

# Public Document Pack



**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL**

Tuesday, 13 November 2018

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, 21 November 2018 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Lewis', is centered on a light grey background.

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 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 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2018** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2018 as a true and correct record.

**3 MINUTE'S SILENCE**

Councillors will be asked to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Honorary Alderman Henry Mitchell who sadly passed away on 30 October 2018 and former Borough Surveyor, Mr Jack Wilson who sadly passed away on 29 September 2018.

**4 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

**5 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - HONORARY ALDERMAN HENRY MITCHELL** (Pages 7 - 8)

Following the sad death of Honorary Alderman Henry Mitchell, Council will be asked to pass a resolution of condolence.

**6 EXECUTIVE 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).

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.

**7 BLACKPOOL YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN** (Pages 29 - 38)

To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 5 November 2018 relating to the approval Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan for 2018/ 2019.

**8 REVISED MEMBER AND OFFICER PROTOCOL AND REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC SPEAKING PROCEDURE FOR PLANNING** (Pages 39 - 52)

To consider a revised draft Member and Officer Protocol for Planning and amendments to the public speaking arrangements, following reconsideration of the item at the Planning Committee on 16 October 2018 (following the referral at the last Council meeting).

**9 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL** (Pages 53 - 56)

To consider the appointment to a vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**10 MOTION AT COUNCIL** (Pages 57 - 58)

To consider a notice of motion which has 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 G Coleman (in the Chair)

### Councillors

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

### In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at this point in the meeting.

### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2018

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 September 2018, be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Blackburn referred to his comment made at the previous Council meeting in relation to the name of the Independent Blackpool Residents Group and offered his apologies for any offence caused.

#### **4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

Mr Stuart Clayton, representing Fylde Family Support Group, addressed the Council on the subject of raising the profile of the positive mental health experience and the work undertaken by local groups, including those that belonged to a new Mental Health Community Forum, in supporting Blackpool residents. Councillor Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities) responded to Mr Clayton.

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

The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Secretary presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in their own portfolio area and those portfolios under their responsibility. The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners. Members also received a report from representatives of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority in relation to the work being undertaken by the authority as reported to the meetings of 23 April 2018 and 18 June 2018.

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

Notes:

- (1) Councillor Campbell agreed to provide written responses to:
  - Councillor T Williams on the number of car parking spaces that would be provided as part of the Premier Inn hotel development on the former Yates' site on Talbot Square and alternative parking arrangements
  - Councillor Mrs Callow on how often West Street car park was cleaned
  - Councillor Galley on the number of Fixed Penalty Notices that had been issued for littering since the use of 3GS Environment Enforcement had ceased and the amount of money generated.
  
- (2) During discussion on the report from the Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities) in relation to the reference to Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Councillors Ryan, Mitchell, Cox and Benson declared personal interests due to their employment. Councillor Clapham also declared an interest in the report in relation to the paragraph on Educational Attainment as a director of Blackpool Sixth Form College.

#### **6 REVISED MEMBER AND OFFICER PROTOCOL AND REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC SPEAKING PROCEDURE FOR PLANNING**

Members considered the recommendation from the Planning Committee at its meeting on 14 August 2018 in relation to proposed changes to the Member and Officer Protocol for Planning and public speaking arrangements, following a workshop with Planning Committee members and officers.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

1. To approve as part of the Council's constitution the revised Member and Officer Protocol for Planning as attached in the appendix to the report.
2. To adopt the revised public speaking arrangements outlined in the report namely that the period for objectors and applicants be increased to seven minutes and the period for ward councillors be similarly limited to seven minutes.'

Debate then took place on the proposed changes to the length of speeches for ward councillors and it was proposed that the item should be deferred for further consideration.

**Members agreed:** The item should be deferred and referred back to the Planning Committee for consideration.

### 7 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council considered the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel, following the recommendation from the last Council meeting that the Panel should be asked to consider whether a special responsibility allowance should be paid to the second Opposition Group Leader.

The Panel had met on 5 September 2018 and had taken into account a number of factors including the formulae and criteria that had been applied at the last full review of the Members Allowances Scheme along with comparative information from a range of authorities on remuneration for second opposition group leaders.

The Council also noted that Mr Peter Whitehead, former member and chair of the Panel, had recently submitted his resignation resulting in a vacancy on the Panel.

**Motion:** Councillor Humphreys proposed (and Councillor Mrs Wright seconded):

1. That the recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel be agreed: namely that a minimum group size of 10% of the overall number of members of the Council be agreed as criteria for a Special Responsibility allowance for a Second Opposition Group Leader and that an allowance of £6,197 (the same as the Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition Group) is recommended for the Leader of that Group, should that criteria be met.
2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly.
3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise for an additional member of the Independent Remuneration Panel and to liaise with the three Group Leaders after undertaking this recruitment and then to make a recommendation to Council (the criteria for appointment being the same as previously applied).

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

4. That the Leader, on behalf of the Council, writes to Mr Whitehead to thank him for his dedicated years' of service and leadership as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.'

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

### 8 LAND AT WARREN DRIVE

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor Mrs Callow proposed (and Councillor Callow seconded):

'Due to continuous flooding in the Warren Drive area and the fact that Blackpool Council is more than fulfilling the Government's requirement to build houses in Blackpool, the Council requests the Executive to support the residents' wish to leave this land as public open space, by looking at the possibility of either purchasing or leasing the land from the owners, Asda.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

### 9 815 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON AFFILIATION

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor Ryan proposed (and Councillor Callow seconded):

'In June this year, the Mayor received a letter from the Royal Navy seeking the formal civic affiliation of the 815 Naval Air Squadron Maritime Strike Force, once HMS TRIUMPH is decommissioned, to continue the strong connection between Blackpool and the Royal Navy. The affiliation would maintain existing local links and offer the opportunity to maintain the community ties, which have been well developed through the town's relationship with HMS TRIUMPH.

815 Naval Air Squadron is based in Somerset and is tasked with providing a versatile and adaptable Wildcat Squadron that can operate anywhere in the world and frequently embark on Royal Navy ships supporting operations both home and abroad. The squadron operates the new Wildcat helicopter, which has been in service with the Royal Navy since 2015 and is the latest generation of multi-role helicopter for the maritime environment.

For a number of years, there has been a strong and enduring link between Blackpool and the Nation's Maritime heritage, including close associations with the Royal Navy and the Submarine Service in particular. The Council is therefore requested to agree to a formal civic affiliation with 815 Naval Air Squadron.'

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

Note: Councillor Cox left the meeting following discussion of the item.

## 10 FRACKING

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

### **'Blackpool Council notes:**

- That in May 2018 Ministers outlined a proposal in a Written Ministerial Statement to redefine non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration applications as permitted development, and to redefine large-scale shale gas production sites as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, thus removing any local authority control and community involvement in decision-making.
- That the Government consultation on these proposals began in July 2018 and ends on 25 October 2018.
- That on 5 July 2018, a report by the cross-party Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee warned the Government against its proposal to bring fracking applications under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime, concluding that Mineral Planning Authorities, were best placed to understand the local area and how fracking could best take place.
- That the above report said the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime was unlikely to speed up the application process for fracking.

Blackpool Council is committed to the principles of localism and the involvement of local communities in decisions that affect their environment, their health and safety and their well-being.

### **Blackpool Council believes:**

- That moving decisions about fracking, which have huge implications for local communities, to a national level would contradict the principles of localism.
- That 'Permitted Development' – the category of planning that the government wants to move shale gas exploration drilling into – which was designed for developments with low environmental impacts, is an inappropriate category for drilling with such wide-reaching implications for local communities and climate change.
- That bringing fracking applications under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime will be harmful to local communities.
- That local authorities are best placed to continue to make decisions throughout the planning process for shale gas exploration drilling, appraisal and production.

### **Blackpool Council resolves:**

- To respond to the forthcoming government consultation with the above views.
- To share this response with local MPs and relevant government ministers'

Prior to voting, five members of the Council requested that the vote on the motion should be recorded. The voting was as follows:

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

**For the motion:** Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Cain, Mrs Callow, Callow, Campbell, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, I Coleman, Collett, Critchley, Elmes, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Hobson, Humphreys, Hunter, Hutton, Kirkland, Matthews, Maycock, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Robertson, Ryan, Scott, Mrs Scott, Singleton, Smith, Stansfield, L Taylor, L Williams, T Williams, Mrs Wright - **total 36.**

**Against the motion:** None

**Abstentions:** None

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

### Mayor

(The meeting ended at 8.16 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance  
Tel: (01253) 477034  
E-mail: [yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk)

## **RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR HONONARY ALDERMAN HENRY MITCHELL**

This Council and the Townspeople of Blackpool were deeply saddened to learn of the death on 30 October 2018 of Honorary Alderman Henry Mitchell, former Mayor of the Borough in 1998-1999 and formerly councillor for Anchorsholme and Bispham Wards.

Henry was born in Manchester in 1931 and moved to Blackpool at the age of seven. He was educated at the former Tyldesley School and went onto serve his National Service with the Army in the Armoured Corps.

On completion of his National Service, Henry went into the retail business and, as well having his own retail business in Blackpool, he also became President of the Northern Branch of the Institute of Marketing. He was also appointed Chairman and later President of the Blackpool Branch of Commercial Travellers.

Henry was first elected to Blackpool Borough Council in 1979. During his time at the Council Henry served on many committees and had held the positions of Chairman of the Environmental Health and Public Protection Committee and the Licensing Committee.

As Mayor of Blackpool, Henry attended many events throughout a busy mayoral year, accompanied by his Mayoress, Jill. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Andy and Jill in their great loss.

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Executive Member Report to the Council  
21 November 2018

AGENDA ITEM 6(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

#### Financial Outlook for 2019/ 2020 and Beyond

Members may recall that our Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy, 2016/ 2017-2021/ 2022, detailed 2019/ 2020 as the final year of Government’s four-year settlement offer. The most significant factors in terms of the Council’s budgetary resources are the amounts, which will be received by way of localised business rates collection, Council Tax and residual Revenue Support Grant (RSG). Indicative forecasts of these for 2019/ 2020, plus a best estimate of service pressures, suggest a budget gap of £9m for 2019/ 2020. As Members are well aware, we have a legal duty to set a balanced budget. Therefore, yet again, owing to the Government’s continued attack on local services, Blackpool Council will be forced to make the painful choices, savings and cuts needed to deliver £9m of cost reductions in the year ahead.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor are gleefully telling us that austerity is over. It most definitely is not for the people of Blackpool.

I wish to remind Members of the extraordinary impact of austerity on Blackpool Council, our town and residents. Over the period 2011/ 2012 – 2019/ 2020, the cumulative budget reductions amount to £152m, which is now significantly greater than the Council’s annual Net Requirement Budget – an extraordinary statistic. Even more starkly, the compound effect over the nine-year period is £830m of resource that has been removed from the Blackpool economy. Since 2011, staffing numbers have fallen from 3,050 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) to 2,150 FTEs. That means there are nearly 1,000 fewer people employed in Blackpool to deliver badly needed services to our residents.

My administration has succeeded in maintaining key services and the viability of the Council despite this appalling financial context. Throughout this period, working balances have remained at £6m at the start of every financial year. Earmarked reserves have levelled out at

around £30m and Blackpool is at mid-point, ranking 25 out of 55 unitary authorities, based on their earmarked revenue reserves as a percentage of net revenue expenditure.

It is extremely difficult to forecast beyond 2019/ 2020 when the current four-year settlement ends; we are in the thick of the uncertainty regarding the Fair Funding review, 75% Business Rates Retention, Spending Review 2019 and Brexit. The autumn 2018 budget did not provide any further clarification regarding these areas, but it did make reference that the final figures for Spending Review 2019 would be set in due course, which may mean at the Spring Statement in 2019.

Work on the Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2019/ 2020 is well underway and will be informed further by the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, which the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government is aiming to publish on Thursday 6 December 2018.

I am in a position to report at least some positive news on future financing to Members. On the 25 September 2018, Blackpool joined a Lancashire wide bid to pilot 75% Business Rates Retention in 2019/ 2020. Early modelling shows that there is potentially additional extra growth to be retained under the pilot pool that is in the region of £10m across Lancashire. Should our bid succeed the modest gain to Blackpool in 2019/ 2020 will of course be welcome, but it is only a fraction of the value of funding we are already set to lose.

### **In-Year Position for 2018/ 2019**

As at month five 2018/ 2019, the Council was forecasting an overspend by year-end of £4.0m with the main financial pressures presenting in Children's Social Care and Parking Services. Whilst the pressure in Children's Services remains the number one corporate concern, in the context of around £30m of Earmarked Revenue Reserves and with seven months of the financial year remaining in which to improve performance the Director of Resources remains confident that a more acceptable and manageable position will be reached by year-end.

It is quite remarkable that we are still succeeding in making improvements to the collection of Council Tax and Administration of Housing Benefit. At the end of month five, the amount collected for Council Tax (excluding Police and Fire precepts) was £23.8m and the collection rate was 43.4%. This compares to £21.7m and 42.7% at the same point in 2017/ 2018. The amount collected has actually risen by £2.1m, which is mainly due to increases in both Council Tax rate and base. Early indications show the improved collection rate has continued at month six.

In respect of Business Rates, at the end of month five, the amount collected was £20.9m and the collection rate was 41.7%. This compares to £21.4m and 41.7% at the same point in 2017/ 2018. Changes in both the Business Rates multiplier and base (due to the Revaluation in April 2017 and other movements) have made negative contributions of £0.5m, offset by a compensating increase to the Non-Domestic (NDR) Top-up amount. These changes do make year-on-year comparisons difficult. The Council's share of business yield continues at 49%.

From April 2014, Business Ratepayers have been entitled to elect to pay by 12 monthly instalments instead of over 10 months. This has allowed businesses more time to pay. However, 542 business rate summonses have been issued so far in this financial year.

In relation to performance data, the average number of days taken to process Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme new claims and changes in circumstances for September was 18 days.

We have recently undertaken a benchmarking exercise with some nearest neighbouring authorities regarding borrowing. This exercise demonstrated that Blackpool's average interest rate of 2.07% is the lowest of the 11 authorities that we have been able to benchmark with. It also demonstrated that our borrowing as a percentage of gross budget requirement was slightly below the 0.59% average.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Conference and Exhibition Centre**

I am pleased to report that we currently have some very encouraging and detailed enquiries for bookings for 2020 and beyond. Everyone can now see the building taking shape. We are now in a position to carry out 'hard hat tours' for potential customers. Some of the improvements that benefit the wider complex are already in place, including improved and modernised electrical capacity, improved heating and we will also have air conditioning for many of the original conference and exhibition spaces such as the Empress Ballroom, Arena and Spanish Hall. The work to repair the roof and ceiling in the Spanish Hall is also well under way. This will significantly enhance the usability of these facilities in advance of the new build opening.

### **Blackpool Museum Project**

Significant progress has now been made on the design of the exhibition within the proposed Museum. A mix of the best of museums and visitor attractions, it will be immersive, participatory and inclusive, featuring 1,250 sqm of themed displays, a 150sqm temporary exhibition gallery, along with learning and events spaces. It will feature the first permanent displays in a UK public museum on circus, magic, variety and ballroom dance with 800+ objects from Blackpool's internationally significant collections and loans from national partners, including the Victoria and Albert Museum. Importantly, it will tell the stories through the voices of the people who made it happen: performers, producers, visitors and residents. In an innovative move, we are working with comedy scriptwriters to ensure a fresh approach that reflects the spirit of the Museum and Blackpool itself.

The Museum is a key part of our vision for the future of Blackpool town centre. It will serve as a great compliment to all of the other projects currently in delivery. The Museum will enable culture-led economic growth by providing a memorable, quality and educational destination venue for visitors, creating new jobs and skills and by bringing local people together to proudly celebrate the Blackpool story. As Members are aware, we have already been awarded £4million from the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund toward the Museum and have

received £400,000 development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Our HLF Round Two application will be submitted in December 2018 for a further £4million, with a decision in March 2019. We have also been successful in our Stage 1 bid to the Coastal Communities Fund for £1.75million, we must submit our Stage 2 bid in January, with notification of the funding likely to be in April 2019. £1.5million has been earmarked from the Lancashire Economic Partnership Growth Deal. We also have a fundraising target of £675,500 and we are working with our fundraising charity, the Blackpool Museum Trust, to achieve this.

### **Blackpool Business Loans Fund**

In February 2017, Council approved a significant extension of a former £10m loans fund to £100m to create a new Blackpool Business Loans Fund. The primary purpose of the fund is to promote economic development in Blackpool whilst ensuring that any such investment delivers a secure financial return for the Council. The Council has subsequently approved several strategic investments in health, transport, accommodation and manufacturing sectors, as well as smaller loans to facilitate new hospitality-related businesses. Since 2017, a further £74m has been approved.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Blackpool Residents' Survey 2018**

I am pleased that the Council committed to undertake a residents' survey earlier this year, with the previous survey conducted in 2014. Like any responsive Council, we want to know what our residents think and a residents' survey is one of many ways we seek to do this.

Over 750 residents completed the survey, online and over the telephone. Overall, the results of the survey are very encouraging. I am absolutely delighted to report to Members that despite huge reductions in our resources, resident satisfaction with services delivered by Council teams has increased across the board, with increases in satisfaction of between three and an impressive 23 percent. Only one area saw a slight reduction in satisfaction, domestic waste collections and this is a service, which we are pleased to be bringing back under Council control in mid-2019. Particularly notable are the satisfaction scores for Libraries at 92%, Leisure Services at 92%, Parks at 91%, Theatres at 87%, Transport at 83%, Art/ Culture at 83%, Older People Services at 83% and Young People Services at 80%. A big thank you must go to all our staff, partners and volunteers who help deliver these services.

I am also extremely encouraged that residents report that overall they are happier with Blackpool as a place to live and feel more connected to their community, than they were in 2014. The survey was delivered with really strong safeguards in place and despite understandable concerns beforehand, we received no complaints from anyone who was contacted by telephone to complete the survey.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Blackpool Town Prospectus**

I have previously reported to Members on work Business in the Community are carrying out as part of the Blackpool Pride of Place Partnership. A key aim of the partnership is to raise Blackpool's regeneration profile, with our business community and national government in particular. Indeed, the partnership Board is majority private sector, containing key actors who employ thousands of people in our area.

In October the partnership launched the 'Blackpool Town Prospectus', backed by the Council, Local Enterprise Partnership and our wider business community. The prospectus can be viewed at [https://www.bitc.org.uk/sites/default/files/blackpool\\_town\\_prospectus\\_online-compressed.pdf](https://www.bitc.org.uk/sites/default/files/blackpool_town_prospectus_online-compressed.pdf)

This prospectus was the result of over 12 months of consultation, seminars and workshops bringing together the views of major local businesses and national players including the Chairman of Virgin Holdings, Chairman of Barclays Bank, the founder of Mumsnet, Price Waterhouse Cooper and Visit Britain alongside over 100 local businesses.

The prospectus summarises the opportunities and challenges facing Blackpool, what we are doing to address them and what we want from national government in particular, to take things further in the years ahead. It is the plan to create thousands of new jobs and thousands of quality, affordable new homes.

This private sector led initiative is already receiving significant interest in Government and from many national agencies.

I am delighted that the Blackpool Town Prospectus has received a very positive welcome by local and regional media and it now making its way in and around Whitehall. Crucially, the prospectus makes it very clear what Blackpool needs to continue our regeneration journey by way of policy changes, new powers and resources. I look forward to working with the partnership and all its supporters to make the case for delivery of these things in the months and years ahead.

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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**

### **New Council Housing Development**

The country is in the grip of a housing crisis. We need millions of new, good quality affordable homes across the length and breadth of the nation. I am of course pleased that the Government, finally, has agreed to lift the caps on borrowing to allow Councils to build again. At the same time, I am pleased to inform Members that Blackpool Council already has many developments planned and underway.

Earlier this year the Council took the decision to re-develop unpopular flats and bedsits at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside. Good progress is being made to re-locate residents there and we are on track for demolition of the flats to take place in early spring 2019. An initial public consultation has taken place on plans for development of around 75 high quality new Council homes on the site, with designs due to be finalised by January to enable new construction to start next summer. The new development will provide a mix of homes including family houses, flats and level access properties and will establish an attractive gateway into the town.

At Grange Park, a master plan has been agreed to develop up to 135 new homes along with a new play area and shops. This is an exciting opportunity to build on the success of @the Grange and the community farm. The new homes on the sites of the former shops, Christ the King church and former school will be built around green space and create an attractive new heart for the estate. It is expected that work on the new homes will start later in 2019.

As a number of Members are aware, work is already underway at the site of the former Hoyle House at Argosy Avenue, Grange Park. This small development of new Council homes will provide nine houses and two bungalows, together with seven assisted living flats for people with learning disabilities, with completion in spring and summer 2019.

Lastly, I can confirm that the major new development at Queens Park will be completed by February 2019. Most of the 99 new homes in Phase 2 have already been handed over and occupied by new residents, complementing the 92 new homes completed in Phase 1 in 2015. A new play area is currently being constructed as part of the development and the new entrances, paths, planting and trees at Layton Rec will be laid out over the next few months so that it is ready to be re-opened in the spring.

I am extremely proud that Blackpool Council has been building new homes since 2010 and has a track record and capability to take full advantage of the recent Government relaxation of borrowing rules. We will now identify and take forward further opportunities and continue to provide the new high quality affordable homes that the people of this town both deserve and need.

### Treasury Management

Contracts awarded since the last meeting are as follows:

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE
Solaris Café License	Caffe C Ltd. <b>(Blackpool)</b>	5(+1+1)	Income of £120,000	4	4
SEN Transport Mini Competition for Route Schedule 2018/2019 Plus a further Mini Competition for Additional/Amen ded Route Schedules 2018/2019	Abacas Travel <b>(Poulton-le-Fylde)</b> Ace Radio Cabs Ltd <b>(Thornton Cleveleys)</b> Blacktax Radio Taxis Ltd <b>(Blackpool)</b> Red Cab Taxis Ltd T/A C Cabs <b>(Blackpool)</b> Collin's Travel <b>(Blackpool)</b> D Kirkham Taxis <b>(Blackpool)</b> Preston Bus Ltd/Hallmark Coaches <b>(West Midlands)</b> Highfield Travel <b>(Blackpool)</b> Trojan Travel (St Annes on Sea) Leisure Travel (Poulton-le-Fylde) RadioJcabs	2(+1+1)	£563,454	16	14

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE
	<b>(Blackpool)</b> <b>RedRaw Travel Ltd</b> <b>(Blackpool)</b>				
<b>Lot 1</b> – Building Condition Surveys <b>Lot 2</b> – Fire Risk Assessments	Lot 1 – Rider Levett Bucknall <b>(Birmingham)</b> Lot 2 – WYG <b>(Leeds)</b>	2(+1+1)	£40,000	13	0
Provision of Multi-Functional Devices and Print Management Solution	Konica Minolta Ltd. <b>(Essex)</b>	3(+1+1)	£1,250,000	4	0
Recycling of WEEE Waste	Recycling Lives Compliance Services Ltd <b>(Preston)</b>	1(+1)	£12,500	2	0
Planning Consultant – Blackpool Enterprise Zone	Cassidy & Ashton Group Ltd. <b>(Preston)</b>	Ad-hoc 4 months	£50,000	9	0
Business Advice and Workshops for Small Businesses – 3 Lots: <b>Lot 1</b> – Generalist business start-up and young business support and advice <b>Lot 2</b> – Online presence support and advice <b>Lot 3</b> – Financial management	Lots 1 & 3 – Social Enterprise Solutions CIC. <b>(Blackpool)</b> Lot 2 – Tick The Publicity Box CIC. <b>(Blackpool)</b>	Ad-hoc 3 months (+3 months)	£9,000	6	3

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>PROVIDER (Locations)</b>	<b>TERM (including extensions)</b>	<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>	<b>NO. OF INITIAL BIDS</b>	<b>NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE</b>
CVMU Extension / Vehicle Inspection Pit	Warden Construction <b>(Preston)</b>	Ad-hoc 4 months	£286,369	3	2
Business Travel	Click Travel (Travel Cloud) <b>(Birmingham)</b>	2(+1+1)	£600,000	Direct Award YPO Framework	Direct Award YPO Framework
Winter Gritting Salt	Compass Minerals (Europe) <b>(Cheshire)</b>	4 years	£15,000	Direct Award YPO Framework	Direct Award YPO Framework
ICT Microsoft Licenses	Insight Direct <b>(Sheffield)</b>	3 years	£1,000,000	6	0
Troutbeck Development – RIBA 1-4 Design Services	Cassidy & Ashton Group Ltd. <b>(Preston)</b>	Ad-hoc 5 months	£85,000	3	0

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Key Events Update**

The award-winning Lightpool Festival was staged in the resort over the half term with a mixture of live performance, spectacular art installations and a repeat of last year's hugely popular illuminated tram parade. The festival, which was part-funded by Arts Council England, was launched with Light Odyssey, an incredible sound and light show staged in the Empress Ballroom and featuring 90 musicians from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and 15 light animators from across the globe.

Over the following week, there were three nights of programmed entertainment starting with The Carnival of Lights parade between Central and North Piers, featuring illuminated trams and vehicles, costume characters, Lumidogs and the famous Spark! Drummers. The following night saw 1,500 people witness RUSH, an epic dance and light production staged outdoors with a 100-strong cast on New Bonny Street Car Park just off the Golden Mile. The festival finale took on St John's Square with a UK premiere of Pyronix – a spectacular Belgian pyrotechnic show combining fire, martial arts, dance and acrobatics. Throughout the three days there was an

indoor and outdoor art trail featuring contributions from the likes of Yoko Ono and Luke Jerram, whose replica moon has hung in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, attracting more than 10,000 visitors.

Nickelodeon's SLIMEFEST has once again been a sellout success. Slimefest returned to Blackpool over the October half term, with six sessions of music and mayhem at the Pleasure Beach Arena. The shows, which are produced in partnership with VisitBlackpool, featured the likes of Diversity, American You Tube phenomenon Jo Jo Siwa, Busted, HRVY, Union J, Becky Hill and Jonas Blue. All 12,000 tickets were sold out, with families travelling from all over the UK to watch the exclusive shows. An hour-long broadcast went out on the Nickelodeon TV channel on 2 November and will be repeated several times over coming weeks. As part of the collaboration with Nickelodeon, a Transformers children's attraction was located on the Comedy Carpet over the three days of the shows.

The BBC's Strictly Come Dancing is due to return to the Tower Ballroom on Saturday 17 November. As always, the publicity for the Blackpool show had begun in earnest with professional dancers and celebrity partners vying to dance on one of the world's most famous ballroom floors. The Blackpool show, which will be broadcasted over both Saturday and Sunday evening, invariably attracts one of the biggest TV audiences of the Strictly series.

A Canadian pyrotechnics team was named as Blackpool's World Fireworks Champions for the second time in four years. Firemaster Productions saw off competition from teams from France and Romania with a spectacular display synched to music over North Pier. Although one of this year's heats was postponed because of bad weather, all four firework events eventually went ahead, attracting tens of thousands of spectators to the Promenade over the four nights. This year, a fifth firework event was staged using funds contributed by Northern Rail as compensation for the ongoing rail disruption.

I am pleased to inform Members that Blackpool was chosen to take part in a special event to mark the centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November. 'Pages of the Sea' was an event commissioned by film director Danny Boyle in which the public had been invited to gather on beaches across the UK for an informal, nationwide gesture of remembrance for the men and women who left their home shores during the First World War. Each chosen destination was asked to facilitate the drawing of a large-scale portrait in the sand of a casualty from the war, which was then washed away by the tide. Poet Carol Ann Duffy was invited by Boyle to write a new poem for the occasion, which was read by individuals, families and communities who had gathered on the beaches. In Blackpool's case, the event commemorated the death of Lancastrian Lance Corporal John Edward Arkwright who lost his life in the First World War. The remembrance event in Blackpool was staged on the beach below the Cenotaph on North Promenade prior to the Remembrance Day service.

It was heart warming that thousands of people attended Blackpool's service of remembrance. Prior to the well-organised events, the weather took a turn for the better and the Mayor, guests and speakers led the town in a fitting tribute paid to all those fallen and affected by war.

### **Town Centre Developments Latest**

It is difficult to keep up with the number of projects currently in delivery in the town centre! Conference centre and museum latest is covered in the Leader's report, but there are many more exciting developments to update Members on. Firstly, a revised planning application had been submitted for minor amendments to the Tower Street development including extending the retail planning use to cover food as well as non-food (around 20% of Wilko's goods are food items). The Hounds Hill owners will then be able to tender the works to start the build as soon as possible.

The demolition of Wilko's and works to construct the underpass and Holiday Inn hotel will be tendered after Christmas and completion of the hotel in late 2021 is still on target. A slightly revised scheme has now been released for the Sands Hotel and Spa and an opening date of Christmas 2019 confirmed. I am sure Members will have noticed that work is well underway on site! All major roadworks will be completed in the town centre before the end of February, including the completion of the tramway works on the Talbot Road highway. Once Wilko's have moved to their new site, the station can be completed and the new tramway can then operate fully from spring/ summer 2020.

I am very excited to confirm that the launch of plans for the Central Station Development is now imminent. Colleagues from our Growth and Prosperity team attended the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) conference in Florida with me to finalise the arrangements for the launch. We also took the opportunity to visit key suppliers for some of the developments that are included in the proposals. I am very much looking forward to revealing these plans to you all in the next few weeks.

### **Highways and Traffic Management: Yeadon Way**

As Members will recall, Galliford Try successfully delivered Yeadon Way phase one reconstruction works back in 2015. This £3.6m funding scheme was secured through the Department for Transport's Pinch Point Strategy for the section of road between Hawes Lane Bridge and St Anne's Road Bridge, which was for a distance of approximately 750m.

As part of the Autumn Statement 2016, the Government announced the creation of the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF). NPIF is for investment in areas that are key to boosting productivity, transport, digital communications, research and development and housing. Blackpool Council was successful in securing a further £3.3m investment for Yeadon Way via a bid into NPIF to carry out further ground stabilisation works between Hawes Side Lane and Ashworth Road roundabout. In relation to this, Yeadon Way was closed to all traffic on Monday 12 November 2018 for approximately three weeks for essential site investigations works. The work would involve taking boreholes of the road's structure to determine what future works are required for the phase two construction works planned for outside the tourist season in November 2019. As part of the closure, we would take the opportunity to undertake essential maintenance works such as gully cleaning, drainage works, cutting back of overgrown vegetation, street lighting upgrades and general defect repairs.

I fully appreciate that this closure will cause inconvenience. However, it is absolutely essential that we proactively invest to maintain the essential safety and structure of Yeadon Way alongside other investments to secure the future of key arterial routes into the town.

### **Bispham Village Public Realm Investment Scheme**

As Members are aware Bispham Village Centre is an important retail and community hub and sits adjacent to Blackpool's strategic route network on the junction of the A587 and A583 corridors. The centre has received limited public realm upgrade for a number of years and its layout and materials palette is ageing and in need of change and improvement. I am pleased to confirm that a programme of works will now be carried out, for which a budget of £465,000 has been allocated from Local Transport Plan funding and includes provision for scheme design costs. The scheme will result in a significant aesthetic uplift, improved access for public transport, pedestrians, cyclists and persons with a disability, improved road safety, an improved retail environment, better public space provision, effective traffic flow management and more effective parking provision and management.

### **Policy Issues**

#### **Public Space Protection Order: Dog Control and Dog Fouling**

I was delighted with the extent of public feedback in relation to establishing the Public Space Protection Order (dog control and dog fouling) with 1,625 responses received, which included 4,287 comments. This put me in the best possible position in relation to the decision making process, which has always been about being supportive of local dog walkers and holding irresponsible owners to account.

The Dog Action Group, along with a number of other parties, has agreed to meet with us regularly and to form a new group, with the intention of delivering on a commitment from all sides to make Blackpool a more dog friendly town.

### **Working with Partners**

#### **'Strictly Highways!' Blackpool Hosts Highways National Conference**

I am very pleased to report to Members that the Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCIG), which was established by Blackpool in 2013, hosted their first national annual conference, 'Strictly Highways' on 12 and 13 September 2018 at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

The event was a terrific success. Invitations were extended to every Local Council within the UK to attend the two-day Conference and the Conference Dinner. There was no attendance fee as the event was fully sponsored by the supply chain with over 30 small and large highway related suppliers in attendance. Senior officers and members from 61 local councils joined the event, which was the highest number of authorities ever recorded at a highways conference. The keynote speaker who attended both days was Steve Berry, Head of Highways Maintenance, Innovation, Resilience, Light Rail and Cableways Branch, for the Department for Transport. Mr

Berry, a regular attendee of the LCRIG meetings, commented that he welcomed the work that members of LCRIG had undertaken since the Group was established in 2013. He went on to say the group had been instrumental in supporting best practice, asset management and working collaboratively to support local highway infrastructure, engineering and operational matters in the highways maintenance sector. This had been achieved by discussing key issues, helping to develop and disseminate guidance and advice concerning the policy and management of highway assets, as well as helping each other learn lessons, sharing experiences and improving the overall resilience of the local road network.

The event will be an ongoing annual event now in Blackpool and more information is available on the LCRIG website, [www.lcrig.org.uk](http://www.lcrig.org.uk).

### **A New Town Centre Police Presence**

I am pleased to confirm that Lancashire Police have a new Town Centre presence having moved to Municipal Buildings and opened a new front counter. The counter will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm on a Saturday and builds on the excellent collaborative working already seen with the Job Centre co-located in the same building.

**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**

### **Improvements in Educational Inclusion**

I am pleased to report to Members that the numbers of young people attending our pupil referral unit (PRU) are down from a high of 313 in June 2017 to 306 in June 2018. Furthermore, we began the 2018/ 2019 academic year with 208 pupils, in comparison to 244 pupils in 2016 and 238 pupils in 2017. The PRU cohort has changed as it is now recognised as a social, emotional and health care hospital school cohort, special educational needs cohort and pupil referral cohort. There has been a reduction in full-time pupils and an increase in dual registration, which facilitates shared responsibility with schools for outcomes and promotes reintegration.

The numbers of fixed term exclusions reduced in 2017/ 2018 by 20, whilst the number of permanent exclusions increased by two. There are promising signs of improvement early in this academic year with only two permanent exclusions to date against a previous year figure of 20 in the same period last year. Opportunity area funding is being used to provide home to school support and these 'reach' project workers target our hardest to reach young people who are on the edge of exclusion.

### **Woodlands School Improvements**

I am delighted to report on the completion of significant investments we have made at Woodlands School. The Council was able to allocate a large sum of money to undertake the refurbishment of Woodlands School following the demolition of Woodlands pool and the transfer of the post 16 students to the newly refurbished Westbury Sixth Form Centre. The Local Education Partnership delivered the scheme, with work commencing on site in May 2017. The overarching vision was to make the school more accessible to all with wider corridors, better circulation and improved connections across year groups. The construction took 18 months on a phased build with the school continuing in occupation. All classrooms now have external play space and there has been the construction of a new access road from Wilkinson

Avenue to enable a more cohesive transport solution. Pupils and staff celebrated the terrific improvements with a re-opening ceremony on 8 November with Councillor Kathryn Benson, Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services and Mr and Mrs Eric Wright in attendance.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Progress on Managing Demand Pressures in Children's Social Care**

I am pleased to report that in terms of data trends, 2017/ 2018 contained very strong evidence of positive change for Blackpool. Numbers of contacts, referrals, Section 47 child protection enquiries and early help assessments have each fallen by at least a fifth on the previous year. With open cases down 12% and child protection plans reduced by almost a quarter, it is clear that planned, coordinated action has been successfully undertaken to respond to demand differently in the Borough. In a context where the outlier status of the Council had intensified in recent years, this significant shift for 2017/ 2018 brings Blackpool into a more comparable level of activity, albeit often higher than all other North West local authorities.

We continue to demonstrate clearer and more appropriate application of thresholds for intervention. Work continues in relation to safely reducing the numbers of looked after children, which has seen a rise of only 2% at year-end, which is well below the regional increase. We currently have 551 children in our care.

We continue to work with partners via the Improvement Board to monitor the effectiveness of plans to manage demand and through the Board, challenging targets remain in place to bring Blackpool more in line with the national, regional and statistical neighbour picture. In addition, the Improvement Board is moving its focus onto measuring impact and outcomes that improve the lives of our children young people and their families.

### **Challenging the Provision of Mental Health Services in Blackpool**

Members will recall that the issue of mental health provision in Blackpool figured heavily at our last full Council. I can report that the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee considered an item regarding the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) Improvement Plan at its meeting on 10 October 2018. During the item, the Committee received testimonies from a wide range of people and raised a number of serious concerns relating to current mental health service provision in Blackpool, the Care Quality Commission inspection carried out on the Trust and the plans set in place to address inspection findings. The Committee agreed to establish a special meeting to be held on 24 January 2019 to consider a full response to the concerns raised and the Chairman has been liaising with the Chief Executive of LCFT in order to ensure a suitably detailed response and attendance at that meeting.

The state of mental health services was also discussed at the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 10 October. The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board has committed to holding a high-level multi-agency Mental Health Summit in the New Year to look at how we can address the significant issues in mental health support and provision.

NHS colleagues have also commenced a review of mental health services provided by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and have commissioned colleagues from Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust to lead the review with additional input from senior clinicians independent of both organisations. The review is to hold a series of events for people that use mental health services and the people who care for them to share their experiences and ideas along with involving staff from NHS, local authorities, Police, voluntary, community and charity organisations. These events are scheduled to take place across November and a Review is expected shortly afterwards.

## **Policy Issues**

### **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy**

Some of Blackpool's greatest opportunities relate to our 'Green and Blue' assets, such as our wonderful parks and fantastic beaches. As we look forward to a period of sustained transformation of the built environment of our town with so many exciting projects in delivery, I am pleased that we are considering our 'Green and Blue' Infrastructure, setting appropriate vision and ambition in relation to its development and contribution. There are huge economic, social and environmental benefits to a greener and bluer Blackpool, whether that is developments and initiatives related to parks, housing developments, town centre, increasing tree canopy, beaches, wetlands, business development areas etc. I hope all Members will take the opportunity in helping to shape the vision and strategy as we move forward.

## **Transforming Services**

### **HeadStart Update**

I am pleased that the 'Resilience Revolution' continues to build momentum. A planned review of all areas of the programme has taken place and development of the first HeadStart Annual Report was completed and presented by a group of our young people to the Scrutiny Committee. The report outlines the key activity and outcomes over the past 12 months.

Building on connections with our stakeholders has been a key focus for HeadStart this year. We have brought new partners around the table to improve accountability; share learning; focus on sustainability; avoid duplication of effort; maximise investment and provide constructive challenge. It has been extremely gratifying to see some green shoots of systems change. In education, all year two schools undertook the Academic Resilience Approach (ARA). Through multi-level audits, schools have reflected on what has worked well and what could be enhanced further regarding their whole schools resilience work. The bespoke training, audits, student and staff resilient committees and Innovation Fund have all been well received.

In the community, the Resilience Therapy (RT) approach has been embedded across Children's Services and beyond. Training has been delivered to a wide range of partners, focused on empowering practitioners to think about how and where they can utilise RT within their practice. RT works alongside the Risk Sensible model to embed a balanced approach. This will

support practitioners to manage risk, increase protective factors and build resilience to achieve the best outcomes for young people and families. Co-production with young people continues to be a strength of the programme. Young people describe feeling fully involved in decision making at all levels, in addition to co-developing, co-delivering and co-evaluating the programme activity.

### **BetterStart Latest**

The Centre for Early Child Development has been working closely with Harvard University to develop our innovative Community Connector approach and I am delighted to inform Members that Blackpool has just been recognised as a Harvard Frontier of Innovation Site. Blackpool is the only town in the UK to achieve this status and only one of two towns in Europe. This means that Harvard will be working closely with the Centre over the next 12 months to identify and share our learning.

I am particularly pleased to confirm details of significant investments we are making into play zones and equipment via BetterStart resource. In addition to the £70,000 investment in a new early years play zone already completed at George Bancroft Park, Revoe Park is two-thirds of the way through a further £300,000 investment. Claremont Park is about to 'break ground' on their £248,000 re-development of the existing play zone, incorporating more early years play equipment. Funds have also been allocated to Mereside (£135,000), @theGrange (£60,000) Counce Street Play Area (£100,000) and a £50,000 investment will further enhance the play area at Queen Parks new housing development. Children's Centres have also shared in this Parks and Open Spaces Programme with a planned investment of £250,000 across all Centres; Mereside, Grange, Baines, Kincaig and Thames are all the proud owners of a newly enhanced outdoor space with TAB and Westminster currently in consultation and St Cuthbert's in the process of identifying their consultation launch date.

The Early Years Parks Ranger Service continues to offer a full programme of forest school and outdoor activities open to all families visiting the parks and work along Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) Volunteers to enhance open spaces and Clean Up Blackpool (CLUB) on environmental and gardening initiatives.

Alcohol Exposed Pregnancy is the first public health messaging campaign by BetterStart. The campaign, launched 3 November 2018, focuses on how drinking in pregnancy is not just the responsibility of the mum-to-be, but is the collective responsibility of partners, friends and family. It clarifies the often-confused message that no amount of alcohol is safe in pregnancy. The campaign will be displayed on buses, billboards, and social media over a 12-month period and the campaign will be independently evaluated.

### **'Five Ways to Wellbeing' Mental Health Campaign**

I am pleased to report to Council that we have commenced a new mental health campaign centred upon the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'. Members may be interested to know that the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' are a set of five key messages that summarise the evidence of what works to improve mental wellbeing. Delivering a 'five ways' campaign is one of the outputs of our

Public Mental Health Action Plan (2016/ 2019). The Council's Public Health Team has developed a set of visuals to support the overall campaign using the acronym VOCAL:

- Voice. Talk to your friends. Spend time with your family. Good relationships build better mental health.
- Observe. Live in the moment and focus on the now by using your senses to really see, hear and feel what is around you.
- Connect. Giving your time and energy to someone else can help giving you a new sense of purpose.
- Active. Getting active releases a hormone that reduces stress, anxiety and tension. It helps to clear the mind too.
- Learn. Learning something new can make you more confident. It is also a great way of connecting with other people.

The campaign is targeted at all adults in Blackpool, but the material was designed to appeal to men and middle-aged people who can be at risk of poor mental health, but would not necessarily get help. The campaign was launched with a press event on 10 October, World Mental Health Day and is now being rolled-out through a number of channels, e.g. social media, posters in buses and trams and information distributed through libraries.

## **Working with Partners**

### **National Advocacy Awards**

It is my great pleasure to inform Members that Michael Flynn, Blackpool Advocacy Hub Volunteer and Co-Chairman of Blackpool Learning Disability Partnership Board, was the winner in the 'Best Supporter' category at the National Advocacy Awards in Birmingham recently. We are all incredibly proud of Michael and his achievements and I am pleased that the award also highlighted the amazing work that is going on here in Blackpool!

Michael is a key member of the Learning Disability peer support group and has also championed the Safety in Town initiative. We are hoping to launch the initiative in Blackpool over the next few months with the help of local businesses, where adults with Learning Disabilities who feel uncertain or unsafe when they are out in town can easily identify places of safety in local shops and businesses where support can be called in when needed. Michael is very humble in his achievements, but is yet another shining example of how adults with Learning Disabilities in Blackpool are not simply recipients of services, but are shaping and influencing policies and procedures and taking a lead in supporting others and in giving something back to their community.

### **Foster Carers Awards**

The Council was delighted to host the foster carer annual awards event on 3 October 2018, with the Mayor and Mayoress and our Chief Executive in attendance. There were three categories of awards presented on the day included training awards, long service awards for

those foster carers who have been caring for our children for over 15 years and an exceptional service award. Our inspirational and committed foster carers care for our most vulnerable children and young people 365 days a year 24 hours a day. Without these carers, our children would not be able to experience a stable home environment where they receive the care and support to meet their needs and improve their outcomes.

### **Health and Social Care Career Academy Update**

The Fylde Coast Health and Social Care Career Academy is now fully operational within its new base on the Ground Floor of Bickerstaffe House (entrance off Weaver Walk) offering a full range of courses from pre-entry to Level 5 for Health and Social Care related learning, development, and apprenticeships. I would like to share a few highlights from the first few weeks of operation with Members:

- NHS sector based academy = 21 learners completed the course and 18 were successful at their interview and offered health care assistant positions at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.
- Five people obtained a job in the Care with confidence, two continued with their studies and progressed to level 2 Health and Social Care.
- 20 learners on the Talent4Care programme (completed on 9 November). Seven have been successful at interview so far, with interviewing continuing. Five have taken up voluntary positions to gain more experience.
- Two Job fairs providing opportunities for people to learn about the sector.

The full detail of what is on offer so far from the Health and Social Care Career Academy is available at <https://www.hscacademy.org.uk/>

### **Stanley Park Golf Course Latest**

I was disappointed to hear on 2 October 2018 that Mack Trading (International) Limited, the operators of Stanley Park Golf Course, was going into creditors voluntary liquidation. As Members may recall it was agreed to market test the course in 2009 because of a reduction in patronage and financial pressure at that time, with the belief the private sector might be best placed to establish a sustainable future for the course. In 2010, Mack Trading were appointed, with Blackpool Park Golf Club part of the selection panel.

The Council has agreed to take back temporary control of the asset and maintenance of the course. However, there are a number of operators/ organisations interested in operating the course. It has therefore been agreed that the Council's Growth and Prosperity team will carry out a consultation exercise with interested parties to establish whether a sustainable solution can be found.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 November 2018

## BLACKPOOL YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 5 November 2018 relating to the approval Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan for 2018/ 2019.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan for 2018/ 2019, attached at Appendix 2(a), to the Executive report.
- 2.2 To remove the requirement for future Youth Offending Team Strategic Plans to be approved by Council and delegate the responsibility to the Executive.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 This plan meets the annual renewal of the requirements to submit a Youth Justice Plan to the National Youth Justice Board.
- 3.2 This plan has now been approved by all multi agency partners at the strategic Blackpool Young People's Service Board this includes Youth Offending Service delivery. The Local Partnership is required to agree and contribute to the plan due to the youth offending delivery being a statutory partnership including Police, Health, Education, Local Authority and Probation.
- 3.3 It is considered that the revised format of the Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan makes this significantly out of step with the other Plans and Policies requiring Council approval. Please note that the Plan will still require the approval of the Council's Executive.
- 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:

Not to approve the revised Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan, this would have significant implications for the funding of the Youth Offending function.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council priority is “Communities, creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The revised Youth Justice Plan was approved by partner agencies in Blackpool at the meeting of Blackpool Young People’s Service Management Board meeting held on Monday 17 September 2018.

5.2 The document was produced by the Head of Service for Targeted Intervention Service due to the Service Manager not being in post. This is a requirement to submit to the National Youth Justice Board to ensure continued funding to deliver prevention and targeted interventions to reduce youth offending reoffending in the town. The plan is reflective of the current position in respect of all areas of youth justice locally and identifies challenges presently.

5.3 A key challenge is in respect of an increase locally in first time entrants to the criminal justice system and the increase in numbers of young people in custody both of which are contrary to the regional and national trend.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**6.0 List of Appendices**

Appendix 7(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX45/2018

**7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 To enable the required staffing quota to be maintained in line with the allocated grant this is a necessary component.

**9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 This report is a prerequisite to continued funding from the Youth Justice Board.

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 Failure to submit would incur financial risk and risk of inspection of the service from the Youth Justice Board.

**12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX45/2018
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Diane Booth, Director of Children’s Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Graham Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 November 2018

## BLACKPOOL YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To recommend to Council the Blackpool Youth Offending Team (YOT) Strategic Plan for submission to Youth Justice Board and update the Executive regarding the position of Youth Offending.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend to Council to approve the Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan for 2018-2019, as attached at Appendix 2a to the Executive report.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 This plan meets the annual renewal of the requirements to submit a Youth Justice Plan to the National Youth Justice Board

This plan has now been approved by all multi agency partners at the strategic Blackpool Young People’s Service Board this includes Youth Offending Service delivery. The Local Partnership is required to agree and contribute to the plan due to the youth offending delivery being a statutory partnership including Police, Health, Education, Local Authority and Probation.

- |      |  |  |
|------|--|--|
| 3.2a | Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? | No, however this document will if approved form part of the Council’s Policy Framework |
| 3.2b | Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget?                  | Yes  |

**3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:**

Not to approve the revised Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan, which would have significant implications for the funding of the Youth Offending function.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities, creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The attached revised Youth Justice Plan was approved by partner agencies in Blackpool at the meeting of Blackpool Young People’s Service Management Board meeting held on Monday 17 September 2018.

5.2 The document was produced by the Head of Service for Targeted Intervention Service due to the Service Manager not being in post. This is a requirement to submit to the National Youth Justice Board to ensure continued funding to deliver prevention and targeted interventions to reduce youth offending reoffending in the town.

5.3 The plan is reflective of the current position in respect of all areas of youth justice locally and identifies challenges presently.

5.4 A key challenge is in respect of an increase locally in first time entrants to the criminal justice system and the increase in numbers of young people in custody both of which are contrary to the regional and national trend.

5.5 The outlined challenges are being addressed as part of the plan and an improvement action plan which is in place with statutory partners to improve delivery and practice to impact positively on youth crime across the town. The plan outlines in terms of the National Indicators: Reducing First Time Entrants, Reducing reoffending and Reducing the use of custody both existing good practice and key areas for improvement

5.6 The improvements will be monitored by the Blackpool Young People Service Board chaired by the Director of Children’s Services. The Board has already agreed to nominate Champions to simplify and enhance the promotion and monitoring of the National Standards which formed the basis of many aspects of the strategic plan. It was acknowledged that doing so would aid the auditing process in those areas and allow for associated reporting to be brought back to the Board on a regular basis. This will ensure that the plan is delivered and monitored in a partnership approach. On Friday 21 September 2018, Blackpool YOT was notified of a full YOT inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). Two weeks of preparation and

advance evidence was submitted. The inspection site visit was attended by 6 Inspectors during the week commencing 8 October 2018 for 5 days. No feedback was received on the site visit. The determined grading will be notified on 26 October 2018. It is not currently anticipated that arising from the inspection that will be a requirement to make any amendments or additions to the attached plan, this however will be confirmed at or in advance of the Executive meeting.

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

The Corporate Delivery Unit has been involved directly in the creation of the plan and will assist in ensuring it is monitored.

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**5.7 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 2a: Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 To enable the required staffing quota to be maintained in line with the allocated grant this is a necessary component.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 This report is a prerequisite to continued funding from the Youth Justice Board

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Failure to submit would incur financial risk and also risk of inspection of the service from the Youth Justice Board.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Key decision information:**

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 14/2018

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: 26 October 2018 Date approved:

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

17.1 None.

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend to Council to approve the Blackpool Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan for 2018-2019, as attached at Appendix 2a to the Executive report.

**19.0 Date of Decision:**

19.1 5 November 2018

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

20.1 This plan meets the annual renewal of the requirements to submit a Youth Justice Plan to the National Youth Justice Board

This plan has now been approved by all multi agency partners at the strategic Blackpool Young People's Service Board this includes Youth Offending Service delivery. The Local Partnership is required to agree and contribute to the plan due to the youth offending delivery being a statutory partnership including Police, Health, Education, Local Authority and Probation.

**21.0 Date Decision published:**

21.1 6 November 2018

**22.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

22.1 Councillor Cain, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith and Mrs Wright

**23.0 Call-in:**

23.1

**24.0 Notes:**

24.1

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	21 November 2018

## REVISED MEMBER AND OFFICER PROTOCOL AND REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC SPEAKING PROCEDURE FOR PLANNING

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider a revised draft Member and Officer Protocol for Planning and amendments to the public speaking arrangements, following reconsideration of the item at the Planning Committee on 16 October 2018 (following the referral at the last Council meeting).

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

To agree the recommendations from the Planning Committee:

2.1 To approve as part of the Council's Constitution the revised Member and Officer Protocol for Planning as attached at Appendix 8(a).

2.2 To adopt the revised public speaking arrangements outlined in the report namely:

- that the time period allowed for public representations is increased from five to seven minutes for objectors and applicants
- that the time period of seven minutes is allowed for each ward councillor who applies to speak (to be aligned with the arrangements for members of the public).

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The revisions to the Member and Officer Protocol for Planning have resulted from the previous peer review of planning and are intended to provide clarity for members, officers and the public.

3.2 The increase from five to seven minutes for the time period allowed for objectors, applicants and each ward councillor sets out parameters for representations to be heard on a consistent and equitable basis.

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:

None, the previous protocol is out of date so the approval of a revised version is necessary. An alternative option would be to retain the current procedures for speaking at Planning Committee meetings.

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

4.1 The relevant Council priority is 'The Economy: maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool'.

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Members will recall that at the last Council meeting, they considered a recommendation from the Planning Committee on 14 August 2018, in relation to proposed changes to the Protocol and public speaking procedures. This was following a workshop session held on 8 March 2018 with Planning Committee members and officers, to look at a recommendations arising from the Planning Peer review that related to the Committee. At the last Council meeting, it was resolved to refer the item back to the Planning Committee for reconsideration, in particular in relation to the time limits for speaking at Planning Committee meetings. The Planning Committee reconsidered the item on 16 October 2018.

#### **5.2 Revised Member and Officer Protocol for Planning**

5.2.1 As reported at the last Council meeting, the Protocol has not been updated for a number of years and members of the Planning Committee when initially considering this, had noted that the Council's current practice differed from the protocol and that the planning peer review had identified a number of areas of best practice. As a result of the workshop in March, a number of changes were made and these were considered by the Planning Committee in August 2018 and recommended for Council approval. When the item was reconsidered at the October 2018 meeting, the Planning Committee made no changes to the original proposals for revision. The document is attached again as an appendix to this report.

#### **5.3 Speaking at Planning Committee meetings**

5.3.1 Currently the Council's rules of procedure allow one speaker for and one against, with a limit of five minutes and an unlimited period for ward councillors. At the March workshop session, members expressed a wish to increase the time limit for members of the public but also to introduce an element of consistency by also applying this procedure for ward councillors. The view was that this would allow

sufficient time for representations, give parity to members of the public, but avoid significant levels of repetition. It was felt at the time that that would provide a consistent and fair approach.

5.3.2 When the matter was considered by the Planning Committee in August 2018, members recommended that Council amends the public speaking rules for planning to extend the limit for members of the public to seven minutes for both those speaking for and against and additionally for this limit to also apply for each ward councillor, acknowledging the need to enable sufficient time for representations to be made balanced with the need for these to be concise.

5.3.3 At the Council meeting held on 19 September 2018, there were some views expressed that the time limits, in particular for those for ward members, should be reconsidered. As a result, Council agreed to defer the matter back to the Planning Committee for reconsideration.

5.3.4 The matter was considered again on 16 October 2018 and the Committee resolved to recommend a time limit of seven minutes for both members of the public and each ward councillor in making representations, as originally set out in the last report to Council. During the discussion, it was noted that, if agreed, the time limits would apply to representations and did not limit any debate thereafter. It was also noted that the Chairman, with the agreement of the Committee, would have discretion on any extension to time limits.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 8(a) - Revised Member and Officer Protocol for Planning

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 A workshop between Planning officers and members of the Planning Committee was held in March 2018 at which members expressed a wish to change the public speaking procedures for ward councillors and the public in interest of fairness and consistency. The changes were recommended for approval at both the Planning Committee meetings on held on 14 August 2018 and 16 October 2018 where Committee also agreed to recommend the revised Protocol.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.



## **Part 5d**

# **Member and Officer Protocol for Planning**

<b>Member and Officer Protocol for Planning Matters</b>	
<b>Effective from</b>	<b>Approved by Council</b>

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The role of the planning system is to regulate the use and development of land in the best interests of Blackpool both immediately and in the future. It can affect the private lives of individuals, the interests of landowners and developers but also the future of the town. It is essential that the Council should make such decisions openly, impartially with sound judgement and for justifiable reasons.
- 1.2 Councillors and officers are both involved in operating the planning system although they have different yet complementary roles. The successful operation of the planning process relies on mutual trust and understanding of each other's roles. It also relies on both groups ensuring that they act in such a way which is not only fair and impartial but is also clearly seen to be.
- 1.3 The protocol outlines the requirements of all parties. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Constitution, in particular the relevant Codes of Conduct for both officers and members as well as the Royal Town Planning Institute Code of Conduct which sets out the professional conduct for officers.

**2. Role and conduct of Members and Officers**Role of Members

- 2.1 When Councillors come to make a decision on a planning matter they must:
- Act fairly and openly
  - Approach each case with an open mind
  - Read the reports and any additional information such as viewing photographs, video footage in advance of the meeting and prepare for the Committee meeting
  - Pay attention to representations received
  - Use the Council's planning policy and guidance as their basis for making a decision
  - Consider national planning policy and guidance
  - Consider whether the application could contribute to a solution to a social, economic or environmental challenge within Blackpool
  - Carefully weigh up all relevant issues before reaching a view on a particular case
  - Determine each case on its merits
  - Ensure that there are clear and substantial reasons for their decisions and that those reasons are clearly stated.
- 2.2 Councillors should remember that while acting as a member of the Planning Committee that they have a responsibility to ensure planning policies are equitably and evenly applied. Councillors will find that decision making can be difficult as it may often be forced to balance competing demands (for example the prosperity of the wider town with the

objections of residents neighbouring the proposed development or equally the benefits that might accrue in the future).

#### Role of Officers

- 2.3 The function of officers is to advise and assist Councillors in matters of planning policy and in their determination of planning applications and enforcement issues by:
- Providing impartial professional advice
  - Use adopted Council policies as the basis for decision making
  - Ensure that all available information relevant for the decision to be made is given including details of representations and rationale for the recommendation to the Committee
  - Outline the material considerations and highlight where representations include matters relevant to a planning decision.
  - Providing a clear, logical and accurate analysis of the issues
  - Implement the decisions of the Planning Committee.
  - Determine which applications under the Council's scheme of delegation are to be considered by Committee or by the Head of Development Management under delegated powers.

### **3. Training on planning matters**

- 3.1 All members of Planning Committee are required to receive training on planning and conduct matters prior to being involved in the work of the Committee. This will help members undertake their role in as a professional manner as possible.
- 3.2 The Head of Democratic Governance will set a training plan for all members after consultation with the Chairman and the Head of Development Management and in accordance with the priorities in the Member Development Plan.
- 3.3 Members of the Committee should raise topics that they wish to covered by such training and their feedback on training will requested regularly.
- 3.4 The names of members who do not attend such training will be reported to the relevant Group Leaders with a clear recommendation that such members who have not attended training regularly be removed by their party from the Planning Committee.
- 3.5 Councillors who are not members of the Planning Committee are also able to attend such training if they wish to develop their knowledge of the process.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 Councillors must consider all the material planning considerations before them with open minds (and appear as so) at the time of determination of the application.
- 4.2 While it is for the individual councillors to decide whether there is an interest to declare, the potential consequences of a failure to declare an interest should always be borne in mind as should personal bias and a closed mind as these can have serious consequences for the elected member, the decision and the Council. Failure to observe this Planning Protocol could result in the councillor being reported to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

4.3 Councillors must declare all interests in the matter for consideration and where appropriate withdraw from the meeting. The nature and the existence of the interest should be clearly declared. Further information is available on the code of conduct which applies to all Council meetings.

4.4 The Head of Democratic Governance can provide advice and guidance on potential interests. Where Councillors are unclear they should contact the Head of Democratic Governance or another member of the Democratic Governance team as early as possible in advance of the meeting to assist the Councillor in making their decision whether they have an interest.

## 5. Bias

5.1 It is important that councillors who are making decisions approach any decisions with an open mind. This rule applies whether the councillor does or does not have an interest in the matter. Decisions must be made strictly on planning grounds and have considered all relevant factors outlined in the officer's report. The appearance of bias is particularly likely where a member has expressed a settled view on a planning matter in advance of a meeting.

5.2 The Localism Act has clarified that there is a difference between '*predisposition*' and '*predetermination*'.

5.3 A councillor is biased if they have or appear to have *predetermined* a planning application in so much that they have made up their minds before considering all the evidence or if they choose to ignore some evidence.

5.4 A councillor can express a *predisposition* in favour or against a planning application without being biased, so long as the councillor has not closed their mind and this is clear to those involved.

5.5 It should be noted that perception is equally important so councillors should clearly avoid giving the appearance both by verbal and non-verbal communication that they have closed their minds to an issue.

5.6 Where it is agreed to defer a matter to a future meeting, issues raised in debate prior to the deferral do not indicate necessarily that a councillor will be biased when the matter is reconsidered unless this is expressly stated.

5.7 Councillors cannot accept an instruction from anyone to determine an application in a particular way. It is not appropriate for any party or group of members to apply a whip or other formal or informal instruction to vote in a certain way.

## 6. Role as a ward councillor

6.1 Members have an important role as ward councillors in representing those living in their ward's views on planning applications.

6.2 There is a procedure in place so that members can request that an application is considered by the Planning Committee rather than dealt with under delegated powers and this is outlined at Appendix A to this protocol.

6.3 Ward Councillors can also make representations to the Planning Committee by applying in writing or by email by 12 noon the day before the meeting.

6.4 Where the ward councillor is also a member of the Planning Committee they can either choose to refer those interested in the application to their ward colleague or they can choose to remove themselves from the Committee to make representations to it. They can also submit any views in writing.

**7. Development proposed by the Council or a Council owned or controlled company**

7.1 Planning legislation allows Councils and bodies controlled by them to submit and determine development proposals which they intend to carry out themselves. These shall be considered in the same way as those put forward by private developers.

7.2 Members of the Planning Committee who are also Board members of Council-owned companies will have a prejudicial interest in planning applications submitted by or on behalf of which affect the Company and should not take part in the consideration of the application.

7.3 The Council should treat such applications on an equal basis with all other applications.

**8. Development proposed by individual members or officers or persons related to them**

8.1 Councillors or officers should never act as agents for another person in pursuing planning applications within the Borough or which materially affect the Borough. If members or officers submit their own proposal to the Council they should take no part in the processing and determination of that proposal and they should not be involved in the processing and determination of applications submitted by close family, personal friends or business associates. The Council's Head of Development Management should be informed of all such proposals as soon as they are submitted.

8.2 These applications will be determined in line with the processing of all other applications but with the relevant elected member or officer excluded from the process.

8.3 Officers must not deal with development proposals and planning applications in which they have any form of interest.

**9. Lobbying of and by members**

9.1 Lobbying is a necessary and legitimate part of the democratic and planning process. Those affected or who have strong views on a proposal for development will often try to canvass the Planning Committee to get members of the Committee to share those views. The time though for individual members of the Planning Committee to make a decision on a proposal is at the Committee meeting when all the relevant information is available and has been properly considered.

9.2 Councillors are free to listen to a point of view about a particular proposal and to provide basic advice on how the application will be processed (details of relevant contact officers, how to register to speak etc). They should be careful however to reserve their own final judgement until the Planning Committee meeting and to make it clear that this is the case.

9.3 Councillors should not circulate information to other members of the Planning Committee and instead refer such submissions to the Head of Development Management for assessment and/or inclusion in the report to the Committee or Update Note.

**10. Pre- and post- application discussions**

- 10.1 Councillors on the Planning Committee need to uphold their position as impartial decision makers and it would not be appropriate for them to take part in pre or post application discussions with applicants regarding a proposed development.
- 10.2 It is reasonable for councillors to refer such discussions to the Head of Development Management who can arrange a factual discussion of whether the application as proposed appears to be in line with the Council's approved planning policies.
- 10.3 During any pre-application discussions or meetings with the applicant, it will be made clear at the outset the Council will not as a result of such discussion be bound to make a particular decision and such views are provisional and not the formal decision of the Committee.

Major applications submitted may make use of information sessions for members. The purpose of such sessions is to allow members to gain a broad understanding of the application and to request further information.

**11. Officers' reports to Committee**

- 11.1 The officer's report to Committee will include the following information:
- A professional appraisal and balanced presentation of the application
  - A clear recommendation including justification for the recommendation
  - Where an application is recommended for approval - reasons for the approval, relevant conditions and the reasons for those conditions
  - Where an application is recommended for refusal - reasons for that refusal and why in the opinion of the officer conditions could not mitigate these issues
  - A history of the site
  - The proposal
  - The substance of any representations received
  - The relevant policies applicable
  - Any other material considerations
  - A view as to why alternative options have not been considered suitable
  - Any material considerations that would justify a departure from the development plan
  - A plan of the site
  - Suitable photographs and other visual material eg video footage
  - A link to the online planning file where the full details of the representations and other relevant information referred to in the report can be found.
- 11.2 An update note is produced containing any new information submitted after the agenda is published and will be circulated in advance of the meeting. If additional information is submitted after the compilation of the update note that is relevant to the discussion, it may be necessary to defer consideration of the planning application to a future meeting or adjourn the Committee briefly to enable proper consideration of the additional information.
- 11.3 Councillors should read carefully the officer's report in advance of the Committee meeting and where necessary seek clarification at the meeting of the information contained within. If councillors wish additional information or photographs/video footage to be added to the report they should contact the Case Officer to request that these be circulated with the update note. It is however perfectly proper for a member to ask the planning officer to

ensure that a particular issue is dealt with in the presentation to Committee in advance of the meeting.

## **12. Decisions contrary to officer recommendation**

12.1 The decisions at Planning Committee (as outlined previously in paragraph 2.1) can only be made in reference to the Local Plan and other material planning considerations. Decisions can however be made against officer recommendation so long as a reason is given which is clear and convincing. Councillors should, in making a decision, outline their good and valid planning reasons for departing from the officer's recommendation.

12.2 However, it should be noted that the correct place to seek changes to the Local Plan is through a review of the plan at full Council - the Committee cannot seek to amend Council policy at Planning Committee meetings.

12.3 Where councillors wish to make a decision to refuse a planning application against officer recommendation they should seek outline reasons for that decisions. The following courses of action can be undertaken to assist this process:

- A councillor should approach the Head of Development Management in advance of the Committee meeting and ask to assist in translating the preliminary view of the member into sustainable reasons for refusal with reference to planning policy.
- Councillors can seek a brief adjournment of the meeting to allow officers to assist in the formulation of such reasons.

12.4 Where councillors wish to make a decision to grant planning permission against officer recommendation they should outline a reason for the decision and if applicable propose conditions. Members should remember that if no conditions are proposed then the application would be granted without restrictions and should consider carefully the implications for a planning permission granted in such a way. The following courses of action can be undertaken to assist this process:

- A Councillor should approach the Head of Development Management in advance of the Committee meeting and ask to assist in translating the preliminary view of the member into sustainable reasons for approval and identify suitable conditions with reference to planning policy.
- Councillors can seek a brief adjournment of the meeting to allow officers to assist in the formulation of conditions

## **13. Viewing sites**

13.1 The report, the update note and presentation at Committee will contain suitable photographs, videos, images and plans to assist Councillors in making their decision. In line with paragraph 11.3, having viewed the agenda, if Councillors wish additional information or photographs to be added to the report they should contact the Case Officer to request that these be circulated with the update note.

13.2 It has been agreed that site visits do not need to take place for planning applications unless there are exceptional circumstances. Councillors of course remain able to use their local knowledge to assist in the decision making and can visit the site independently so long as they do not engage with any other parties.

13.3 If a member of the Committee considers that there are exceptional circumstances to warrant a site visit, they should contact the Head of Development Management and explain in writing why such a visit was essential. This statement would include the exceptional circumstances of the application and why it was not possible to source the required

photographs, images and videos. This would then considered by the Head of Planning Quality Control after consultation with the Chairman.

**14. Complaints**

- 14.1 Any complaints made about the planning process should be recorded and would normally be dealt with in the Council's Complaints Procedure. Where it is a complaint relating to standards or conduct it should be reported to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

<b>Schedule A – Ward Referral Procedure</b>	
<b>Effective from</b>	<b>Approved by Council on</b>

1.1 Where an application is proposed to be determined by the Head of Development Management under delegated powers, the relevant ward councillor can request that the application be referred to the Planning Committee for further consideration. This is subject to the following:

- The request must be submitted in writing to the Head of Development Management.
- The request must be received no later than 10 clear working days from the validation of the application and its publication on the Council's website.
- The request should specify one or more reasons why he or she believes the application should be considered by the Planning Committee, this should normally highlight issues raised by their local residents. The ward councillor would normally be expected to make representations to this effect to the Committee.
- The application itself should not be one submitted by the ward councillor nor should the councillor have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an interest in the matter which in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members, requires them to withdraw from the meeting.

1.2 This scheme applies only to original planning applications and not to re-submitted applications where no substantial change has been made to the original application. It also does not apply to prior approval, certificates of lawfulness, advertisement consent, listed building consent and tree applications. This scheme also only applies where the Council is the body to determine the planning application and not where the Council merely must receive notification and does not determine the planning application.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 November 2018

## INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 At the meeting of the Council on 19 September 2018, it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise the vacancy for a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel, arrange interviews and then to liaise with the Group Leaders in making a recommendation to Council. The criteria for appointment would be the same as that previously applied. This report puts forward the recommended candidate following the recruitment process.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to appoint Karen Eaton as an Independent Remuneration Panel member.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To fill a vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To not make an appointment.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The recommendation in this report meet all the Council's priorities.

### 5.0 Background Information

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

members, Mr Peter Whitehead, has decided to stand down from the Panel and following Council approval, information on the position was circulated through various groups and expressions of interest sought.

5.2 The advert set out the criteria of the type of person sought and in particular stated that the applicant should have no formal political party affiliation, not be an employee of, or an elected member of Blackpool Council and not be currently a close friend/relative of an elected member of Blackpool Council.

5.3 Interviews were held in November 2018 and following this recruitment process, consultation was also undertaken with the three Group Leaders. This has resulted in an individual being recommended for appointment - Karen Eaton- a current Panel member of Fylde Borough Council's Independent Remuneration Panel. Karen meets all the criteria and is able to join the Panel immediately and commence the four yearly review, along with the remaining Panel members. Karen is a qualified accountant and has worked in the public sector for various agencies for over 20 years.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

None.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 set out the requirements for appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 There are no Human Resource considerations.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 There are no equalities considerations to this report.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 There are no financial considerations, other than the Panel members can claim reasonable expenses for attending Panel meetings.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 There are no risk management considerations other than not having sufficient members to serve on the Panel.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the three Group Leaders as indicated within the report.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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## Item 10 - Notice of Motion

To consider the following motion, which has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1:

a) **To Adopt Parental Leave of Absence Policy.** Councillor Campbell to propose.

### **This Council notes:**

- That analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested;
- That across England, Labour has improved its representation since seats were last up for grabs, with 45% women compared with 40% in 2014, Liberal Democrat representation up from 34% to 36% whilst the Conservative Party saw a fall from 31% to 29% in the share of its councillors who are female;
- That as of the 2018 local elections, only 26 out of 119 Labour councils and only 33 out of 130 opposition Labour Groups are led by women;
- As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave of absence policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society;
- That the equalities section of the Labour Party Democracy Review mandates all Labour councils and Labour Groups to introduce a parental leave of absence policy to cover their group and their council as applicable;
- That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background and that introducing a parental leave of absence policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors;
- That parental leave of absence must apply to parents regardless of their gender and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

### **This Council resolves:**

- To request the Director of Governance and Partnerships to consult with the Independent Remuneration Panel and report back to a future Council meeting on a parental leave of absence policy

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