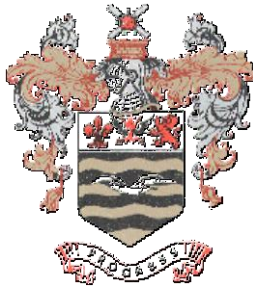


# Public Document Pack



## BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 18 June 2019

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Lady 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, 26 June 2019 commencing at 6.15 pm or upon the rising of the Special meeting, whichever is the latest, for the transaction of the business specified below.

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

Director of Governance and Partnerships

### Business

#### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

(1) the type of interest concerned 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 22 MAY 2019** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 May 2019 as a true and correct record.

**3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

**4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS** (Pages 7 - 28)

To consider the attached reports to Council from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism and Place) and the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children).

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.

**5 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL** (Pages 29 - 50)

To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a full review of the Members Allowances scheme, undertaken following an all-out local election.

**6 APPOINTMENTS OF POSITIONS** (Pages 51 - 54)

To consider the appointment of a Vice Chairman to the Appeals Committee and the extension of the term of office of the three statutory Independent Persons for Standards.

**7 MOTIONS AT COUNCIL** (Pages 55 - 60)

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

**Venue information:**

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

**Other information:**

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

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

This page is intentionally left blank

### **Present:**

Councillor G Coleman (in the Chair)

### **Councillors**

Baker*	D Coleman	Hunter	Mrs Scott*
Benson	Collett	Hutton	R Scott*
Blackburn	Cox*	Kirkland	Smith
Brookes	Critchley	Matthews	Stansfield*
Burdess	Cross	Mitchell	I Taylor
Cain	Farrell	O'Hara	Walsh*
Callow*	Galley*	Owen	L Williams
Mrs Callow JP*	Mrs Henderson MBE*	Robertson BEM*	T Williams*
Campbell	Hobson	Roberts*	Wilshaw*
Clapham*	Hugo	D Scott*	Wing*

\*Items 6 to 14 only

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services

Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

## **1 THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Benson and

**Resolved:** That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Amy Cross be elected Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool for the municipal year 2019/2020.

## **2 THE MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Cross made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Mayor according to the requirements of the law and then took the Chair.

## **3 THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by the Mayor, Councillor Cross, seconded by Councillor Blackburn and

**Resolved:** That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Jim Hobson be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool, for the municipal year 2019/2020.

#### **4 THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Jim Hobson made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor according to the requirements of the law.

#### **5 THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS**

The Mayor, Councillor Cross, then addressed the meeting in relation to her forthcoming year and in respect of the service of the ex-Mayor, Councillor Gary Coleman. Councillor Coleman responded to her tribute and spoke upon his mayoral year.

Note: Following the item, Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Callow, Clapham, Cox, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wing and Wilshaw joined the meeting.

#### **6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **7 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council held on 27 February 2019 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

#### **8 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced the two year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Manchester Arena in which Jane Tweddle and others had died. On behalf of the Council she passed on thoughts of remembrance to the families.

#### **9 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

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

'That Councillor Blackburn be appointed Leader of the Council, to serve for a four year term of office until the Annual Council meeting in 2023.'

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

#### **10 SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

Members considered a number of proposals in relation to the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements following the review undertaken by North West Employers in 2018 in which a number of recommendations had been made and subsequently considered by a cross-party working group.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019

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

- ‘1. To constitute a Scrutiny Leadership Board to lead the scrutiny function, comprising the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three scrutiny committees, the Audit Committee Chair and a separate Chair and that the terms of reference for the Board be as set out in Appendix 10(a) to the Council report.
2. To agree the role profile for the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board as set out at Appendix 10(b) and to appoint Councillor Maxine Callow as Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, as she has significant experience of undertaking scrutiny and has also served on the Executive.
3. To receive a bi-annual report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board on the impact of the scrutiny function.
4. To amend the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules to allow the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board to attend and speak, but not vote at any scrutiny committee or panel meeting, in accordance with the role.
5. To note the appointments to committees are to be made in the next agenda item (agenda item 11) but to agree as a principle that the Chair positions in all three committees be filled by majority group councillors and the Vice Chair positions be filled by principal opposition councillor representatives.
6. To agree the role profile for the co-opted members of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee at Appendix 10(c) to the report and to delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Partnerships to determine the recruitment process for two diocesan co-opted representatives and the two governor co-opted representatives.’

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

### 11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Members received the report on the appointment of committees for the 2019/2020 municipal year. As part of the report, they considered the political makeup, which had changed due to the recent local elections and noted that a review of the political balance calculations was required in order to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the associated regulations.

Although not subject to political balance rules, it was recommended that appointments to the Licensing Committee would be on a politically balanced basis and that the Committee would also appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee.

In relation to committees that had not been considered earlier in the meeting, it was recommended for those to be reappointed according to their current terms of reference.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019

A full schedule of committees was submitted to the Council based upon the political balance calculations and which contained the notified names of committee members, Chair and Vice Chair nominees.

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

- '1. To appoint the following Council committees, with powers and duties as set out either in the Council's Constitution or previously agreed earlier on the agenda:
  - Scrutiny Leadership Board
  - Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
  - Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
  - Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
  - Audit Committee
  - Appeals Committee
  - Planning Committee
  - Standards Committee
  - Chief Officers Employment Committee
  - Shareholder's Advisory Board
2. To agree the political balance attached at Appendix 11(a) to the Council report and appointments to the committees at Appendix 11(b).
3. To reappoint the Licensing Committee with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fifteen and a composition of eight Labour, five Conservative, one Norbreck Independent and one Blackpool Independent).
4. To request the Licensing Committee to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution including the Chair and Vice-Chair.
5. To agree that any nominations or changes to committees be reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader for implementation.
6. To agree to the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those committees as identified at Appendix 11(b) to the report based on the above recommendations.
7. To confirm the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board as set out in Appendix 11(b) to the report.
8. To agree that the quorum of the Shareholder's Advisory Board is two members.
9. To agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.'

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



## **12 SCHEME OF DELEGATION/ CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

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

Council also considered proposals for delegated authority to be given to the Director of Resources to appoint an interim Deputy Statutory Finance Officer, as the current post holder was due to take a period of planned absence from work.

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

- ‘1. To agree that no changes are made to the scheme of delegation for which the Council has responsibility.
2. To agree that the Director of Resources be authorised to appoint an interim Deputy Statutory Finance Officer to cover a period of planned absence.’

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

## **13 PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Council considered a programme of meetings for the municipal year 2019/2020.

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

‘To approve the calendar of meetings for 2019/ 020 and the start times of meetings as attached at Appendix 13(a) to the Council report.’

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

## **14 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

Members noted that at the meeting of the Council on 25 November 2015, the Council agreed to adopt the award of Honorary Alderman of the Borough for retiring members who had served a term of more than 15 years, in recognition of their eminent service.

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

‘To agree to hold a special meeting of Council to confer the title of ‘Honorary Alderman’ of the Borough of Blackpool under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to former Councillor Kath Rowson, the time and date of this to be agreed by the Mayor.’

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

## **Mayor**

(The meeting ended at 2.58pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Tel: 01253 477127

E-mail: [lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

**Executive Member Report to the Council**  
**26 June 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 4(a)**

## **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR SIMON BLACKBURN**

---

All major strategic, corporate cross-cutting, financial reputational and commercially sensitive issues covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Ivan Taylor (Cabinet Member for Projects and Partnerships)
- Councillor Lynn Williams (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health)

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**

#### **Elections 2019: Not One, but Two!**

Since our last full Council in January, the Returning Officer and his staff have facilitated two elections, one local and one European. The local election benefitted from six months planning; the European had to be planned and delivered in just six weeks! Successful delivery of these elections has necessitated some 450 different roles and countless hours organising, preparing and contingency planning. On behalf of all Councillors and candidates can I pass on well-earned thanks to the Returning Officer and his staff for two very well organised elections. Can I also thank the staff that went straight from organising elections into delivering an induction programme to help make our nine new councillors feel welcome and supported.

#### **Financial Monitoring: Draft 2018/ 2019 Accounts and the Year Ahead**

I can report to Members that the Council's 2018/ 2019 draft Accounts have now been completed in line with the format required by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The draft accounts will next be examined by our newly-appointed external auditor, Deloitte and reported to the Audit Committee on 25 July 2019. The draft accounts show that the Council's working balances as at 31 March 2019 stood at approximately £7 million, above our target of £6 million due to a favourable in-year underspend of £1.02 million.

It is true that 2018/ 2019 witnessed substantial pressures within Children's Services due to the number and mix of Our Children. We succeeded in offsetting this overspend via a technical accounting adjustment regarding debt payments made to Lancashire County Council to finance the Council's waste disposal arrangements (formerly the Lancashire Waste PFI scheme), a favourable position in Treasury Management due to prudent cash flow management and non-deployed contingencies. I would like to congratulate all staff who have contributed to achieving a positive position by year-end.

Whilst I am pleased to acknowledge that working balances are at a record high, in part reflecting the financial risk environment, I am naturally concerned about the difficulty of maintaining such healthy levels in the context of the ongoing pressures we currently face. As such, I continue to be in close discussion with Chief Officers to ensure that the situation remains under continuous review. Nevertheless, the Council's financial standing remains sound. Our continued financial sustainability is no small achievement, not least when set in the context of the extreme financial difficulties now being faced publicly by a number of large local authorities in other parts of the country. One large council has already failed financially and the BBC has recently named ten others on a 'danger list' of most depleted reserves. If the Government does not offer some respite to its reductions of funding for essential public services, I fear it inevitable that other councils will follow.

As Members are well aware, we have to continue to make very difficult choices here in Blackpool to live within our increasingly smaller means. The Budget for 2019/ 2020 required total savings to be found of £9.0 million. This is on top of the £142.7 million we have been required to remove from our budget over the previous eight years. There is little doubt that the year ahead will again be a very tough one.

### **Financial Collections Review**

At the end of month 12, the amount collected for Council Tax (excluding Police and Fire precepts) was £50.4m and the collection rate was 92.0%. This compares to £46.4m and 91.3% at the same point in 2017/ 2018. The amount collected has actually risen by £4.0m, which is mainly due to increases in both the Council Tax rate and base. At the end of month 12, the amount collected for Business Rates was £47.7m and the collection rate was 96.2%. This compares to £47.6m and 95.6% at the same point in 2017/ 2018. The increase of 0.6% compared to the previous year equates to £0.4m, though the changes in both the Business Rate multiplier and base (due to the Revaluation in April 2017 and other movements) have made negative contributions of £0.3m, offset by a compensating increase to the Non-Domestic Rate (NDR) Top-up amount. The Council's share of Business Rate yield continued at 49%.

I am pleased that the last full financial year again showed an in-year collection improvement for both Council Tax and Business Rates. This was the second consecutive year of improved collection performance after a number of years of reduced collection following the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2013. It is anticipated that 2019/ 2020 will be another challenging year for collection of monies owed to the Council.

### **Strategic Issues**

#### **Blackpool Museum Project**

I have previously advised Members of the success we had in securing millions of pounds of funding toward the Museum Project. Indeed, we have won £4m from the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund; the Lancashire Growth Deal is contributing £1.5 million; and the Coastal Communities Fund a further £1.75 million. I can confirm that a Round 2 National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly Heritage Lottery Fund) bid has been submitted for £4 million. The

result of this application will be known in June. If the application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is successful, the Museum Project will then move into its delivery phase. This will be kicked off with a special event at which the name for the Museum will be formally announced. This is planned for the autumn and we are aiming to open the Museum for the 2021 season.

### **Blackpool Central Progress**

Further to the update I provided in January regarding the proposals for 'Blackpool Central', the Council have been in continuing discussions with the Developer Nikal Limited, to bring the scheme forward to delivery commencing 2020. Negotiations are at an advanced stage, with Council Officers and its advisors engaged in detailed discussions with regards to the land sale agreement and the overall development appraisals for the project. These discussions are taking time, owing to the complexities and scale of the project and the requirement to ensure the scheme delivers on the aspirations for the site, whilst securing and protecting the interest of the Council. The Council remains committed and hopeful of agreeing the terms of the sale very soon.

A key issue for the delivery of Blackpool Central is the future location of Blackpool Magistrates and County Courts. I can confirm that the Council has commissioned a number of studies and reports over recent months, the content of which will be used to support further dialogue with HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) over its plans for the future with a view to securing the relocation of the courts to an alternative site within the town.

### **Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone (EZ)**

A great deal of work continues in progressing Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone in accordance with the approved Masterplan and delivery plan. An outline planning application has been submitted, jointly to Fylde and Blackpool Councils for Phase One. Decisions in principle are anticipated in July/ August 2019 and the application will then be referred to the Secretary of State for a decision, as some of the land is within the current Fylde and Blackpool greenbelt. The final decision is anticipated being received in late autumn. Work on site is due to commence by early 2020, subject to approvals.

Members may already be aware of one very exciting development concerned our Enterprise Zone, a new transatlantic fibre optic communications cable linking Blackpool to New York. Aquacomms are constructing it and agreement has been reached to route this via the Enterprise Zone for onward connectivity to Newcastle and the Nordic countries. A local fibre network is being developed in association with this to serve the Airport Enterprise Zone and link Hillhouse EZ in Wyre via the Blackpool Tramway.

Presence of the new optic fibre link will provide fast communication links with timings of less than 64 milliseconds to transmit data from Blackpool Airport to New York, some 11 milliseconds faster than the best connections to London and thus providing a competitive advantage. The new connection will open up the possibility of securing investment in the provision of data centre facilities at the EZ and of securing investment from data driven industries. A study to

confirm the feasibility of undertaking such specialist development will be completed by the end of July.

I would like to advise Members that the approved Enterprise Zone Masterplan envisaged the demolition and redevelopment of the former Wellington Bomber factory fronting Squires Gate Lane as part of the second phase of the Enterprise Zone delivery. The property has now been purchased by a North West based property investor and developer who is looking to bring forward plans for early refurbishment and re-modelling of the approximately 800,000 sq. ft. estate. It is now our intention to work in partnership with the new owners to facilitate early investment in the property to maximise employment opportunities and provide improved accessibility.

There continues to be a steady stream of enquiries for the EZ, many enquiries are for smaller accommodation in the 1 – 15000 sq. ft. category, with several live enquiries up to 10,000 sq. ft., three in the 30 - 40,000 sq. ft. range and one tentative enquiry for up to 200,000 sq. ft. A total of 255 enquiries have been received since commencement of the EZ, some 57 businesses have located to the Enterprise Zone since April 2016 and a total of 1350 jobs have located to the Enterprise Zone of which a considerable number are considered completely new jobs to the area.

#### **Ministerial Visit by Lord Henley 17 May 2019**

I was delighted to welcome Lord Henley, Business Energy Industry and Skills Minister for local industrial strategies and the Northern Powerhouse, on a visit to Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone in May. Lord Henley undertook a tour of the Lancashire Energy HQ and participated in a round table discussion with leaders of Blackpool Council and representatives from subsea cabling company Aquacomms. Lord Henley acknowledged the potential of our EZ and the wider efforts to diversify our economic base. Lord Henley confirmed continuing Government support for Blackpool, both in terms of the development of the EZ, but also the continued socioeconomic regeneration of our town.

#### **Blackpool Airport Investments**

I can update Members with the positive news that a new instrument landing system (ILS) has been installed and is due to be commissioned with full CAA approval in June. Other navigational aids are in the process of delivery to maintain the Airport's operational capability. This is of particular importance to support the core offshore helicopter operations where the prime contractor, Spirit Energy, has indicated their willingness to renew its contract for a further five years. This commitment is great news for Blackpool Airport.

#### **Transforming Services**

##### **Domestic Waste**

I wish to remind members that the collection of domestic waste will be carried out by the newly formed arm's length company of the Council Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as ENVECO North West Environmental Services from 1 July 2019. The company will not only carry

out Blackpool's household waste kerbside collections, but also explore innovative ways to reduce waste and improve recycling rates a part of the national agenda on waste reduction. As Members are aware, the service was previously operated by Veolia Environmental Services. However, bringing it under the umbrella of the Council provided opportunities for greater flexibility operationally and savings. I am also pleased to raise awareness of the fact that John Hawkin, who was previously Chief Operations Officer within Community and Environmental Services, has been appointed as Managing Director. Good luck to John and the new service!

### **Early Years Health Visiting Model Update**

I am sure Members will share my commitment to do everything we can to support children in their earliest years of life. It is the most crucial time. I would therefore like to set out some detail on progress we have made in enhancing our service for very young children, specifically the implementation and delivery of the new model for health visiting services in Blackpool. For the benefit of new Members, Blackpool Council commissions health visiting services for Blackpool from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The new service model includes an increase in the number of universal contacts to eight visits, which include an additional visit in the early weeks of life, a desktop review of progress at 12-15 months and a multiagency contact at three and a half years to assess school readiness. The methods, content and process of all the visits and professional practice have been reviewed and revised to improve consistence, quality and effectiveness. Better Start appointed the Renew team of consultants to support the service design and the Renew team has recently published a progress update report 'The Blackpool Health Visiting Service: Year One' assessing the progress of implementation (February 2019).

The report attests to the good progress that has been made in implementing the new model and commends the positive energy and commitment from everybody involved at all levels in the implementation of the transformation. It makes specific reference to the real and apparent commitment to the families of Blackpool amongst the staff and a continued willingness to engage with the challenges of changes to structures, processes and approach. An action plan has been developed arising from the recommendations and this will be carried forward immediately into the continued development of the service.

### **Adult Services: Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Inspection**

I am delighted to report that the Council's Technology Enabled Care Service, Vitaline, was inspected against the TEC Services Quality Standards Framework in May 2019 and has successfully been awarded the Quality Standard Accreditation. Vitaline is a 24-hour service that supports some of the town's most vulnerable people through the provision of Technology Enabled Care, including a falls pick up service, alarm call and response services as well as being the Out of Hours contact for Blackpool Council.

The inspection measured the services performance against the TEC Quality Standards, which include user safety, response, user and carer experience, continuous improvement and innovation. Discussion with members of the Service User Focus Group demonstrated that the

service is engaging effectively with Service Users to support service improvement. The group feel involved and expressed that they feel 'listened to'. Some members of the group have been involved in testing some of the new equipment. Discussion with the Service Users also verified that Vitaline is highly regarded and many examples were discussed evidencing how the service had gone the extra mile to support both users and carers. I would like to congratulate the team on their work and in securing the TEC accreditation.

### **Adult Services: Personal Health Budgets**

It is with pleasure that I can update Members on an area of practice within adult social care in which Blackpool is recognised as a trailblazing local authority. The Personal Health Budget (PHB) initiative was initially trailed in 2009 and was intended to improve outcomes, increase choice and control and encourage health and social care integration. PHB's can be notional (funds managed by Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)), Third Party (similar to a broker) or a Direct Payment. There are currently 34 people in Blackpool managing their own funds via a Direct Payment and all other Continuing Health Care (CHC) funded patients have a notional PHB.

Patient ages range from early 20's to late 90's, many of whom have complex health and care needs such as Motor Neurone disease, kidney failure, Muscular Dystrophy and serious physical conditions. A high proportion of patients had previously managed their own care via a Direct Payment prior to the decline in their health that resulted in eligibility for Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding. Moving to a PHB means they can continue employing the same assistants or agencies if they wish to and the benefit of our administration practices means we are able to transfer funding in a process that appears seamless to the patient and their families.

The majority of patients have personal assistants providing care. Part of the role of our officers is to ensure they are adequately trained to perform the tasks necessary to follow the care and support plan devised by the patient with their nurse advisor. This includes sourcing training from external providers and liaising with insurance companies to verify cover. The types of tasks undertaken are wide-ranging for personal care to overseeing and cleaning specialist equipment such as cough-assists and dialysis machines.

End of life care works particularly well with PHB direct payments, especially when family and/or friends are involved in caring for their loved one. Career breaks or reduced hours can be arranged in the knowledge that payments can be made for care that may help compensate for a reduction or loss of earnings. This reduces reliance on hospital and hospice services and gives comfort to the patient to be surrounded by people they know.

Access to services via a PHB is estimated to reduce costs to the NHS by around 17% per annum. This does not include the savings made from the reduction in visits to hospitals and calls on other NHS services, or the benefit of less time spent investigating and responding to complaints.



I am very pleased that Blackpool is leading the way in the positive use of PHB's. The Council is committed to continue to develop and promote the use of PHB's as the benefits to patients, loved ones and the NHS are increasingly clear.

This page is intentionally left blank

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (PLACE AND TOURISM) – COUNCILLOR GILLIAN CAMPBELL**

---

The 'Places' area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Neal Brookes (Housing and Welfare Reform)
- Councillor Fred Jackson (Environment, Transport and Climate Change)
- Councillor Mark Smith (Business, Enterprise and Job Creation) and
- Councillor Maria Kirkland (Community Cohesion and Leisure)

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**

**Prestigious Awards for Queens Park and Blackpool Housing Company**

I am delighted to inform Members that two key housing regeneration initiatives in Blackpool have won top prizes at the recent Northern Housing Awards. Firstly, the re-development of the Council's housing stock at Queens Park, with 191 new high quality homes, won the Regeneration Scheme of the Year award. The judges particularly commended the way that residents had been involved in the shaping the design of the new development. The scheme has recently been completed and new residents have now moved in to the final homes. It is fitting that Blackpool Council's largest housing development for decades has been completed in the 100-year anniversary of the passing of the Addison Act that paved the way for Councils to build homes "fit for heroes".

The second winner was our very own Blackpool Housing Company, receiving the prize for the Development Programme of the Year. The Company has now delivered more than 300 affordable homes, building up its stock through many small conversion and refurbishment schemes that each demand attention to deliver the high quality homes that the town needs. As I have previously reported, Blackpool Housing Company is a truly ground-breaking intervention and is testament to the extent of imagination and innovation on the part of the Council. Our absolute determination to use every available means to tackle some of the most difficult challenges we face.

Blackpool was the only place in the North that won two of these prestigious awards. I am very happy that the Council, our staff and companies are now getting the recognition they deserve for the great things we are doing to improve the lives and life chances of Blackpool residents.

### **New Council Homes at Hoyle House and at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside**

I am pleased to report to Members that the construction of 19 new flats, houses and bungalows on the site of the old Hoyle House at Argosy Avenue, Grange Park, is on target to be completed in August. The new Council homes include flats designed to help people with learning disabilities live independently. It certainly looks impressive from the outside!

Demolition of the old flats and bedsits at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside, is about to get underway to enable the construction of 75 new Council homes. Following demolition, the new construction will start in September, with completion of the new homes expected in spring 2021.

### **Start of the Next Phase at the Foxhall Village Development**

We have already witnessed the completion of nearly 200 high quality family homes at the Foxhall Village development. I can now confirm that the third of four phases is about to get underway. This marks the start of construction on the land acquired by the Council through compulsory purchase off Tyldesley Road. I am pleased that the anticipated pace of construction will accelerate as sales have recently strengthened and 40 of the new homes in Phase 3 are to be built for rent Affordable Rent.

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

<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 an FY postcode</b>
Cosy Homes in Lancashire Delivery Partner (Warmer Homes)	Rhea Projects Ltd (Burnley)	1 Year (+ 3 years)	nil value	6	1
Alcohol Exposed Pregnancy Campaign Evaluation	Bluegrass Research (Tyne and Wear)	1yr 10mths	£25,152	12	2
Housing Related Support: 1 - Clare Street 2 - Places for People 3 - BCH	Places For People (London)	2 years	£364,000	Direct award	0

<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 an FY postcode</b>
Tower Stick Repairs and Maintenance	Pendrich Height Services Ltd (Scotland)	4yrs 3 month	Dependent on maintenance requirements	2	0
Detailed Surveys Fibrous Plaster Ceilings	Hayles & Howe Limited (Bristol)	2 years	£243,212.00	3	0
Acquisition & support of ICT system for Blackpool Waste LATCo	Bartec Auto ID Ltd (Barnsley)	5 years (+5 years)	£157,750	10	0
Municipal Buildings - Job Centre Plus Security	Churchill Contract Services (company name change to Amulet after contract award) (Barnsley)	2 (+ 2 years)	£800,000	18	1
Permanent Hostile Vehicle Mitigation - Phase 1	George Cox & Sons (Bolton)	3 months	£212,511	2	0
Financial Services for recruitment agency - Pilot	Danbro (Lytham St Annes)	12 months	£16 per employee recruited	1	1
Retail Leisure Products	Alison Black LTD Sportmax (Hamilton, Lanarkshire)	2 (+2 years)	£75,000	2	0
Vending Machine Supplies	R Hannah & Sons LTD (Skelmersdale, Lancashire)	2 (+ 1 + 1)	£90,000	5	0

<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 an FY postcode</b>
External Legal Advisors	DWF LLP (Manchester)	1 (+ 1 + 1)	£200,000	Direct Award from Framework (CCS)	0
Disclosure & Barring Service	Complete Background Screening (Pontypridd)	2 (+ 2 years)	£7,000	Direct Award from Framework (AGMA)	0
ICT Acquisition of Backup Software Solutions	Assured Data Protection Ltd (Harewood, West Yorkshire)	3	£153,000	Direct Award from Framework (CCS)	0
Advertising Public Notices	TMP (UK) Ltd (London)	1 year (+2 years)	£70,000	2	0
Enforcement Agent Service (Penalty Charge Notices)	Phoenix Commercial Collections Ltd (London)	2 years (+2 years)	nil	4	0
Annual Watercourse Maintenance	Craig Anderson and Sons Ltd (Poulton-Le-Fylde)	2 (+ 2 years)	£40,000	1	1
Opportunity Area - Support to promote better family engagement in education and pupil inclusion	School-Home Support (London)	20 Months	£634,249	3	0
Surface Water Management Plan	Water Saving Techniques (Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland)	2 years	£20,000	1	0

<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 an FY postcode</b>
Manufacturing and Installation of Alley Gates	Fylde Coast Gate Ltd. (Blackpool)	2 years with a 1 + 1 year option to extend	call off as required	5	1
Firefighting Systems Inspection and Maintenance	Walker Fire (Preston)	2 (+2 years)	£50,000	7	0
Opportunity Area - Behavioural Interventions	Behavioural Insights & Sheffield Hallam University (London/Sheffield)	until September '19	£70,000	9	0
Provision of Targeted NEET Support for 16/a7 year olds - including Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Blackpool Council - Economic Development Positive Steps Into Work (Blackpool)	14 months	£189,974	2	1
Sprinklers and Dry Risers – Servicing and Maintenance	FVS Limited (Rochdale)	2 (+ 2 years)	£36,000	4	0
Replacement cremators and associated equipment	Facultatieve Technologies (Leeds)	Until completion - August 2019	£749,698	2	0

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Blackpool Football Club Sponsorship**

It is my pleasure to confirm that Blackpool Council and Blackpool Football Club have announced a shirt sponsorship deal for the coming season. The agreement will see the branding of VisitBlackpool.com and the health campaign, GET VOCAL, adorn the front of the club's first-team and replica shirts. The partnership, which will be in place for the 2019/ 2020 season will

help benefit and promote tourism in the town, as well as providing a platform to support the mental health of the local community.

The logo of VisitBlackpool will feature on the front of the new tangerine home shirt, meaning that the destination message will be broadcast on national sports channels every weekend. GET VOCAL is a public health campaign that aims to improve the wellbeing of residents in the community. It will feature on the new away shirt and the campaign will be promoted at each game through screen and pitch-side advertising. The design of the shirt has been voted for by supporters and will be revealed when the club launches its new kits in July.

### **2019 Tourism Season Off to a Positive Start**

The 2019 tourism season got off to flying start with both February half term and Easter delivering strong growth in visitor numbers. The first Omnibus household survey of the year shows that the number of adult visits between January and April grew by almost 400,000 compared to the same period in 2018. The bulk of the growth was seen in February and April, where exceptional weather gave the resort one of its busiest Easter weekend on record. All of the main visitor attractions showed significant growth in April, with one reporting the highest ever visitor numbers for the period. Encouragingly, the number of overnight stays over the four months almost doubled from 550,000 in 2018 to just over a million in 2019. I am sure all Members will welcome this terrific news!

### **Conference Centre Update and a Welcome Return of the Inner Wheel**

Demand for the new Blackpool conference and exhibition centre is strong with good performance in the form of both enquiries received and bookings taken for 2020 and beyond. Delivery of the new facility is scheduled for late spring next year.

I am very pleased to confirm that one of the UK's most-enduring all-female organisations is to bring its conference back to Blackpool. The Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in GB and Ireland will hold its annual association event over three days in April 2021 at the resort's new £28m conference and exhibition centre. The conference, which attracts around 2,000 delegates, was last staged in the resort in 2008. Founded in Manchester almost a century ago, Inner Wheel is now an international organisation that promotes friendship, service and understanding. Organisers say they decided to look again at Blackpool following hundreds of millions of pounds of investment in the seafront, resort attractions and transport infrastructure, including a revitalised tramway and daily direct rail services to London and other major cities. The Inner Wheel Association Conference will take place in Blackpool in 2021 between 12 and 14 April.

### **Quality Corridors**

The Quality Corridor Highway Improvement Scheme has been extremely successful, with Phase 1 and 2 complete, which has seen improvements and investment to Church Street, Dickson Road and Cookson Street in particular. Phase 3 will begin in July, with £1.6m worth of improvement works to Deansgate, Edward Street, Topping Street and Leopold Grove. The works will be phased and completed by June 2020.



I am particularly looking forward to the planting of more trees, with the ten planted on Cookson Street receiving a great deal of positive feedback. This is part of our recently adopted Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and we will be applying to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund to help further our green infrastructure ambitions.

### **Transport Hub**

Phase 1 of the Transport Hub works to Market Street has been extremely successful, with the second £300,000 phase now to begin mid-July and take three and a half months to complete. This work will see investment into the carriageway and footway reconstruction works. We are delivering these improvements in close dialogue with Blackpool Transport Services and the local taxi association. We are confident that once complete these works will provide an excellent Town Centre Transport Hub facility.

### **Transforming Services**

#### **Success for Homelessness Prevention Funding Bids**

As I explained to Members in my January report, I am determined that we do all we can to address the root causes of homelessness, as well as providing emergency accommodation when needed. I am therefore pleased to confirm that the Council has recently been successful in bidding to Government for additional funding to help address rough sleeping, winning £250,000 from the Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Pathway funds. The extra resources will be used to recruit additional support workers, including specialist support to address addiction and mental health problems. The funding will also enable the opening of additional year round emergency night shelter beds.

### **Working with Partners**

#### **Blackpool Community Sports Awards**

I attended the Annual Blackpool Community Sports Awards took place on Thursday 6 June 2019 at the Blackpool Winter Gardens following over 80 nominations from sports clubs and groups across Blackpool. The event, organised by Leisure Services, did a fantastic job in celebrating individuals, teams, clubs and schools who have achieved sporting success across 12 different categories including volunteer of the year and sports club of the year. I was pleased to be amongst so many worth applicants and a good night was had by all.

#### **Parks and Greens Environment Volunteering Growth and Success**

I am delighted that volunteering in parks is increasing year on year with the Parks and Green Environment Service registering 13,474 volunteering hours carried out in parks in 2017/ 2018 and rising to 29,102 in 2018/ 2019. The Parks and Green Environment Service have been working especially closely with the 15 Friends Groups and Better Start to develop facilities, volunteering opportunities and ranger services in parks. Thanks to funding made available through Better Start, Head Start and ward councilors, we will be employing a new Junior Park Ranger Coordinator in July. The coordinator will be engaging young people with their local

parks and open spaces through fun activities that promote responsible use of parks and develop a sense of ownership for the next generation.

### **Keep Blackpool Tidy Campaign Update**

I am pleased to update Members on the extent of volunteer and community involvement in our Keep Blackpool Tidy campaign. The recent Great British Spring Clean Event was supported with numerous litter picks across the borough. The largest litter pick attracted 40 volunteers from Grange Park area, carrying out five days of litter picking across green open space close to housing developments and included community representatives, Blackpool Coastal Housing and Blackpool Council Street Cleansing team to tackle the more difficult areas of littering in a perimeter dyke system. In addition, five local Primary schools that took part have signed up to the 'Keep Blackpool Tidy' campaign.

Blackpool is the first Seaside town to recognise the [#binforgreenseas](#) initiative with the installation of their unique branded litterbin aimed at reducing single use plastics polluting the seas and oceans. The national launch took place on Wednesday the 5 June on Blackpool Promenade.

As Members may be aware, Public Space Protection Orders on the West side of the tram tracks include for a NO Glass on the Beaches order. This new initiative is aimed at protecting our younger visitors who paddle close to revetments steps in the pools and lagoons where broken glass has been a common source of injury. It is our intention to enforce lightly this new approach with visitors to the beach requested to return bottles and glass to their bags or dispose immediately to the nearest bin.

I am particularly encouraged by the extent of business support and engagement for the campaign. For example, Notarianni Ice Cream has increased their efforts by printing the Keep Blackpool Tidy Logo on their ice cream tubs, increasing their support from last year where they continue to place out the Keep Blackpool Tidy wind sail outside their business on a daily basis. British Gas has also committed to providing volunteers to support the campaign.

As part of this year's campaign, the service has reviewed Fixed Penalty Fines, which have been increased to £150 for littering, graffiti, and fly posting and introduced a new power, which is aimed at littering from vehicles. This Civil Penalty Notice is served on the registered keeper of the vehicle no matter who was driving at the time of the witnessed incident. Street cleansing are working closely with Civil Enforcement Officers from Parking Services who are reporting on a regular basis. A total of 46 notices have been issued since the beginning of this financial year, April 2019, to include 29 for littering from a vehicle. We want all our residents and visitors to enjoy Blackpool, but we will not tolerate littering!

## DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CHILDREN) AND STATUTORY LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICE – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

---

The 'People' area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Kathryn Benson (Schools, Education and Aspiration)

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

I am mindful that significant time has passed since my last report in January. I therefore wish to provide Members with a comprehensive update on the work that has taken place since the OFSTED judgement on Children's Services earlier this year.

#### OFSTED/ Commissioner Update

As Members are aware, in response to the OFSTED findings the Department for Education appointed an independent Commissioner to assess our capacity to continue to drive improvements in social care. The Commissioner was appointed in March 2019 and under the direction from the Secretary of State has been working with the service for the past 12 weeks. The Commissioner and their team have been in Blackpool for sustained periods, meeting with leaders, managers, staff, partners and young people to gain an in-depth understanding of the current picture and the Council capacity for leading and delivering change.

The Commissioner will shortly make a recommendation on the future of Children's Services in Blackpool and share this with the Secretary of State. The outcome and recommendation will be formally reported to the Council when the Secretary of State has considered and made their decision. Alongside the work the Commissioner has undertaken to evaluate our leadership capacity for the long term, the service is supporting ongoing scrutiny and attention around progress toward improvement from both OFSTED, who will revisit for their first formal monitoring visit in late summer, and the Department for Education (DfE), who have a nominated intervention lead for Blackpool.

#### Delivery of our Improvement Plan

Following the publication of the OFSTED inspection report, the service has been working to a nine-month improvement plan, focused on the 11 key recommendations identified. The change management plan runs alongside the activity to support the Commissioner's enquiries. Having delivered on many of the operational actions that were committed to within the first

twelve weeks, the plan is now more strategic and is directed at ensuring that the scaffolding for long term sustained improvement is in place.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

Our improvement plan has been supported by significant additional investment to recruit qualified social workers to the service. The plan has also led to the development of a new service design, which builds on the work already underway prior to the inspection to address concerns about our service to children and families. There is a recruitment campaign running across social media, in sector-focused publications and we have an incentive scheme for staff for introducing friends who go on to work with us. So far, 33 new appointments have been made to permanent qualified roles; furthermore, vacancies and long-term absences in essential roles are now covered by agency staff to ensure that teams are resilient to the current demand.

Key to the delivery of a different way of working more family focused and with more purposeful direct work to support families through change is having the right number of experienced and confident workers in the right places. A demand management plan has been developed, which uses a tool coproduced with Dartington Social Research Lab to ensure resource is deployed effectively to achieve the most impact on outcomes.

We are assured that commitment from the workforce is high. We have not seen significant numbers of experienced staff leaving the service even though there is no doubt those caseloads are higher than we would like them to be now. A commitment to the workforce has been shared with all our staff and is part of our extensive recruitment campaign.

It is fair to say that finding the right staff to support our journey of improvement is a challenge and our teams have and will maintain high expectations for the quality of workers we employ to work with our children and families. It will take time and sustained attention to get to a position where we have the right balance of permanent and agency workers and where we can be confident that the quality of practice across the service is consistently good or better.

### **Performance in Children's Social Care**

I would like to share with Members some key features of the current performance picture:

- Immediately following the inspection outcome the amount of new work for children's social care rose significantly. Over recent weeks, this demand has started to decrease, with lower numbers of referrals being taken by the Council and less child protection enquires being undertaken in April and May than in preceding months. It is usual for a poor inspection outcome to deliver a "shock" to a system in this way.
- Decreasing demand, together with additional investment in and reconfiguration how the front door of children's social care works, has now brought the front-end of the social care system into equilibrium. On average, the amount of work being completed on a weekly basis is at least equal to the new presenting issues that require social care assessment during that week.

- Investment in the service has ensured that the number of children on each social worker's caseload, while still higher than optimal levels for the effectiveness of social work intervention, are not excessively high.
- As at 14 June 2019, there were 579 children in our care.
- The presenting level of demand and referral, assessment and child protection activity being undertaken remains substantially higher than in any similar local authority. For example, the number of referrals taken by the service would need to fall by a further 25% to be close to the upper quartile rate of similar local authorities.
- Even though the total amount of incoming work is diminishing and the total number of children and young people open to Children's Social Care is starting to fall, the number of children in care and subject to child protection plans continues to rise. This is due partly to high numbers of children entering care and becoming subject to a child protection plan (compared to other similar local authorities, although not compared to previous Blackpool rates), but mainly because fewer children are leaving care or ceasing being subject to a child protection plan. In particular, over the past year there have been fewer children stepping down from child protection plans to become children in need or closing to children's social care entirely.
- Audit activity has been intensive since the inspection and has focused on supporting a learning culture, where staff are supported to recognise what good practice looks like and evidence of strong practice is recognised and shared as well as areas for development identified and actioned. Audit activity, which is externally moderated, is showing an improving picture over time. Where themes are emerging for practice development these are contributing to the priorities for action in the improvement plan.

### **Turning Analysis into Effective Service Design**

Work continues to redesign the Council's approach to children's social care, with particular emphasis on enabling more direct work by social workers with children and families, supporting children to remain with their families wherever possible. We are also redoubling the focus of our work with partner agencies to ensure that children and families are effectively supported by inclusive mainstream services and therefore do not require more expensive, specialist services.

The message from comparative analysis of service data is clear: too often in Blackpool, across children's and young people's services and schools, support for children escalates towards specialist, statutory services. Blackpool has the highest levels of social care involvement in the country by a distance. In addition, we also have the highest proportion of students supported in alternative education (pupil referral units), or in special schools. We also have high numbers of first time entrants into the criminal justice system.

Given the level of need in the local population, we would expect to be higher than the national average in our use of specialist support services. However, we would not expect to be such a major outlier amongst other similarly deprived coastal areas. This is not a situation that has developed overnight and it reflects the decisions, behaviours and actions of the Council and its partners over years if not several decades. The Council, local schools, especially secondary schools, the police and health colleagues need to reconsider how we work best together to address the challenges faced by local children and families and to improve their outcomes. This work is underway and partnership improvement is a key objective for the Safeguarding Children's Board. New pan-Lancashire partnership arrangements are being developed, which will support a stronger approach to delivering change to common causes of concern with organisations who span the Lancashire footprint, such as the Police.

### **Youth Offending Team**

In November 2018, the Youth Offending Service in Blackpool was inspected and found to be inadequate. The service has responded positively to the inspection outcomes and across the partnership, there has been significant positive change in support of an improved approach to coordinating and delivering support. There has been a refresh of the Youth Offending Service Board with a clear expectation of participation and engagement and consistency of attendance from members. There is a twelve-month partnership improvement plan, which is built around the new standards that have been introduced in the sector; each standard is owned by a senior leader from across the organisations who are key to effective service delivery including the Police, Local Authority and Probation. At our invitation, the Youth Justice Board provide an independent chair for the Executive and give an informed, but impartial, challenge to progress. A specialist Service Manager has been recruited and has now started in post. Other key posts are currently being recruited to which will support the management of and pace of change to deliver improved outcomes.

### **Transforming Services**

#### **Headstart: Young People Paving Their Way To A Brighter Future**

Headstart is our five year £11m National Lottery Community Fund programme to deliver a whole-town approach to addressing the inequalities that affect young people and the wider community in relation to their mental health. The HeadStart team, comprising apprentices, young people and staff, alongside a range of community partners and organisations are catalysing Blackpool's 'Resilience Revolution', a grass roots movement that gives the whole community a chance to learn more about resilience, put it into practice in their daily lives and crucially, challenge the root causes of the challenges they face.

I am delighted to report that as part of the resilience revolution Talbot Road has been named as the country's first ever Resilience Pathway! Leading from Bickerstaffe Square to the Promenade, the pavement has been decorated with a series of hand-made paving stones. Each paving stone illustrates a resilient "move" – an idea or suggestion - to help young people, their families and friends find a sense of belonging, cope with any problems they may face and find out more about themselves and those around them. Together the 42 'moves' make up the

Resilience Framework, which is part of the wider Blackpool 'Resilience Revolution – a major initiative focused on looking at how to make challenging and stressful situations better for everyone and not just individuals.

Young people in the town conceived and designed the Blackpool's Resilience Pathway to provide a creative way to communicate their passion for building resilience and promote care for everyone within their community. The paving stones were moulded and produced in Amsterdam and laid by John Sisk & Son, the contractors managing the construction of the new tramway development on Talbot Road. A guide explaining the pathway is featured on prominent signage at both ends of the Pathway. The young people responsible for the project set up their own fundraising campaign to turn their idea into reality. With a mixture of donations, sponsored events, fundraising presentations outlining their vision, including one to over 100 members of Blackpool Business Leaders Group, they have funded what promises to be an eye-catching addition to the town.

Individuals are now signposted to a brand-new website, which went live on the official launch day, Tuesday 11 June. The website will provide a further breakdown of all 42 resilience moves and offers advice and guidance for the whole town. People will also find help to new links and read the weekly blog, co-produced by the young people of Blackpool.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Early Years Development: Dad's Conference**

I am pleased to report to Members that Blackpool Centre for Early Child Development (CECD) hosted a national Dad's conference on Monday 17 June, the day after Father's Day, to build on the messages of Men's Health Week. The conference focused on the importance of dads and male role models in early child development, families and wider community life. It also brought together leading national experts in the field of early child development including the conference's chair Professor Paul Ramchandani, University of Cambridge and Mark Williams, author of 'Daddy Blues', to provide a national and international perspective on the innovative work surrounding the role of dads and that of men's mental health and wellbeing.

The Blackpool CECD designed the event to bring together an audience of local and national practitioners and academics to discuss and find out more about what works for dads. The format included workshop sessions, which involved innovative dads' projects as well as a range of speakers. All five A Better Start (ABS) sites promoted the dads work taking place in their areas that are being established across the country, working towards improving family health and fitness, literacy and relationships. The Conference was free to anyone working in Blackpool or in any of the other ABS areas.

## **Blackpool Opportunity Area Programme**

The Blackpool Opportunity Area Programme is a three year £6m social mobility programme, funded by the Department for Education and delivered through a local partnership. The programme is now reaching the end of the second year of delivery and I can share some highlights of progress against all three programme priorities below.

#### Priority 1: Raise attainment and progress in schools

- Primary to secondary transition. Town wide cross-phase curricular planning has now been undertaken, alongside common assessment systems, aiming to reduce the dip experienced in Key Stage 3. The project also funds activities to support transition, such as a transition week where all Year 6 pupils spend a week in secondary school.
- Reading project to enhance systematically the reading abilities of students in Key Stage 3. Research Lead training and Literacy and Leading Learning training has now been completed resulting in named leads within each school. Interventions are underway in all secondary schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU's). Early progression impacts are anticipated following next baseline (post June/ July 2019).

#### Priority 2: Support for vulnerable children and families

- Team Around School. This project is designed to help keep children in mainstream education by providing inclusion and parental engagement workers to support secondary schools. The first cohort has now been identified, with 67 pupils currently being supported.

#### Priority 3: Improve advice and support for young people when moving between schools/ colleges and into work

- Post 16 Transition. This project provides additional advice on Post 16 course pathways to school leavers and parents/ carers alongside targeting students in five secondary schools who are capable of Level 3 qualifications, but are currently under achieving. Led by Blackpool Sixth Form College and Blackpool and the Fylde College, the Post 16 pathways publication is now available and all schools have been supported with GCSE skills sessions.
- Start Blackpool is a bespoke careers platform to promote future local employment opportunities to school and college leavers. The prototype is being piloted in three secondary schools and businesses are being engaged to promote opportunities ready for the full launch September 2019.



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 June 2019

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to a full review of the Members Allowances scheme, undertaken following an all-out local election.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in paragraph 19 at Appendix 5(a).
- 2.2 That subject to the decision of Council, the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly (if necessary).

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Independent Remuneration panel has a duty to undertake a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme and this report is presented following the all out local elections every four years. The Council has a duty to consider the recommendations of the Panel but may make its own decisions.

### 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.
- 5.2 The Panel's terms of reference are to consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 5.3 The Panel also makes recommendations to Council regarding remuneration to be paid to the Chairmen and Non-Executive Directors of Council wholly owned companies.
- 5.4 The Panel has met on eight occasions since January 2019 and has also met with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group in undertaking its review. Attached at Appendix 5(a) is the report of the Panel, including its recommendations.

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 5(a) – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## **6.0 Legal considerations**

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent regulations set out the process to establish and maintain a Members Allowances scheme. The Independent Remuneration Panel appointed under that legislation has a duty to provide the Council with recommendations on its scheme of members’ allowances and amounts to be paid. The current Members Allowances Scheme is part of the Council’s Constitution at this link. <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Council-constitution.aspx>

## **7.0 Equalities Considerations**

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

## **8.0 Financial considerations**

- 8.1 If the proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members’ Allowances Scheme were agreed in full then this would amount to £71,460 for existing positions and £25,770 for new positions to be added to the scheme (Scrutiny Leadership

Board chair, the Chairman and Non-Executive Director positions of the Airport (x3) and the Scrutiny Co-opted members (x4)), which can be met from the contingency budget. If the proposals relating to payments for non-executive chairmen and other non-executive directors on the Council's wholly owned companies were to be implemented then the costs for these would come from the companies themselves, except for those relating to Blackpool Transport Services and Blackpool Airport Group companies.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report of: The Independent Remuneration Panel  
To: Blackpool Council on Wednesday 26 June 2019

## **Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel to advise the Council on the adoption of a scheme of members' allowances.
- 1.2 The Panel was convened under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021). These regulations, which arise out of the relevant provisions in the Local Government Act 2000, require all local authorities to set up and maintain an advisory Independent Remuneration Allowances Panel to review and provide advice on Members' allowances. All Councils are required to convene their Allowances Panel and seek its advice before they make any changes or amendments to their allowances scheme and they must 'pay regard' to the Panel's recommendations before setting a new or amended Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 1.3 We undertake a full review once every four years and have met on eight occasions since January 2019 to undertake this review of the Members' Allowances Scheme and have met with both the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group.

### **2. Methodology**

- 2.1 We were supplied with the following information to assist us in our work:
  - The Government's Guidance on Consolidated Regulations for Local Authority Allowances published in July 2003
  - The Council's current Members' Allowances Scheme
  - A chart outlining the Council's political management structure (both pre election and post election)
  - A calendar of meetings for 2019/2020 (post election)
  - Research on levels of allowances from single tier Councils in the North of England and in the former Audit Commission Group of Councils (mainly seaside towns)
  - Details of Executive responsibilities of the Cabinet Members (pre and post-election).
  - National Federation of ALMO (Arm's-Length Management Organisations) Board Member Remuneration Survey 2016 and a survey update
  - Details of various parental leave of absence policies from Councils, which had implemented such a scheme.
  - Committee on Standards in Public Life - Local Government Ethical Standards Review
  - Details of the Independent Audit Person Workload
  - Statistics for number of Civic Events over the last 4 years

2.2 We also met with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition to seek their views on the level of allowances and other factors including the new scrutiny arrangements.

2.3 The Director of Governance and Partnerships and the Scrutiny Manager attended various meetings to answer questions from the Panel.

### **3. Basic principles – the overall Allowances Scheme**

3.1 In undertaking the review of the Scheme, we were aware of and had regard to the following:

- (a) That following the Local Elections in May 2019, on the whole there had been some minimal change to the positions within the Council's Executive and committee structures, with some minor alterations to responsibilities and reporting lines in the Executive and some changes in scrutiny committee responsibilities. There was also to be a new Scrutiny Leadership Board and we were asked to give consideration to an allowance for its Chair.
- (b) The comments made by the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition at the Panel meeting in April 2019 that the changes to the allowances scheme agreed in July 2015 and the use of the formula utilising the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Living Wage had had a positive impact on recruitment of candidates. It was acknowledged that the decision of Council in 2015 had brought the Council's levels of basic allowance to the northern average for basic allowances for single tier authorities/ former Audit Commission family group Councils ('northern single tier average').
- (c) The Panel also felt that in view of the renewed focus on scrutiny as well as the Scrutiny Lead Member's allowance they were asked to look at, there had been continuous vacancies with the 4 Co-opted Scrutiny Committee Members and an allowance should be considered for these positions.

### **4. The formulae for calculating allowances**

4.1 In 2015, the last time a full review of the Members Allowances Scheme was undertaken we adopted a number of formulae for calculating members allowances, centered around the Joseph Rowntree Living Wage, now known as the Living Wage Foundation ('living wage'). This was in line with good practice adopted by other Councils. It was considered that these formulae were wholly appropriate and should be continued to be used for this review.

4.2 Allowances had been significantly uplifted in 2015 to meet the northern single tier average, prior to 2015 they had been significantly lower than this average. The review should therefore 'test' whether continue to use the formulae ensured that the allowances remained at that level.

4.3 The living wage had been used in the basic allowance formula, which in 2015 was

£7.85 and would rise to £9.00 per hour in April 2019.

4.4 The basic allowance formula agreed in 2015 was based on hours worked per week and an average wage per week with a percentage deduction for public service. (For information, the basic allowance as of 1 April 2019 is £9,551.81). The hours per week had come from a Members Survey in 2013 (completed by 40 out of 42 councillors) and had determined that Blackpool councillors worked on average 25 hours per week. From our research and feedback this figure was consistent with current hours applied to the role and had in effect risen.

4.5 In 2015, we came up with the following formula for the basic allowance and decided to apply the same for 2019. The increase in living wage would be a good factor to maintain a consistency:

Living wage @25 hours per week, less approximately 12% for public service (as was established in 2015).

4.6 To test this figure was still valid we worked out the average allowances for comparable positions across all single tier Councils in the north of England together with those in the former audit commission family group (northern single tier average). This provided very similar results and we concluded that the formula was still valid.

**Table: Level of allowance recommended using relevant formula**

	<b>Formula (all same as 2015)</b>	<b>Formula outcome/ recommended allowance for each position</b>	<b>Comments</b>
		<b>Less 12% public service</b>	
<b>Basic allowance</b>	Living wage (£9.00 per hour) @25 hours per week, less approximately 12% for public service	£11,700 less approx.12% = <b>£10,296 (rounded)</b> <b>£10,200</b>	See section 5 – subject to annual uplift
<b>Leader of the Council</b>	3 x basic	<b>£30,600</b>	See section 9 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Deputy Leader of the Council (x 2)</b>	60% of Leader of the Council	<b>£18,360</b>	See section 9 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	45% of Leader of the Council	<b>£13,770</b>	See section 9 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Leader of Principal Opposition (Minimum of 25% of seats on Council i.e. 11)</b>	Same as Cabinet Member	<b>£13,770</b>	See section 10 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Deputy Leader of Principal Opposition</b>	50% of Leader of Principal Opposition Group.	<b>£6,885</b>	See section 10 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Leader of another</b>	No formula applied in 2015 but one applied	<b>£6,885</b>	See section 10 - subject to annual uplift

	<b>Formula (all same as 2015)</b>	<b>Formula outcome/ recommended allowance for each position</b>  <b>Less 12% public service</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Opposition Group (minimum 10% of seats on Council i.e. 4)</b>	in September 2018. This was the amount would be the same as the Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition Group.		
<b>Chair of Scrutiny Leadership Board</b>	Same as Cabinet Member	<b>£13,770</b>	See section 11 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Chairs of Scrutiny Committee</b>	1 x basic	<b>£10,200</b>	See section 11 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees</b>	50% of Chairs of Scrutiny Committee	<b>£5,100</b>	See section 11 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Scrutiny Co- opted Member</b>	New allowance	<b>£500</b>	See section 11 - no annual uplift, to be reviewed at the same time as Independent Person Standards and Independent Person Audit.
<b>Cabinet Assistant</b>	Same as Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees – as per previous rationale	<b>£5,100</b>	See section 11 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Chairs: Planning, Licensing, Appeals and Audit committees</b>	0.8 x basic	<b>£8,160</b>	See section 12 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Vice-Chairs: Planning, Licensing, Appeals and Audit committees</b>	50% of Chairs of Committees	<b>£4,080</b>	See section 12 - subject to annual uplift
<b>Independent Person Standards</b>	Based on comparable authorities and review of role.	<b>£800</b>	(Allowance to be jointly agreed with Fylde Borough council). See section 13 - no annual uplift but to be reviewed after the Government has responded to the review recently undertaken by the Committee on



	Formula (all same as 2015)	Formula outcome/ recommended allowance for each position  Less 12% public service	Comments
			Standards in Public Life, or within two years, whichever is the shorter.
<b>Independent Person Audit</b>	Allowance did not exist in 2015. Based on comparable authorities and review of role.	<b>£750</b>	See section 13 - no annual uplift but to be reviewed after the Government has responded to the review recently undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, or within two years, whichever is the shorter
<b>Chairs of Council Companies and Chair of Shareholder's Advisory Board.</b>	In line with ALMO Board Governance survey	<b>£5,000</b>	These payments would continue to be paid as a second allowance (where applicable). No annual uplift – review in May 2021.
<b>Other Non-Executive Directors/ Members of SAB</b>	In line with ALMO Board Governance survey	<b>£2,500</b>	These payments would continue to be paid as a second allowance (where applicable). No annual uplift – review in May 2021.
<b>Mayor</b>	1 x 1.25 basic (changed formula from 2015 – see section 15)	<b>£12,750</b>	See section 15 – to be applied from Annual Council 2020 (annual uplift to only be applied from 2021).
<b>Deputy Mayor</b>	25% of Mayor	<b>£3,188</b>	See section 15 – to be applied from Annual Council 2020 (annual uplift to only be applied from 2021) Allowed as a second allowance from date of Annual meeting on 22 May 2019.

## 5. Level of basic allowance

- 5.1 We note that the data showed that the basic allowance as of 1 April 2019 was now below the average for the 'northern single tier average'. However when the formula was applied which included the 'Living Wage' uplift then this brought it to a

comparable figure. As the current basic allowance was based on the Living Wage for 2015, then we considered this to be consistent and not to allow Blackpool's allowances to drop behind the 'northern single tier average' as it had prior to 2015.

- 5.2 We recognise that the basic allowance is an integral part of the overall scheme and that this payment is the only allowance to which many of the Councillors are entitled. We believe that we have strong evidence on which to base our recommendations, which are referenced in this report.
- 5.3 In the meeting with the Leader of the Council and the Principal Opposition Leader both had commented that the level of allowances seemed appropriate following the 2015 review and the living wage part of the formula was a reasonable factor to use and that increases then would be in line with the Living Wage.
- 5.4 Applying the formula therefore brought the basic allowance to £10,296 per annum and the 'northern single tier average' was £10,198. As the average figure had been researched in 2018, it was concluded that a rounded figure of £10,200 would be a recommended basic allowance.

## **6.0 Special Responsibility Allowance**

The basic allowance using the formula agreed in 2015, would be factored to determine other Special Responsibility allowances (SRA). In comparing the resultant SRA figures these all compared favourably with the average our research had shown from 'northern single tier average' for SRA positions in all instances except the Civic Mayor.

## **7.0 Public Service Principle**

This is the principle that an important part of being a councillor is the desire to serve the public and therefore, not all of what a councillor does should be remunerated. Part of a Councillor's time should be given voluntarily. This public service concept or ethos was a key introduction in 2015 to the formulae and we therefore wished to continue to use this.

## **8.0 Fair Remuneration Principle**

In putting forward our recommendations in 2015 we considered those provided a package of financial support which was reasonable and in some way went towards addressing the disincentives from serving in local politics. This was based on our research at the time and speaking with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Principal Opposition Group. By continuing to use the formulae from 2015 we felt our recommendations would continue to assist in this regard. In essence, this meant that the recommendations we made reflected the increases in the 'Living Wage'.

## **9.0 Leader of the Council and Executive Members**

- 9.1 We noted on the list of responsibilities for Executive members following the election that the positions of Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism and Place) and Cabinet

Secretary (now titled Deputy Leader – Children) had amended reporting lines from Cabinet Members who reported to them. The Leader of the Council confirmed that he had appointed them on that basis and in his view held comparable responsibilities and duties, in particular with the priority of the Council on children's services.

- 9.2 We therefore concluded that they continued to be at the same level and therefore in our view should continue to receive the same level of remuneration. It was noted that the Deputy Leader (Tourism and Place) would be the formal deputy should the Leader be indisposed. We also noted that the other Cabinet Members had similar roles and responsibilities as prior to the election. The formulae for calculating the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members allowances used in 2015 also held true in comparison with the average for those positions in northern single tier Unitaries.

**10.0 Leader and Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition Group and Leader of Second Opposition Group**

- 10.1 In 2015, we came to the view that the allowance for the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group should be at the same level as a Cabinet Member (subject to that group consisting of at least 25% of the Council members – i.e. 11 members) and the Deputy Leader of that Group should receive an allowance at 50% of that level of remuneration. In September 2018 we recommended to Council and it agreed that in order for a Second Opposition Group Leader to qualify for an allowance the Group should consist of 10% of the Council members (i.e. four members). As part of our review for 2019, we conclude that these criteria should be retained.

**11.0 Scrutiny Review, Scrutiny Positions and Cabinet Assistants**

- 11.1 We were informed that North West Employers (NWE) had carried out a review of Scrutiny at Blackpool Council in 2018 and made a number of recommendations and comments regarding parity of esteem with the Executive and the appointment of a Scrutiny Leadership Board to oversee the scrutiny function. We were advised that the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board would be high status and have a very important leadership role.
- 11.2 NWE had recommended that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair to be at the same level as the two Deputy Leaders. They would be charged with the task of producing a step change improvement in scrutiny. We were provided with the full details of the proposed Scrutiny Leadership Board roles and responsibilities and chairing arrangements, together with a role profile for the chair's position.
- 11.3 We were also informed that Blackpool Council had a Scrutiny Development Management Committee from 2003 to 2005 and during this time the allowance for the Chair of that committee was the same as that of an Executive Cabinet Member.
- 11.4 We also questioned the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group on the matter. We concluded looking at the responsibilities of the role of Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the time commitment expected that it warranted an allowance the same as a Cabinet Member.

- 11.5 We were also informed that the Council had Scrutiny Co-opted Members who were non-councillor members of one of the council's overview and scrutiny committees, appointed where specialist input is required or where an outside view of the council can be useful in guiding councillors' deliberations. We understand that some Scrutiny co-opted members are statutory and these members will only be able to vote on educational matters which fall within their remit. Such members, also being subject to the elected members' code of conduct, were required to make a declaration of registerable interests and to declare offers of gifts and hospitality made to them in their role as a Co-opted Member.
- 11.6 In reviewing the Members' Allowances Scheme we noted that the Council currently paid no allowance to such positions and had two vacancies out of four positions. We considered comparative data from similar authorities and compared it to the Independent Person Audit role. We agreed it should be paid an allowance but at a lower level than the Independent Person Audit role due to a smaller number of Committee meetings to attend and subsequent smaller workload.
- 11.7 For the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs we considered that the formula applied in 2015 also was applicable for this review (1 x basic). In the last two full reviews we had agreed that the positions of Cabinet Assistants be given the same level of allowance as the Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committees and we agreed that this should continue.

**12.0 Other Committee Chair, Vice Chairs and Cabinet Assistants**

- 12.1 Our research also showed that the formula for Chairs of Planning, Licensing, Appeals and Audit Committees was 0.8 x basic and in checking comparable rates for authorities we believed this to be still applicable. This also applied to the Vice Chairs of these committees who would receive 50% of what the Chairs received.

**13.0 Independent Standards Persons and Co-opted Independent Audit Committee Member**

- 13.1 Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council have shared arrangements in relation to the standards framework and have adopted the same Code of Conduct for Members and arrangements for dealing with complaints of member misconduct. As part of these shared arrangements we were aware that there is a shared pool of three Independent Persons.
- 13.2 The role at Blackpool and Fylde currently receives an allowance payment of £700 per year which was agreed in October 2016 and the cost is shared 50/50 between both authorities. That allowance is not currently updated annually.
- 13.3 In January a review of the current standards framework, the first since the Localism Act 2011 has been undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life to see if the Framework is conducive to promoting and maintaining the standards expected by the public. This report was published in January 2019. The recommendations from this report have been submitted to Government but no response has yet been made.

- 13.4 We considered that this report would have an effect on the role of the Independent Person and would necessitate a further review of the allowance paid for the position. We also acknowledged that across both Councils, the role had become more demanding and there had been no annual uplift. We therefore recommend that the allowance be increased up to £800 but be reviewed after the Government has responded to the review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, or within two years, whichever is the shorter.
- 13.5 We also acknowledged that one area subject to recommendation was the term of office for the Independent Persons and understand that this is subject to a separate recommendation to extend due to this review. (Mr Mozley, also served as an Independent Person for standards and did not attend the joint meeting with Fylde Council Independent Remuneration Panel on these issues and consequently took no part in the consideration of this recommendation).
- 13.6 In June 2017, we had considered the allowance for the newly created position of Independent Audit Person and had recommended Council to set an allowance of £700 which had been based on the allowance payable to Independent Standards Persons but no annual uplift had been put in place.
- 13.7 We considered that the allowance should still be comparable in some form to that for the Independent Standard Persons but acknowledged that the standards role had increased in its time commitment more than the Independent Audit Person had. However, it was acknowledged that it had not benefitted from an annual uplift and therefore should be increased to reflect that. Whereas the Independent Persons allowance for standards was to be increased to £800, it was suggested that the allowance for the Independent Audit Person allowance be increased to £750.
- 13.8 However, as we are recommending the allowance for the Independent Standards Person to be reviewed (i.e. after the Government has responded to the review recently undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, or within two years, whichever is the shorter), then we consider that this should also apply to the Independent Audit person.

#### **14 Payments to Company Directors and Shareholder's Advisory Board Members**

- 14.1 We recalled that Council on our recommendation had agreed in November 2016 that the remuneration for non-executive chairmen of the Council wholly owned companies be set at £3,500 per annum and £1,750 for other non-executive directors but no annual uplift be set and that the allowance be reviewed at this point in time. The allowances for the Chair of the Shareholder's Advisory Board and the members of the Board, which had been brought into existence since that date had also been set at the same level, with a similar review date.
- 14.2 In 2016 we had used the findings of the ALMO 2016 Board Governance Survey, with particular reference to Part 3: Payment methods for Chairmen and Board Members, which compared different levels of payments for these positions. We had believed that this was a fair comparator, giving some recognition of payment for the role and public duty. We had noted that in 2016 we considered that the Chair's allowance

should eventually rise to £5,000 and had recommended an interim figure of £3,500 and the Non Executive directors allowance eventually rise to £2,500 with an interim figure of £1,750 per annum, with a review at this point in time. Neither to be subject to an annual uplift.

- 14.3 We considered further information relating to the skills, appointment and selection process of independent non-executive director positions and independent non executive councillor positions. We are of the view that the increases in remuneration could be further justified by the knowledge that an emphasis was being placed on appointing non-executive directors (NED) with a skill set identified by the Company Board as required, through a competitive process for the Independent NEDs. Each NED had both general and specialist skills that would benefit the company they were appointed to. In the discussions with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group, they also advised that they would try to match estimated required skills and diversity requirements of the Boards when making their appointments.
- 14.4 We were reminded of the legal view that special responsibility allowances for directors of wholly owned 'transport' companies must be paid by the Council rather than directly by the company. It was noted that this would apply to both Transport and Airport Companies. The same amount would be paid whether paid direct by the company or through the Members' Allowances Scheme. In the same regard we also consider that a councillor NED through the company should claim expenses to the value of that agreed in the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme and not to the value of that paid by the Company.
- 14.5 We considered that the evidence base in 2016 was sound, logical and fair and recommend that the Chair's allowance be set at £5,000 with the other NEDs allowance set at £2,500. It was agreed that the allowances be reviewed two years following May 2019.

## **15 Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

- 15.1 In 2012 we had recommended to Council that this position should be remunerated at a lower level and Council agreed that this be the case. In 2015, we again recommended a further reduction which Council agreed. Following the research undertaken again this year and using the recommended formula to calculate the allowance, highlighted the allowance at being over £3,470 (over 20%) above the northern single tier average. We also noted that in the 2018 review undertaken by Brighton and Hove City Council a similar seaside town had reduced its Mayor's allowance by £3,300 as it considered that the level of the allowance had reduced based on its comparable research in the south of England. We were also provided with statistics of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and noted that there had been a significant reduction of 42% in events attended from four years earlier.
- 15.2 We have come to the conclusion that the Mayor's allowance is still on too high a level and recommend a further reduction and a new formula for calculating this allowance going forward (1.25 x basic). However, as it is now some months into this position for the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor and as costs relating to these positions are

mainly occurred at the start of the civic year, we recommend that any reduction in allowance takes place from the beginning of the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

- 15.3 We have also concluded that the Deputy Mayor's allowance be a second allowable allowance. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor was a Councillor appointed by the Mayor and was expected to attend around 25% of events on behalf of the Mayor which equated to approximately 60-70 events. The Mayoral allowances were in place to allow for purchase of clothing and any other necessary items required to attend such events. It was therefore considered that the Deputy Mayor should receive the allowance for the position on top of any other allowance already paid.

## **16 Parental Leave of Absence Policy**

- 16.1 At the Council meeting on 21 November 2018, a notice of motion was passed to request that the Director of Governance and Partnerships to consult with ourselves and report back to a future Council meeting on a parental leave of absence policy for elected members. We considered a report setting out the reasons for the request and examples of existing policies in place at other Local Authorities. The reasons given in the motion for the introduction of a policy include that the role of a Councillor should be open to all, we noted that a minority of Councils were led by women and that only 34% of all Councillors are women. In conclusion we believe that a parental leave of absence policy should be introduced in Blackpool and appropriate adjustments be made to the Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 16.2 Our recommended policy is attached to this report but is based on the following principles:
- A SRA be paid for a six month period for a councillor on parental leave of absence and then it be reviewed (in line with a dispensation being granted by Council if an extension is required, before the end of the six month period).
  - Subject to the dispensation from Council, this SRA can then be extended for a further six months. (SRA also includes councillor appointed NEDs for council companies).
  - Attending a council/ committee meeting terminates their leave as would resigning from office or losing seat at an election.
  - A replacement office holder can be appointed in the above circumstances who would also be entitled to a SRA (pro rata of length served).
  - There would be a 'Paternity' leave of absence for two weeks.

## **17 Payment of Two Allowances**

- 17.1 As part of this full review we considered the current guidance regarding payment of two allowances and noted the exceptional circumstances in which two allowances were currently paid (i.e. Shareholder's Advisory Board and Company Non-Executive Directors/ Chairs). We have also recommended considering paying a second SRA for a member covering another member's absence whilst on Parental Leave of absence and for someone undertaking the role of Deputy Mayor. It was considered that the expectation that only one allowance should be paid should continue, however, where a councillor is appointed to two roles and there is a direct request to do so, then we believe that as a Panel we should consider such a request on its merits.

- 17.2 Such consideration would cover the level of responsibility, time required for each role and the public perception of the additional allowance to determine whether the circumstance warranted payment of one allowance, both allowances or a percentage thereof. We could then recommend Council accordingly.

## 18 Other Allowances

- 18.1 We considered that the 'other allowances' in the scheme were on the whole correct or required minor change or removal and make the following recommendations:

<b>School Appeal Panel Members</b>	As part of our review we noted that in many authorities it was no longer the role of the Independent Remuneration Panel to set rates for school appeal panel members, due to the significant reduction in the number of maintained schools. It is therefore recommended that the allowance for school appeal panel members be removed from the Members' Allowances Scheme, as had been the case in a number of Authorities where benchmarking information had been sought.
<b>Carer's and Dependents Allowance</b>	It is recommended that to ensure the carer's allowance remained in line with the remainder of the scheme that the Joseph Rowntree / 'Living Wage' be used as a basis. The level of allowance is therefore recommended as 'Actual expenditure up to a maximum of the equivalent of the 'living wage'. The rate applicable shall be subject to automatic increase in line with uprating of the 'living wage.'
<b>Bus/ Tram Passes</b>	Recommend no change - the wording to remain the same as the current Members' Allowances Scheme.
<b>Car Parking</b>	Recommend the formal withdrawal of an admin charge for councillors due to the decision in 2015 to not apply it, due to costs of collecting it being disproportionate to the charge.
<b>Mileage allowances</b>	Recommend no change – i.e. continue to use casual user staff rates and this can then be uprated when staff rates are (annual uprating in line with NJC pay award therefore will not apply)
<b>Public and Other Transport</b>	No change.
<b>Subsistence allowances and overnight subsistence</b>	No change.
<b>Accommodation claims</b>	No change.

- 18.2 We also noted that some clarity was required in the list of approved duties and the Panel agreed to remove the following entry, 'Opening of tenders where a member is required to be present' and amend the following by the insertion of the words



underlined, 'Attendance at meetings and events in connection with their appointed position, held outside Blackpool by a councillor in connection with the role for which a special responsibility allowance is paid'

## **19 Recommendations to Council**

- 19.1 The Panel recommends that the new Members Allowances Scheme adopted by the Council arising from this allowances review be implemented from the date of the Annual Council Meeting on 22 May 2019, subject to the provision of the payment of the Basic Allowance from the fourth day after the elections. The principal recommended changes to the scheme are listed below:
- 19.2 That the basic allowance for members should be set at £10,200 per annum and backdated to the fourth day after the local election (Monday 6 May 2019).
- 19.3 That the special responsibility allowances for members should be as set out as recommended in the table following paragraph 4.6 of this report and commence from the current date of appointment for the councillor concerned (except for the positions of Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor).
- 19.4 That the special responsibility allowances for the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor should remain at their current level for the rest of this Municipal year, but be as set out in the table following paragraph 4.6 of this report from the date of the annual meeting in 2020.
- 19.5 That the criterion for the payment of two SRAs be added to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in section 17 and that the position of Deputy Mayor also be paid (if applicable) as an allowed second allowance.
- 19.6 That the 'other' allowances as set out within the scheme should be set as recommended at paragraph 18.
- 19.7 That the Parental Leave of Absence Policy at Appendix 1 be agreed and added to the published Members' Allowances Scheme.
- 19.8 That in relation to mileage allowances, the rate for members should continue to be the same as staff rates and uprated at the same time when staff rates are amended (annual uprating in line with NJC pay award therefore will not apply).
- 19.9 That for clarification purposes the list of approved duties be amended as set out in paragraph 18.3.
- 19.10 That the annual uprating to be applied to the Members' Allowances Scheme continue to be in accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Service pay award.
- 19.11 That in relation to the seven wholly owned Council companies, we suggest that the non-executive chairs should receive an allowance of £5,000 per annum and that other non-executive directors on each company should receive £2,500 per annum. The

expenses for these roles to be in line with the Members' Allowances Scheme. This would acknowledge the level of responsibility required with some deduction for public service. We would recommend that these allowances/ remuneration be reviewed in May 2021.

- 19.12 That in relation to the recommendation above the payments for the Chairs and non executive directors for the Transport and Airport companies be paid via the Members' Allowances Scheme, with the payments to the other companies paid by the companies themselves.

Mr A R Mozley  
Mrs H Hockenhull  
Mrs K Eaton  
Mr G Molyneux

## **POLICY IN RESPECT OF MATERNITY, PATERNITY AND ADOPTION PAY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This Policy sets out Members' entitlement to allowances in cases of a leave of absence in respect of maternity, paternity and adoption.

1.2 The objective of the policy is that insofar as possible the position of Members is comparable with employees of the Council, noting that councillors are public office holders and not employees and do not benefit from forms of entitled leave which employees do.

### **2. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **The Basic Allowance**

2.1 All Members are legally entitled to a Basic Allowance which must be the same for each Member and is payable as long as they remain in office as a Member of the Council. This policy reaffirms the position that all Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of authorised absences for maternity, paternity and adoption.

2.2 However, this policy cannot not override the legal duty under the Local Government Act 1972 for a member to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period unless the Council Meeting agrees by dispensation to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six-month period. If a Member wished to continue on a leave of absence in accordance with this policy then they would have to have a dispensation agreed by Council.

#### **Special Responsibility Allowances**

2.3 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) under the Members Allowances scheme shall continue to receive their allowances in full in the case of a leave of absence for maternity, paternity and adoption. For the avoidance of doubt this also includes all councillor non-executive director positions on the Council's wholly owned companies, either paid direct by the company or through the Members Allowances scheme and also includes where more than one SRA is being paid.

2.4 The Council Meeting, the relevant committee, the Leader of the Council (in the case of Cabinet Members) and the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group (in respect of the Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition Group) as appropriate may, depending on the circumstances, appoint a replacement to cover the period of absence. The 'replacement' Member will be entitled to the SRA on a pro rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment.

2.5 However, there shall be no requirement for a 'replacement' Member to be appointed to undertake the duties of that Member during any period of leave.

2.6 The payment of a SRA during a period of maternity, paternity and adoption leave of absence shall continue for a period of six months;

- unless the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council is prior to the end of that six month period (if the appointment was due for review at that meeting), or

- unless that member is up for election before the end of that six month period, or
- unless the member attends a committee or Council meeting convened under the Local Government Act 1972 (this would signify a return to the SRA role).

Once a member reaches the six-month period of a either a maternity, paternity or adoption leave of absence, they will be subject to a possible extension for a further six-month period.

2.7 Should a Member appointed to replace the member on maternity, paternity or adoption leave of absence already hold a position subject to a SRA, then this would be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel as to whether two SRA's should be paid and the Panel would recommend the Director of Governance and Partnerships who would make the decision taking into account the wishes of the Panel.

### **3. NOTIFICATION PROTOCOLS**

#### **Maternity Leave of absence**

3.1 All pregnant Members shall be entitled to take up to one year's (52 weeks) maternity leave, – or as much of that period as they wish to take (reviewable at six-months in accordance with paragraph 2.7 and a dispensation granted by Council as set out in paragraph 2.2 ).

3.2 The Member must notify the Director of Governance and Partnerships/ Head of Democratic Governance in writing no later than the end of the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth and provide:

- (i) the week the baby is due,
- (ii) the period of maternity leave of absence the Member intends to take,
- (iii) when they want their leave of absence to start; and
- (iv) a copy of the matb1 form.

#### **Ordinary Paternity Leave of absence**

3.3 A Member is entitled to take two weeks ordinary paternity leave of absence if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner following the birth or adoption of their child(ren), and they have the main responsibility for the child's upbringing during the period of leave of absence.

3.4 The Member must notify the Director of Governance and Partnerships/ Head of Democratic Governance in writing no later than the end of the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth, unless this is not reasonably practicable. The Member will need to provide:-

- (i) the week the baby is due
- (ii) whether they wish to take one or two weeks' leave of absence; and
- (iii) when they want their leave to start.

#### **Shared Parental Leave of absence**

3.5 Any Member who has otherwise made Shared Parental Leave of absence arrangements is requested to confirm these with the Director of Governance and Partnerships/ Head of

Democratic Governance who will seek to replicate such arrangements and apply this policy accordingly.

### **Adoption Leave of absence**

3.6 A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to one year's (52 weeks) adoption leave of absence, – or as much of that period as they wish to take (reviewable at six-months in accordance with paragraph 2.7 and a dispensation granted by Council as set out in paragraph 2.2 ).

3.7 The Member must notify the Director of Governance and Partnerships (or in his absence the Head of Democratic Governance) within seven days of being matched with a child and provide:-

- (i) how much leave of absence they want
- (ii) when they want the leave of absence to start
- (iii) the 'date of placement' – the date the child is being placed with the Member.

### **General**

3.8 Any member taking a leave of absence in accordance with this policy should ensure they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible and they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extensions of a leave of absence.

### **Subsequent Actions**

3.9 On receipt of the information, the Director of Governance and Partnerships (or in his absence the Head of Democratic Governance) will within two weeks acknowledge that the period of absence has been noted and take any action necessary to arrange for the appointment of a 'replacement' member.

3.10 The Director of Governance and Partnerships (or in his absence the Head of Democratic Governance) will also write to the Member to confirm the continuation of allowances and until what date they will continue, subject to review.

3.10 If the Member wishes to return from maternity leave earlier than originally planned they should write to the Director of Governance and Partnerships (or in his absence the Head of Democratic Governance), who will provide confirmation that the information has been received and from what date they will resume the responsibilities of any remunerated post.

## **4. RESIGNING FROM OFFICE AND ELECTIONS**

4.1 If a Member decides not to return to office following during their maternity, paternity or adoption leave the Director of Governance and Partnerships (or in his absence the Head of Democratic Governance) must be notified. The Payroll Manager must then be informed within two working days of receiving notification. Allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

4.2 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity or adoption leave of absence and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic

allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

<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>	26 June 2019

## APPOINTMENTS OF POSITIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the appointment of a Vice Chairman to the Appeals Committee and the extension of the term of office of the three statutory Independent Persons for Standards.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend that Councillor Allan Matthews be appointed Vice Chairman of the Appeals Committee to replace Councillor Jane Hugo.
- 2.2 That Mr Mozley, Mrs Broughton and Mr Horrocks the three statutory Independent Persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 be appointed for a further 12 months from 30 September 2019 to 30 September 2020.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To consider the extension of the term of office of the statutory independent persons under the Localism Act 2011 and the appointment to a Vice Chairman position.
- 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 any appointments.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The appointments proposed in this report will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 At the Annual Council meeting on 22 May 2019, Councillor Jane Hugo was appointed as Vice Chairman of the Appeals Committee. The Leader of the Council has asked that Council consider allowing Councillor Allan Matthews to be Vice Chairman of this committee, to allow Councillor Hugo to focus on being Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee, to which she was also appointed.
- 5.2 At the meeting of the Council in March 2016, it was agreed to appoint Mr A Mozley, Mr B Horrocks and Mrs H Broughton as statutory independent persons for standards matters pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 until 30 September 2019.
- 5.3 In January, a review of the current standards framework, the first since the Localism Act 2011 has been undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life to see if the Framework is conducive to promoting and maintaining the standards expected by the public. This report was published in January 2019. The recommendations from this report have been submitted to Government but no response has yet been made.
- 5.4 One area in the report subject to recommendation was the term of office for the Independent Persons and therefore, it is proposed to only extend for a 12-month period to allow Government to respond to the recommendation and then Council can act accordingly. As members will be aware, the three Independent Persons are shared with Fylde Borough Council and the same recommendation is going to their next Council meeting.

### **List of Appendices**

None

## **6.0 Legal considerations**

- 6.1 Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 states the requirement to appoint at least one Independent Person for standards matters.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations**

There are no Human Resources considerations.

## **8.0 Equalities Considerations**

- 8.1 There are no equalities considerations.



**9.0 Financial considerations**

9.1 There are no financial considerations in this report.

**10.0 Risk management considerations**

10.1 There are no risk management considerations

**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 Leader of the Council regarding the Vice Chairman position and the Monitoring Officer at Fylde Borough Council regarding the recommendation for the extension of the term of office for the three Independent Persons for standards matters.

**13.0 Background papers**

13.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Item 7 - Notice of Motions

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

### **a) Fixed Integral Sprinkler System.** Councillor T Williams to propose.

With this Council's ambitions and intentions to build more new homes in Blackpool over the coming years this Council should be taking a more responsible approach to the safety of these new homes especially in regard to fire and fatalities.

In 2018, 334 people died in fires throughout the UK. In the past two decades, Blackpool and its neighbouring areas have also seen some devastating losses through house fires. As well as these tragic incidents there have been many other incidents where the excellent work of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue service has prevented many more casualties and fatalities. Blackpool has the largest number of accidental dwelling fires in the county and it also has a far higher accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 people count of 2.94 against its peer group members.

Data produced nationally and locally shows that where sprinkler systems have been installed in residential dwellings the containment of the fire has been much more effective isolating it in many cases to just one room and thereby saving many lives and reducing serious injuries.

A report has been produced, which provides a detailed analysis of data on fires in premises in the UK in which sprinkler systems were fitted over the period 2011 to 2016. Data was provided by 47 Fire and Rescue Services. The cases analysed amounted to 2,294 incidents of which 1,725 (75%) were in non-residential buildings and 414 (18%) in dwellings. The aim of the analysis was to provide an authoritative assessment of the reliability and effectiveness of sprinkler systems in controlling and extinguishing fires and in preventing damage. In brief, this extensive data analysis shows that sprinklers are highly reliable and effective. They work as intended in 94% of cases and control or extinguish fires in 99% of cases.

Another study shows a person is 22% less likely to require hospital treatment if they are in a fire which is controlled by a sprinkler system. They are also 18% more likely to receive a precautionary check at the scene of the incident. A precautionary check is the lowest recordable level of support for a casualty by attending crews. This data shows that the incidence of harm experienced by those in a fire where a sprinkler has operated is significantly less than when sprinklers are not present.

The cost to the builder of fitting a fixed sprinkler system to a new build average size home can be less than £1,000, which can be recuperated by increasing the price of the property and reflecting the safety of having a fire safe home. When sprinklers are installed there may be significant benefits in respect of compliance with Approved Document B of the Building Regulations 2006 (as amended). For example, the installation of sprinklers can allow

buildings to be built closer together (half the spacing is required) to adjoining premises. This is a major benefit where site space is limited.

Other requirements in Approved Document B regarding travel distances for escape may also be able to be extended and certain requirements in respect of access for the fire service may be relaxed. There may also be the possibility for savings in construction and building cost by relaxation of certain passive fire protection measures and the freedom to allow 'open plan' design in three-storey dwellings and apartments.

Council is therefore asked to instruct the Head of Planning and Quality Control to insist that every new residential build application in the Blackpool Borough from 1 September 2019 or as soon as practicable thereafter must include the provision of a fixed integral sprinkler system. This is the Council's opportunity to help to both prevent the spread of fires and also to reduce casualties and more importantly fatalities.

**b) Free Personal Care for the Elderly.** Councillor Mitchell to propose.

The Council notes that over a million older people in England are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that in light of an ageing population bold changes are needed to deliver a long term funding solution for social care.

The Council believes that it is fundamentally unfair that to access basic care many older people face catastrophic costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, wipe out a lifetime of savings and force families to sell their homes.

The Council also believes that England's care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use.

The Council therefore calls for the introduction of free personal care for all older people in England, alongside a new social care contribution to fund fully the policy on a sustainable basis.

The Council calls on the Government to take the necessary steps to implement such a policy as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Blackpool. The Chief Executive is instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care accordingly.

**c) Members Code of Conduct.** Councillor G Coleman to propose.

At present there is no Council policy relating to what actions should be taken by the Monitoring Officer in respect of a councillor who is the subject of an initial assessment/ investigation into a breach of the Members Code of Conduct when the councillor is ill or has a medical note signed by a doctor.

Currently a councillor may find themselves in a position where they are unable to continue to defend themselves or continue with the process as a result of ill health. This can result in

the councillor having to make a life changing decision when they are not in a fit and proper state to do so.

The Council feels that this is not a satisfactory practice and calls on the Standards Committee/ Monitoring Officer to introduce a policy that provides adequate assurance that an unwell councillor is not discriminated against when they are subject to an initial assessment/ investigation.

d) **Free TV Licences.** Councillor Hunter to propose.

This Council calls on the Conservative led Government to stand by their 2017 Election manifesto promise and protect the free TV licences for the over 75s. Scrapping the free TV licences for the over 75s will hit approximately 6,620 households across Blackpool. This will leave many over 75s of modest means more than £150 worse off and will risk them being cut off from the outside world if they lose their access to the TV. People living on their own, particularly those with severe mobility issues or housebound, will be the ones most penalised by the decision to scrap the free TV licence to the over 75s. The Conservative led Government has drastically cut the funding for the BBC since 2010 and have disgracefully shifted the responsibility and costs of the licence concessions to the BBC. This is in stark comparison to the last Labour Government who properly funded the BBC and ensured all TV licences for the over 75s were free.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with the above concerns and asking the Government to take steps to protect the future of the free TV licences for the over 75s."

e) **Declaring a Climate Emergency.** Councillor Blackburn to propose.

The Council notes:

- That that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

**The Council therefore commits to:**

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030;
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030;
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure that all Council led leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- Request that Council Scrutiny Committees consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across Blackpool, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
- Request that the Council and partners - not least the Council's wholly owned companies, take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- Request that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change convene a Citizens' Assembly before the end of the calendar year, in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop its own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
- Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following four years, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/ 2021 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
- Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;
- Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings,

in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;

- Furthermore, this Council makes clear its fundamental opposition to the practice of fracking. The Council will not allow its land to be used for fracking; and
- Finally, via the Local Government Association, the Council will invite in a group of experts to advise on what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on air quality, modal shift away from private cars, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the Councils activities are sighted on the need to preserve Blackpool's ecological and environmental heritage.

f) **Removal of Free TV Licence to those over age of 75.** Councillor T Williams to propose.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC asking (him) to reverse the corporation's decision to remove the free TV licence offer to those over the age of 75.

The decision to take away this privilege will bring further hardship to those already living on limited funds and will also affect the health and wellbeing of those unable to afford to pay this fee by causing more social deprivation and isolation.

This page is intentionally left blank