to clearly inform the Forum of their role and that they will need to appoint a Chair and establish specific roles to drive the process forward.

The Council's role would only be to provide assistance such as sharing evidence and advice on planning issues and policies, helping with consultation events and communication with external partners. The Forum will need to identify potential

sources of funding including applying for available Government grants. The Forum can use this money to employ a consultant with Neighbourhood Planning experience to assist in developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.7 Is the Corporate Delivery Unit aware of this report? Yes

The Corporate Delivery Unit has been consulted and has no issues to be raise.

5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3a - Marton Moss Policy Map

Appendix 3b - Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement (Jan 2018)

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach enables the implementation of Policy CS26 'Marton Moss' of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy which forms part of the Council's statutory Development Plan.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 The changes to planning approach would be resourced by existing staff within the Planning Strategy Team.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 There are no adverse equalities considerations. The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach will contribute to the Council priorities set out in the Council Plan.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The work is being undertaken within existing budgetary provisions.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Marton Moss neighbourhood planning policy will provide further detail to the Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016) which provide the statutory planning framework to enable and assist the delivery of Blackpool's future

development requirements. The Council needs to ensure that it has a planning framework that reflects the community and elected members priorities and needs.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 There are no adverse ethical considerations. The Marton Moss neighbourhood planning approach will contribute to the Council priorities set out in the Council Plan.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016)

Neighbourhood Planning information: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/neighbourhood-planning/>

**14.0 Key decision information:**

14.1 Is this a key decision? No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:



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

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

Date informed:

Date approved:

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

17.1

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1

**18.2 Date of Decision:**

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

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

**20.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

20.1

**21.0 Call-in:**

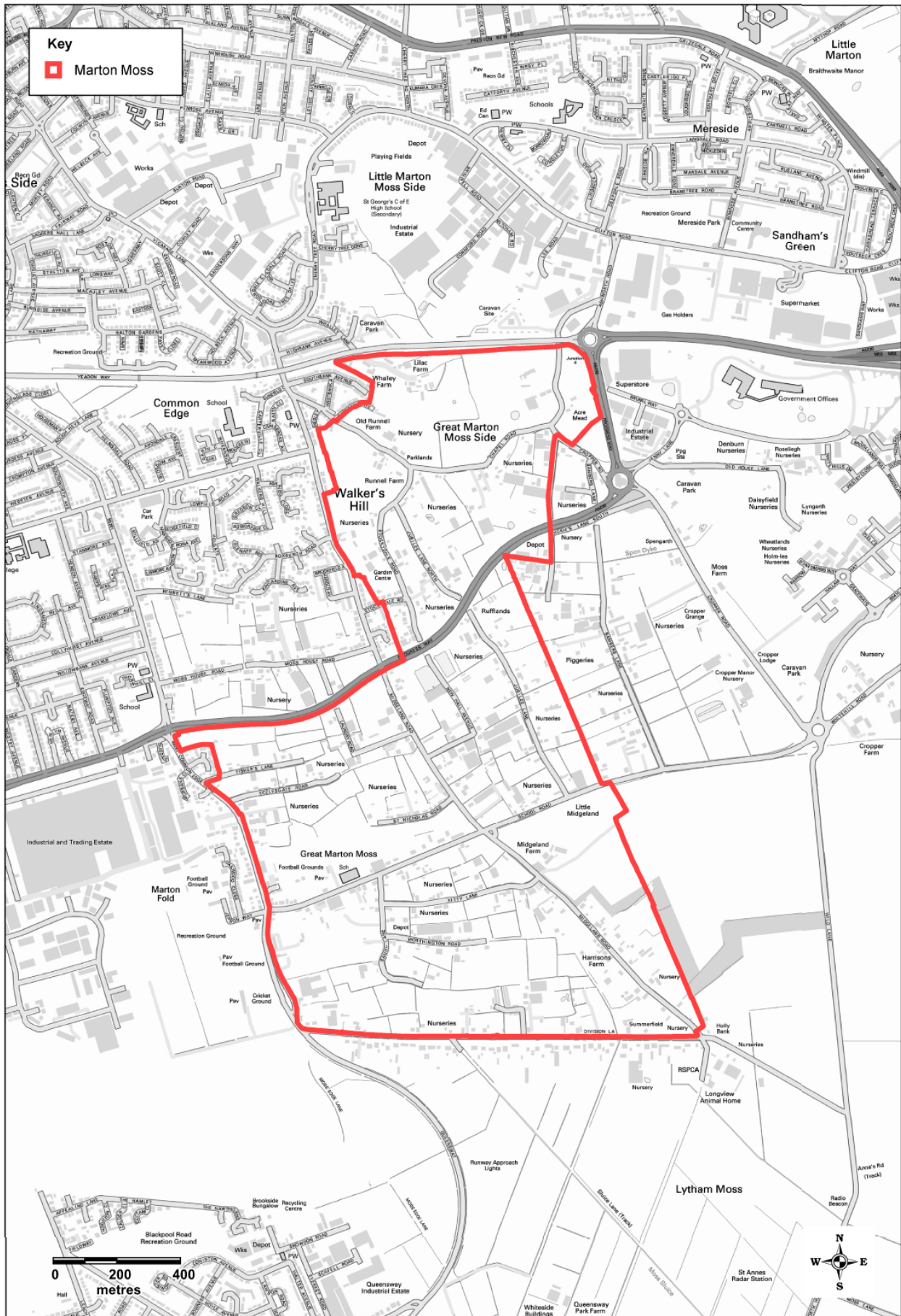
21.1

**22.0 Notes:**

22.1

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Map 04: Policy CS26 - Marton Moss Strategic Site



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.

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**Marlon Moss**

**Neighbourhood Planning Approach**

**Consultation Statement**

**January 2018**

**Blackpool Council**

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Appendix A: Consultation media

Appendix B: Online questionnaire findings

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## 1. Introduction

This document sets out the findings of a consultation exercise held by Blackpool Council between 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 with residents and business owners of Marton Moss in order to canvass their views on two options for carrying out a neighbourhood planning approach for their area.

## 2. Why did we consult?

The Blackpool Core Strategy (Part 1 of the Local Plan) which was adopted in January 2016 identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being **integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and is highly valued by the local community.**

The Council committed in Policy CS26 of this document to identify detailed policies and land allocations for Marton Moss through a neighbourhood planning approach. This means getting the community more involved in deciding what they want for their area.

The Council is now preparing Part 2 of the Local Plan which will set out detailed development management policies and identify land allocations for the Town. In accordance with Policy C26 the Council needs to know what kind of neighbourhood planning approach should be followed for Marton Moss so that it can complete Part 2 of the Local Plan.

In order to inform the Council's decision on how to undertake a neighbourhood planning approach it consulted local residents and businesses within the Marton Moss area (plus other people who previously commented on this aspect of the Core Strategy) on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area.

The options consulted on were:

- A. For the local community to produce a separate Neighbourhood Plan
- B. For Blackpool Council to take the lead and closely involve local people along with community based groups and other organisations to produce neighbourhood planning style development proposals and policies specific to Marton Moss.

### 3. How did we Consult?

In order to ensure that all residents and businesses were consulted and had the opportunity to find out more information, the following comprehensive consultation approach was taken:

- Letters and leaflets were sent to all addresses in the area (See Appendix A).
- Two walk-in events were held at St Nicholas C of E Primary School Hall, School Road FY4 5DS on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 10am-1pm, and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 5pm-8pm. People attending the events were able to view further displayed information (see appendix A) and ask questions of consultants working on behalf of the Council;
- The letter and leaflet asked people to complete a simple online questionnaire (see Appendix B) (hard copies of the questionnaire were also available at the events or could be requested).
- Letters and leaflets were also sent to all consultees on the Council's Local Plan database that had responded to previous Core Strategy consultations regarding Marton Moss
- Information about the consultation was also placed on the Council's planning web page [www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss)

The Consultation period was between 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

#### **Key consultation facts:**

- In total, 589 letters were sent out
- The consultation event on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> November was attended by 63 people
- The consultation event on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> November was attended by 59 people

Three people attended both events



Fig 1: Consultation walk in event held at St Nicholas C of E Primary School Hall

## 4. Consultation Outcome

There were 83 responses to the questionnaire from 82 people at 70 addresses. As of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the webpage has been viewed 791 times.

The detailed findings of the online questionnaire are set out in Appendix B and summarised below:

- 74% of respondents live on the Moss and 63% own land on the Moss
- 55% of respondents (44 people) think the community should prepare their own neighbourhood plan, with 29 people willing to contribute time in the establishment of a forum. 34 people stated they would like to be considered for membership of the forum<sup>1</sup>.
- 45% of respondents (37 people) believe that the Council should set out detailed plans for Marton Moss as part of the Council's Local Plan Part 2 involving specific consultation with the local community, with 39% of these respondents interested in being involved in a formal local group which the Council may establish to develop planning proposals for the Marton Moss neighbourhood.
- The vast majority of respondents (69%) are over 55

## 5. Council response to the Consultation

The level of response to the questionnaire survey has been limited (21%) despite the efforts made to directly contact all members of the local community and provide information on the topic being consulted on. Therefore, the key result of the consultation, a small majority of respondents in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan approach, needs to be treated with some caution.

Nevertheless, on the basis of the limited weight of the consultation findings the Council wishes to give the maximum opportunity for the local community to pursue Option A: to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> It is worth noting that most of the respondents who selected to establish the forum also wished to be considered for membership of the forum. Only 5 respondents would only like to be considered for membership of the forum.

## 6. Conclusion and Next Steps

The Council acknowledges the majority support for a Neighbourhood Plan being produced. To aid the initial establishment of the forum, the Council will contact all those persons (that live and/or work in Marton Moss<sup>2</sup>) who expressed an interest in establishing a Forum and invite them to an information event.

### Key actions now required by the local community

#### **Step 1: Establishing a provisional Forum**

The local community must notify the Council that it has formed a Neighbourhood Forum. This would mean that at least 21 people living and/or working in the Marton Moss area (within the boundary set out in the Core Strategy) have formally volunteered to become Neighbourhood Forum members.

*If no such notification is received then the Council will adopt Option B whereby it takes the lead in a neighbourhood approach to developing planning policies for Marton Moss in a separate Development Plan Document.*

#### **Step 2. Submitting application for Forum and Neighbourhood Area designation**

The provisional Forum must prepare and agree a constitution and submit applications to Blackpool Council for formal designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and the Neighbourhood Area.<sup>1</sup>

*If no such notification is received, then the Council will adopt Option B whereby it takes the lead in a neighbourhood approach to developing planning policies for Marton Moss in a separate Development Plan Document.*

#### **Step 3. Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan**

If approved by the Council, the Neighbourhood Forum prepares a Neighbourhood Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> Those persons interested in establishing and/or joining a Forum who do not live and/or work at Marton Moss will be excluded at least from this initial notification and meeting as they are not automatically eligible to become Forum members. It may be that the constitution of the Forum allows for some future role for other parties but this role will need to be limited to avoid undue outside influence. It should be remembered that Ward Councillors are also eligible to become Forum members.

Further information on preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan and potential financial support can be found at <http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/>

### **Current Grant Regime for Neighbourhood Plan Preparation**

Under the 2015-2018 support programme for providing grants to Neighbourhood Plan groups a total of £15,000 can be paid to a Neighbourhood Forum or Parish Council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. This programme comes to an end on 31 March 2018. The Government has announced that a similar level of overall funding for a further four years will be made available but no details have yet been released of how this will be broken down into individual grants.

Under the current programme two types of support (which can be added together) are available – grants of up to £9,000 and ‘technical support packages’ provided by consultants AECOM paid for with an additional grant of £6,000. To qualify for the additional grant the Plan in preparation has to be considered to be dealing with ‘complex’ issues; however Plans being prepared by Neighbourhood Forums automatically fall in to that category.

### **What will the Council do to help with achieving designation?**

To help enable designation, the Council will notify all those persons (that live and/or work in Marton Moss) who expressed an interest in establishing a Forum and invite them to an information event. It is important to note that other local people may later come forward to join the Forum. In fact such recruitment should be positively pursued, particularly targeted at a wider cross-section of local people so that the Forum can be as representative of the local community as possible.

The Council is unable to commit further financial support for the Neighbourhood Plan process and any Forum would need to identify potential sources of funding including applying for available Government grants.

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## **Appendix A:**

### **Consultation media**

The information boards used at the walk-in events can be viewed here:

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Boards.pdf>

Similar information was produced in leaflet form and sent with the consultation notification letter. The leaflet is reproduced over the next four pages.

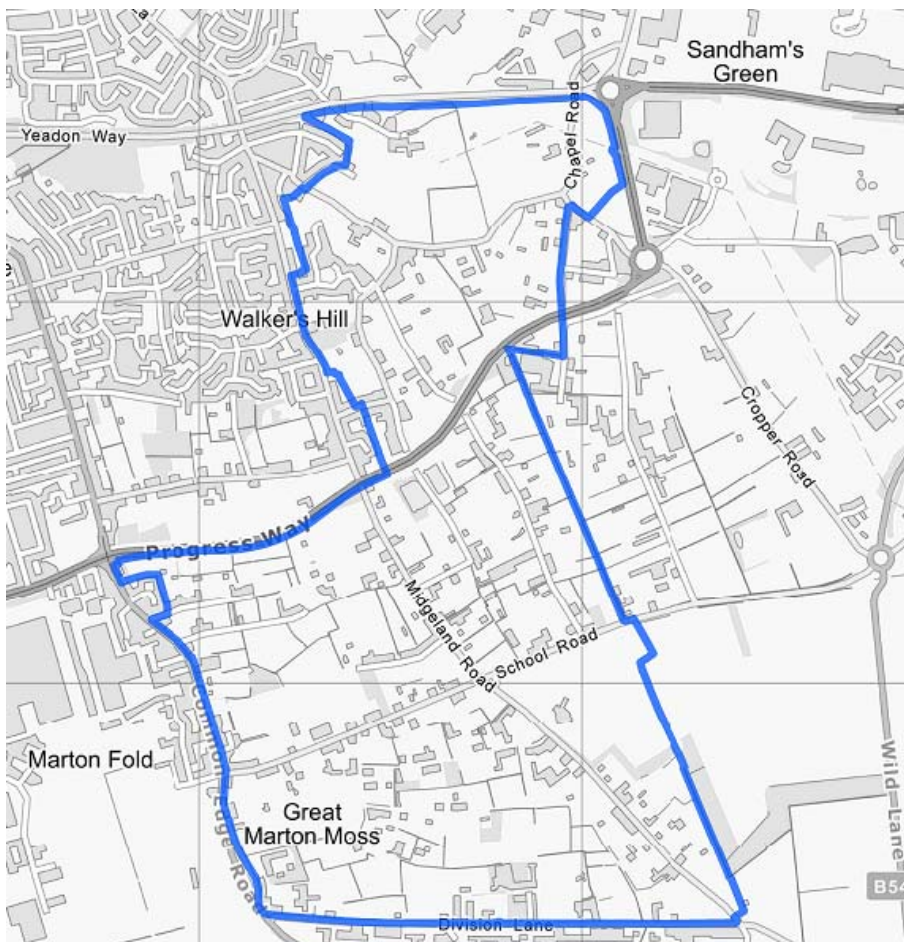
# Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach

## What does the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy say about Marton Moss?

The Core Strategy was adopted in January 2016 and identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being **integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and is highly valued by the local community.**

Policy CS26 sets out a neighbourhood planning approach. This means getting the community more involved in deciding what you want for the area, for example how to retain the distinctive character of the Moss as well as deciding where and what type of development may be acceptable.

There are **two** ways which we can go about developing this policy framework.



**A.** One way is for the local community to develop their own **Neighbourhood Plan**.

**B.** The other way is for the Council to lead on developing specific policies for Marton Moss and include them in Part 2 of the Blackpool Local Plan – the **Site Allocations and Development Management** document.

**Core Strategy Policy CS26: Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach**





## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by the community and it sets out policies for the use and development of land in a specific Neighbourhood Area.

These policies can be about the type, design, location and mix of development as well about retaining and protecting important buildings and open spaces.

The policies can be detailed or general, but they have to be in line with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy and also with government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

To produce a Neighbourhood Plan you have to set up a Neighbourhood Forum.



## What is a Neighbourhood Forum?

A Neighbourhood Forum is created by local people; ward councillors would also be involved. As a minimum, a Forum must:

- be open to all those living or working in the Neighbourhood Area,
- have at least 21 members and
- have a written constitution

The local authority has to agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Forum.

The Forum would oversee the whole process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan with working groups set up for specific tasks. A key group would be one tasked with writing the Plan itself.

The constitution would set out the powers of the Forum, membership criteria and working arrangements such as the roles of working groups.

Government funding continues to be available to help groups preparing Neighbourhood Plans and you could set up a working group to apply for grants. These could be used for various purposes such as meeting the costs of carrying out survey work and covering the expense of employing consultants to do specialist work.

A great deal of effort is involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan and even with the funding available to pay for assistance much will rely on members of the Forum devoting a lot of their own time. It can take at least 2 to 3 years to produce a Plan and may take longer. Much will depend on the on-going commitment of Forum volunteers.



## How would Blackpool Council help the community prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

If the local community wants to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Marton Moss, the plan would be **led by the community** with the Council providing assistance such as sharing evidence and advice on planning issues and policies, helping with consultation events and communication with external partners.



## What are the key stages in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan?

There are a number of key stages which the community need to do to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. These are:

**Defining the neighbourhood** – The Neighbourhood Plan Area has to be agreed by the community and local authority. The Core Strategy already suggests a boundary (see page 1) this covers all the remaining lands at Marton Moss.

**Preparing the plan** – The Neighbourhood Forum, with the involvement of the wider community, needs to decide what policies they want to include in a Neighbourhood Plan. The contents of the Plan need to be based on a thorough understanding of the planning issues of the area backed by firm evidence of what is required to address them. The policies and proposals put forward must be clear and capable of being brought into effect. Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been drafted it must be consulted on.

**Independent check** – Following the consultation the Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the local authority who then appoints an independent examiner. The Examiner makes sure the Plan is in line with national policy; the strategic policies of the Core Strategy; and with other laws and obligations. The examiner can then recommend, with or without modifications that the plan is put to a community referendum.

**Community referendum** – The local authority will organise a referendum of all residents in the area on the Neighbourhood Plan. If it is approved by a majority of those voting, the local authority will approve the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Legal status** – Once approved, the Plan will then become a part of the development plan for the area and will be used for making decisions on planning applications in the Marton Moss area.

## What happens if the community do not want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

If the community do not want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, policies for the Marton Moss area will be included in the **Blackpool**

**Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies** document. This is **produced by the local authority** and will identify sites for development, other land for safeguarding or protection and include detailed policies to help the Council decide planning applications.

Although Part 2 of the Local Plan will cover the whole of Blackpool, **a specific section in this document would be about Marton Moss with the Council working closely with the community to develop a suite of policies specific to your neighbourhood.** A Marton Moss community working group would be set up to ensure the full involvement of local residents.

The key stages in preparing the Local Plan Part 2 are set out below:

### **Stage 1 - Producing a Draft Plan -**

This stage will first involve updating the evidence base including assessing sites and their development viability. This will be followed by developing borough-wide policies and proposals as well as those specific to Marton Moss through engagement with the local community. All the draft policies will then be subject to public consultation.

**Stage 2 - Publication of Revised Plan** – The responses to the consultation at Stage 1 are considered and changes made to the Plan before it is published to allow further formal comments to be made.

**Stage 3 - Submission** - following publication, the Plan along with all the comments received is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

**Stage 4 - Examination** of the Plan by an Inspector, followed by the Inspector's Report and formal adoption by the Council. We are working towards Adoption of the Local Plan Part 2 towards the end of 2019.

### **How can I find out more information?**

You can visit our webpage:

[www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss)

If you would like any more information on neighbourhood planning please contact Keith Keeley on 07759 531132.

### **Please complete our survey!**

We would like you to complete the online survey. It's only a short survey so won't take very long:

[www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss)

**The deadline for completing the survey is 5pm Monday 11th December 2017.**

### **What happens next?**

A report on this consultation will be produced setting out the results of the survey. The Council will consider all the responses received and residents and businesses will be informed of the outcome.



Date: 03 November 2017

**Name**

**Address Line 1**

**Address Line 2**

**Address Line 3**

**Direct Line:** 01253 476009

**Email:** [planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

## CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE PLANNING OF MARTON MOSS - POSSIBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING APPROACHES

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We are undertaking a consultation on the future planning of Marton Moss and are committed to involving the local community in the future planning of the area. We are therefore consulting local residents and businesses within the Marton Moss neighbourhood on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area.

The options are:

- A. For the local community to produce a separate Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- B. For Blackpool Council to take the lead and closely involve local people along with community based groups and other organisations to produce neighbourhood planning style development proposals and policies specific to Marton Moss.

**We have enclosed a leaflet which provides you with an overview**

### How can I find out more?

We are holding two drop-in events where you can find out more about each option:

**St Nicholas C of E Primary School Hall, School Road FY4 5DS**

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 10am-1pm

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 5pm-8pm



You can also visit the web page at [www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/martonmoss)

We hope to see you at one of the events. If you need any further information please contact the Planning Strategy Team on 01253 476009.

Yours faithfully

**Ms Jane Saleh - Head of Development Plans and Projects**

**Place Directorate**  
Growing Places Division  
Planning Strategy  
PO Box 17, Corporation Street  
Blackpool FY1 1LZ







**Contact**  
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[www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk)





**Appendix B:**

**Online questionnaire findings**




6. What is your age group?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	18-24		1.20%	1
2	25-34		4.82%	4
3	35-44		7.23%	6
4	45-54		18.07%	15
5	55-64		30.12%	25
6	65+		38.55%	32

7. What is your interest in the Marton Moss area?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I live on the Moss		74.39%	61
2	I work on the Moss		3.66%	3
3	I run a business on the Moss		4.88%	4
4	I own land/property on the Moss		63.41%	52
5	Other (please specify):		6.10%	5


**8. How would you like the Marton Moss neighbourhood to be planned?  
(Please choose one option)**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Option A - The local community should prepare their own Neighbourhood Development Plan		55.00%	44
2	Option B - The Council should set out detailed plans for Marton Moss as part of the Councils Local Plan involving specific consultation with the local community.		45.00%	36




**9. If you selected Option A (Neighbourhood Plan), would you:**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Be willing to contribute your time in the establishment of a forum?		41.43%	29
2	Be interested to be considered for membership of the forum?		48.57%	34
3	Neither		5.71%	4

**9. If you selected Option A (Neighbourhood Plan), would you:**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
4	Not applicable as I selected Option B		35.71%	25

**10. If you selected Option B, would you be interested in being involved in a formal local group which the Council may establish to develop planning proposals for the Marton Moss neighbourhood?**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Yes		39.19%	29
2	No		14.86%	11
3	Not applicable as I selected Option A		45.95%	34





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