

# Blackpool Council

26 January 2021

To: Councillors Burdess, G Coleman, Galley, Hugo, Jackson, Mitchell, Owen, Walsh and Wilshaw

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 6.00 pm  
in Via Zoom Meeting

### **A G E N D A**

#### **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 18 NOVEMBER 2020** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 November 2020 as a true and correct record.

#### **3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

To consider any applications from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

**4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS** (Pages 7 - 24)

To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions within the remit of the Committee, taken since the last meeting.

**5 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 25 - 32)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, February 2021 – June 2021, within the remit of the Committee.

**6 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS** (Pages 33 - 38)

To note the key activities and steps for 2021 in taking the climate emergency forward as Council and town to make Blackpool net-carbon neutral by 2030, and to give an overview of the Climate Assembly process.

**7 WASTE SERVICES AND STREET CLEANSING PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Pages 39 - 56)

To review the performance of Waste Services and Street Cleansing, with an emphasis on headline data, statistics and performance indicators. The report provides a brief outline of the various elements of the services and highlights any current or anticipated issues as well as areas where best practice and good performance is taking place.

**8 BATHING WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021** (Pages 57 - 66)

To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council's statutory and other duties in respect of bathing water management. The report includes a brief outline of the various statutory duties including statistics and highlights areas of challenge and concerns and information on the work of LoveMyBeach and Turning Tides.

**9 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS REVIEW PANEL FINAL REPORT** (Pages 67 - 94)

To consider the final report of the Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Panel for approval to the Executive.

**10 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 95 - 114)

To consider the Workplan, including the report from the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel, and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 14 April 2021, commencing at 6pm.

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477229, e-mail [john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk)

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## MINUTES OF TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2020

### **Present:**

Councillor Mitchell (in the Chair)

Councillors

Burdess	Galley	Walsh
G Coleman	Hugo	Wilshaw

### **In Attendance:**

Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Place  
Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment  
Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member of Community Cohesion and Leisure  
Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

Councillor Mrs Maxine Callow JP, Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration  
Steve Thompson, Director of Resources  
Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications  
John Greenbank, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser (Scrutiny)

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest were made on this occasion.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Committee considered the minutes from the meeting held on 9 September 2020.

Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture, asked that the information provided regarding the Slimefest event under Minute 2 “Cabinet and Executive Decisions” be amended to clarify that although the event had been cancelled in 2020, it had been confirmed for 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Councillor Mrs Maxine Callow, Chair of Scrutiny Leadership Board also asked that the attendance list be amended to include her presence at the meeting.

Subject to the above amendments the Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**MINUTES OF TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
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**3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Committee noted that there were no applications to speak by members of the public on this occasion.

**4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Committee considered the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken, within its remit, since the last meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2020.

In respect of Executive Decision EX42/2020 'Financial Performance Monitoring', Members asked if reassurance could be given that the Council would be able to pass a balanced budget and avoid triggering a Section 114 notice. It had been noted that the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown had led to such a notice being issued by the London Borough of Croydon. Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources, explained that 2020 had been an unprecedented year with a number of financial challenges related to the lockdown. In response to this the Council had decided to provide additional monitoring details to Members, starting from Month 2 rather than Month 3 as had been the case in previous years. He added that in Month 2 the Council had recorded a deficit of £19 million but as of Month 5 this had reduced to £12 million and it was expected that downward trend would continue as the financial year progressed.

Regarding EX41/2020 'The Blackpool Borough Council (King Street No 1) Compulsory Purchase Order 2020', the Committee asked if a tenant had been confirmed for the site. It was also queried if alternative plans existed in the event the site was not developed as office accommodation. Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, responded that there was a process that needed to be undertaken to complete a compulsory purchase order on a property and that a tenant had yet to be confirmed. However he also stated that no work to develop the site as office accommodation would be undertaken until a tenancy agreement was in place, and that if this did not happen then other options could be explored for use of the site.

**5 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the contents of the Council's Forward Plan December 2020 to April 2021, relating to the portfolios of the Cabinet Members whose responsibilities fell within its remit.

Members queried what, if any, Business Loan applications had been received and were under consideration. Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources, responded that none had been received over the lockdown period and only one application was outstanding at the time of the meeting.

In respect of the Flood Risk Strategy it was noted that the Committee would be holding a review panel meeting in January 2021 to consider the draft Flood Risk Strategy.

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Members asked that input from Highways be sought for inclusion in the strategy as part of consideration at this meeting.

The Committee also asked if in respect of the Capital Programme an analysis had been undertaken to determine what resources were required to ensure it was delivered. Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Regeneration and Communication, responded that the resources need to deliver the programme were kept under constant review. It was further noted that the Council would be recruiting a Housing and Capital Build Project Manager to help deliver a number of housing projects contained within the programme.

**Councillor Jim Hobson left the meeting following this item.**

**6 PARKING SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications, presented the Parking Services Annual Report, which provided performance data for Council owned and managed car parks for the year 2019-2020. He explained that the nationwide lockdown had had a significant impact on parking within Blackpool, however there had been a significant recovery during the summer with the lifting of restrictions. This had been followed by another fall in patronage following Blackpool being placed into Tiers 2 and then 3 of coronavirus restrictions. It was also explained that the Council had launched a pay by phone function for paying for parking. Although the launch of this function had been delayed from March to May 2020 by the national lockdown, the application had been successfully launched and was Covid safe.

Members noted that in a normal year the Parking Service would generate a surplus from its income which could then be used to support other Council services. Therefore it was asked what impact not having this surplus would have on funding for Council services. Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources, explained that although budget setting was underway and a number of assumptions would have to be made, the budget confirmation had been moved back into March 2021 so that more time could be used to consider options. Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration, also noted that the Council was restricted on what it could use any parking surplus for, as legislation restricted it for use on infrastructure projects, such as highways.

The Committee also discussed improving the public perception of Parking Services. It was noted that many people did not understand the connection between paying for parking and how that money could be used to make improvements elsewhere. Councillor Paul Galley noted that he had seen a parking machine in the Lake District that had explained how money spent contributed to the local community, and suggested a similar approach could be taken in Blackpool. Mr Welsh replied that he was happy to look at any suggestions for service improvements, however he noted that the majority of car park users were tourists not local residents.

Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, also reported that the Council had prepared a parking scheme for Christmas 2020. It was hoped that this would encourage an increase in usage over the Christmas period.

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**7 TOURISM PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communication, presented the Tourism Performance Update, which provided information on tourism performance in 2020 including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the visitor economy and the measures in place to aid its recovery.

Members noted the importance of coach trips to the tourist economy in Blackpool. The Covid-19 lockdown had resulted in a significant downturn in the number of trips being made to Blackpool and asked what work was being undertaken to restore confidence that the town was a safe place to visit. Mr Welsh replied that restoring consumer confidence was a key objective in the recovery work being undertaken. He added that hotel groups operating in Blackpool had also been worked with to develop marketing material that would encourage tourists to return when appropriate.

The Committee queried what plans were in place for Christmas 2020. Mr Welsh explained that plans were dependent on what Covid-19 restrictions were in place at the time but that businesses were ready to reopen and it was believed that Blackpool had a strong offer for attracting people to the town. It was also explained that a full events program had been planned from May 2021, following the cancellation of most of the 2020 events calendar.

Members also queried if any Council or Wholly Owned Company (WOC) staff were on zero-hours contracts and if so whether they had been furloughed under the national scheme to protect income. Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Regeneration and Communication, replied that to his knowledge no Council or staff employed directly by WOCs were on zero-hour contracts, however some agency staff and those hired for specific events could have been. He also noted that some staff at the Winter Gardens had been made redundant as a result of the impact of Covid-19. Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications, also added that businesses across Blackpool had worked hard to mitigate the impact of the lockdown on their workforce.

**8 BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS**

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communication, provided a report on the operation of the Blackpool Illuminations, including sponsorship and future plans. Mr Welsh reported that it had been planned to extend the Illuminations season until 31 December 2020, however the introduction of a new national lockdown had meant that this had been paused and it was planned they would return if Covid-19 restrictions allowed. However they had initially been a success following a virtual switch on event.

Members asked how it was proposed that the £4m for the Illuminations bid from the Town Deal as outlined in the report be spent.

Mr Welsh explained that work was underway into the business case for money from the Town Deal, but would include details such as improving infrastructure, working with artists on new displays and ensuring a positive impact on the local economy.



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The Committee also queried how lights for the Illuminations were commissioned. Mr Welsh replied that lots of ideas were considered when designing lights for the Illuminations and that there was always scope for doing something different with the lights. An example of this had been the Moon installation in the Tower Ballroom in 2019. He added that the Council was also part of the 'Light Up The North' partnership which allowed the sharing of ideas and the costs of installations.

The development of a commercial arm to develop lights for other local authorities was also discussed. Mr Welsh noted that all the lights in the Illuminations were manufactured by the Council, and this expertise was being used to develop a commercial arm. He also reported that prior to the second Covid-19 lockdown, work had taken place with Crewe to develop lights for them over Christmas.

The Committee agreed that a dedicated review panel meeting would be held in 2021 to discuss in more detail the proposed business plan, the commissioning of lights and the operation of the illuminations commercial arm.

## **9 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

The Committee considered the Scrutiny Workplan report and update on work undertaken by the Active Lives Review Panel.

Members were also informed that it had been proposed that Single-Use Plastic (SUP) updates would be incorporated into the Committee's Climate Emergency update in the future. This was recommended as the SUP action plan had been included in the Climate Emergency body of work being undertaken. The Committee agreed to this change in the method of reporting on SUPs going forward.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Scrutiny Workplan, the work undertaken by the Active Lives Review Panel and the change to SUP reporting.

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 6.00pm.

### **Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 7.10 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Advisor (Scrutiny)  
Tel: 01253 477229  
E-mail: [john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk)

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 February 2021

## EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to the decisions taken.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure that the opportunity is given for all Executive and Cabinet Member decisions to be scrutinised and held to account.

- 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? N/A

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

### 5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Attached at the appendix to this report is a summary of the decisions taken, which have been circulated to Members previously.

5.2 This report is presented to ensure Members are provided with a timely update on the decisions taken by the Executive and Cabinet Members. It provides a process where the Committee can raise questions and a response be provided.

5.3 Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and will have the opportunity to raise any issues.

**5.4 Witnesses/representatives**

5.4.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the decisions taken in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
- Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform
- Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism
- Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change
- Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure
- Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4(a) Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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**APPENDIX 4(a)**

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><b>BLACKPOOL BUSINESS RECOVERY FUND</b></p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree the Blackpool Business Recovery Fund grant allocation policy attached at Appendix A for the distribution of £4.2m of government grant support to the Tourism Sector.</li> <li>2. To note that the scheme offers graduated support based on rateable value or equivalent to businesses that have been affected by the loss of tourism.</li> <li>3. To agree that as outlined in paragraph 6.3 of Blackpool Business Recovery Fund grant allocation policy attached at Appendix A (of the report) that the Director of Resources be able to approve, reject or defer applications for grants and deal with appeals.</li> <li>4. To delegate further changes to the scheme to the Director of Communications and Regeneration after consultation with the Cabinet Members for Tourism and Culture and Business, Enterprise and Job Creation.</li> </ol>	<p>To agree the creation of a discretionary scheme for targeted grant support to the Tourism Sector following the restriction that have been in place since September to be known as the Blackpool Business Recovery Fund.</p>	<p>PH51/2020</p>	<p>2/12/2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism</p>

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<p><b>MEMBER TRAINING PLAN 2020-2023</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:</p> <p>To approve the Member Training Plan 2020 – 2023, attached at Appendix 3a to the Executive report, with effect until 31 December 2023.</p>	<p>In line with the Council's commitment to member training / development, a Member Training Plan is produced that sets out priorities for member development for the current term of office. The priorities inform the framework for the main training programme for members, for the period from 2020 - 2023 (with individual training needs addressed through Personal Development Plans). The plan was agreed by the Member Training Panel on 13 October 2020.</p>	<p>EX50/2020</p>	<p>7/12/2020</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council</p>
<p><b>COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME</b></p> <p>The Executive resolved as follows:</p> <p>Page 212</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the impact of the Scheme to date as set out in paragraphs 6.7 and 6.8.</li> <li>2. To recommend to the Council to agree the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 4c, to the Executive report.</li> <li>3. To recommend to the Council that the reduction applied to working age claimants remains the same as the 2020/21 Scheme agreed by Council on 12 February 2020 and that the main elements and method of calculating awards will be the same.</li> </ol>	<p>To provide an update on the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme since the introduction in 2013/14 and to seek approval for the proposals for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021/22.</p>	<p>EX51/2020</p>	<p>7/12/2020</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform</p>



<p>4. To recommend that the Council agrees to continue to operate a Discretionary Discount Policy to be awarded in cases of exceptional hardship as set out at Appendix 4a, to the Executive report.</p> <p>5. To note at this point in time the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government may still issue changes to the known position for the Pensioner National Scheme. Required changes would be incorporated into the final Scheme presented for adoption at Council on 10 February 2021.</p>				
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<p><b>BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE: ANNUAL REVIEW</b></p> <p>The Executive resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree that Appendix 5a, to the Executive report, financial detailed figures is not public for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as the costings would undermine the Council's position in continuing and future negotiations.</li> <li>2. To note the progress made on the delivery of the Enterprise Zone Masterplan.</li> <li>3. To approve the revised draft Masterplan, with its proposed two phase delivery strategy for further consultation and presentation to the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board and the Local Enterprise Partnerships Enterprise Zone Governance Sub-Committee for approval.</li> <li>4. To note the updated detailed expenditure and income forecast as set out in the revised delivery plan and summarised at paragraph 6.12 in respect of the overall project and the anticipated expenditure to the end of the project in 2041 of £72.6m at present value.</li> <li>5. To confirm the forecast expenditure of up to £19.2m plus associated costs of Prudential Borrowing for the period to the end of financial year 2021/22, to enable continued development of the Phase 1 enabling infrastructure, together with site assembly and preparatory works for phase two which are within the terms of the existing approval .</li> </ol>	<p>This report sets out the further progress in the delivery of the Enterprise Zone, revisions to the Masterplan and Delivery Plan and outlines activity planned for the next twelve months. The still emerging economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the uncertainties which surround Brexit make future forecasting and planning of Enterprise Zone investment difficult and therefore an enhanced risk-based approach to delivery is being adopted for the next twelve months until greater certainty exists.</p>	EX52/2020	7/12/2020	Cllr Mark Smith, Executive Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation
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<p>6. To reconfirm and note the delegation to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to authorise expenditure on individual schemes and property acquisitions within the Enterprise Zone and inter-related airport holdings of Blackpool Airport Properties Ltd (BAPL).</p>				
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<p><b>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 7 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the report.</li> <li>2. To continue to lobby central government (HM Treasury, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Department for Transport, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the demands and new burdens presenting as a result of both Covid and within Children's Services.</li> <li>3. To require the respective directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically Children's Services, Strategic Leisure Assets and Growth and Prosperity and also the 3 Wholly Owned Companies that are facing the biggest impact from the Covid pandemic these being Blackpool Transport Services (BTS), Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) and Blackpool Operating Company Limited (BOCL).</li> </ol>	<p>To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 7 months to 31 October 2020.</p>	<p>EX55/2020</p>	<p>7/12/2020</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council</p>
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# APPENDIX 4(a)

<p><b>SUNDRY DEBT, COUNCIL TAX, HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS AND BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS</b></p> <p>The Leader of the Council agreed the recommendations as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To write off the Sundry Debts for Social Care totalling £11,867.11 outlined in paragraph 6.1.</li> <li>2. To write off the Housing Benefit overpayment debts totaling £28,967.13 outlined in paragraph 6.2.</li> <li>3. To write off the Business Rates debt totaling £557,418.95 outlined in paragraph 6.3 and Appendix A.</li> </ol>	<p>This report lists applications to write off outstanding balances of Sundry Debts, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Business Rates where there is no prospect of recovery or recovery of the debt is inappropriate.</p> <p>The Corporate Write Off Policy states that all Sundry Debt, and Housing Benefit Overpayments over £5,000 and Business Rates over £10,000 must be authorised by Executive</p>	PH2/2021	5/01/2021	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<p><b>REPAIR WORKS TO THE TOWER BALLROOM CEILING</b></p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:</p> <p>To approve the appointment of Hayles and Howe Limited to undertake the repair works to the Tower Ballroom Ceiling.</p>	<p>To seek approval to the outcome of the recent tender to appoint a contractor to undertake repair works to the Tower Ballroom Ceiling.</p>	PH3/2021	5/01/2021	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism
<p><b>BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN UPDATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME - 2020</b></p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:</p> <p>To approve the Local Development Scheme 2020 attached at Appendix 'A' and publish it on the Council's website.</p>	<p>To consider the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) which outlines the remaining production timetable for The Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document and the timetable for the commencement of the review of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy. This document replaces the 2014 Local Development Scheme.</p>	PH5/2021	14/01/2021	Cllr Mark Smith, Executive Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

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<p><b>BUSINESS LOANS FUND</b></p> <p>The Leader of the Council agreed the recommendations as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the application for a Business Loan as outlined in the exempt report to the Leader of the Council.</li> <li>2. To agree that once the loan agreement is signed that the relevant information on the loan be published.</li> </ol>	<p>To consider applications from the Business Loans Fund.</p>		<p>18/01/2021</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council</p>
<p><b>PROPOSED RENT REVIEW 2021/2022</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed to recommend to the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That rents for all Housing Revenue account properties are increased by 1.5% in 2021/22, following rent reductions in the four years to 2019/20.</li> <li>2. That the minimum level of Housing Revenue Account balances remain protected at £1 million, as previously agreed.</li> <li>3. That Housing Revenue Account service charges (as detailed in Appendix 2c, to the Executive report) and that other General Fund service charges (as detailed in Appendix 2d, to the Executive report) are charged as outlined.</li> </ol>	<p>To consider the level of rents and service charges to be charged in connection with Housing Revenue Account dwellings during 2021/22.</p>	<p>EX1/2021</p>	<p>25/01/2021</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform</p>

<p><b>BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 2: SITE ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES PUBLICATION VERSION (Proposed Submission) (JANUARY 2021)</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed to recommend to the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the Publication Version of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document (the Proposed Submission document) (Appendix A to the Executive report) and accompanying evidence base documentation; Publication Policies Map (Appendix B to the Executive report); Consultation Statement including the responses to the representations received to the Informal Consultation Paper (January 2019) (Appendix C to the Executive report); Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix D to the Executive report) and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening (Appendix E to the Executive report) and supporting documentation and give authority for its publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.</li> <li>2. That should the person appointed to carry out the examination consider that the circumstances are as described in s20(7B) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to formally request that s/he recommend any necessary modifications to the Plan to make the Plan satisfy the appropriate requirements and soundness, pursuant to section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Act.</li> </ol>	<p>The purpose of this report is to present to Executive the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Publication Version (Proposed Submission) January 2021 (referred to from this point as Local Plan Part 2) and associated supporting documents including the Sustainability Appraisal (November 2020), Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening (November 2020) and the new Publication Policies Map (January 2021).</p>	EX2/2021	25/01/2021	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation
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3. That the Head of Planning Strategy, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, be given delegated authority to propose minor amendments to improve the clarity of the documentation referred to under recommendation (1) and which do not alter the substance of the document when submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State (these amendments will be highlighted) and during the Examination process.
4. To approve the draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (Appendix F to the Executive report), for consultation alongside publication of the Publication Version of the Local Plan Part 2; that the Head of Planning Strategy, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, be given delegated authority to make any amendments to the Statement of Common Ground where necessary in response to representations received; and to publish the final version as an evidence base document to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2.



<p><b>REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendations as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the one representation received attached at Appendix 4a.</li> <li>2. To recommend Council to approve the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy, attached at Appendix 4b to the Executive report, for the 5 years to 10 February 2026.</li> <li>3. To recommend Council to approve Cumulative Impact Assessment, attached at Appendix 4c to the Executive report, for the 3 years to 10 February 2024.</li> </ol>	<p>To consider the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy and associated Cumulative impact assessment including the recommendations of the Licensing Committee</p>	<p>EX3/2021</p>	<p>25/01/2021</p>	<p>Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change</p>
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**THE BLACKPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL (BLACKPOOL CENTRAL No1) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2021**

The Executive agreed the recommendations as follows:

1. To authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to be known as The Blackpool Borough Council (Blackpool Central No1) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021 (“the Order”) under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by section 99 and Schedule 9 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) for the acquisition of the Order Land being land which it thinks, if acquired, will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the land, and that such development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to achieving the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area, as described in this report.

The seeking of authority to make a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by section 99 and Schedule 9 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) in respect of the acquisition of land and premises within the area (“the Order Land”) edged red and shaded pink on the plan at Appendix 5a to the Executive report, titled Compulsory Purchase Order plan (“the Plan”) in order to acquire compulsorily all interests in the Order Land required to enable the proposed development referred to in this report to proceed.

EX4/2021

25/01/2021

Councillor  
Mark Smith,  
Cabinet  
Member for  
Business,  
Enterprise and  
Job Creation

<p>2. On the basis that there is a compelling case in the public interest to making the Order, to authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including (but not limited to) updating the draft Statement of Reasons as deemed appropriate, the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry;</li> <li>- acquire interests in land within the area subject to the Order either by agreement or compulsorily;</li> <li>- approve agreements with landowners and others having an interest in the area to be subject to the Order setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order including where appropriate seeking agreements effecting the delivery of any part of the development and making arrangements for rehousing or relocation of occupiers.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>ACTIVE LIVES STRATEGY</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendation as follows:</p> <p>To approve the 5 year Active Lives with effect until 31 December 2026.</p>	<p>To provide an overview of the process undertaken to develop the Active Lives Strategy and the content within it, with a view to the strategy being approved by the Executive.</p>	<p>EX5/2021</p>	<p>25/01/2021</p>	<p>Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure</p>

**APPENDIX 4(a)**

<b>APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR AN INTEGRATED HR AND PAYROLL SYSTEM</b>  (This item is restricted by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)	To consider the appointment of a preferred bidder to provide an Integrated HR and Payroll system and all associated implementation, support and maintenance services.	EX6/2021	25/01/2021	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 February 2021

## FORWARD PLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan February 2021 to June 2021, relating to the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Leader of the Council and / or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to items contained within the Forward Plan within the portfolios of the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council.
- 2.2 Members will have the opportunity to consider whether any of the items should be subjected to pre-decision scrutiny. In so doing, account should be taken of any requests or observations made by the relevant Cabinet Member.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To enable the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Forward Plan items.
- 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? N/A
- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
- None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 The Forward Plan is prepared by the Leader of the Council to cover a period of four months and has effect from the first working day of any month. It is updated on a monthly basis and subsequent plans cover a period beginning with the first working day of the second month covered in the preceding plan.
- 5.2 The Forward Plan contains matters which the Leader has reason to believe will be subject of a key decision to be taken either by the Executive, a Committee of the Executive, individual Cabinet Members, or Officers.
- 5.3 Attached at Appendix 5(a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item is contained in the Forward Plan, which has been forwarded to all members separately.

## **5.4 Witnesses/representatives**

- 5.4.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the Forward Plan items in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:
- Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
  - Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform
  - Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture
  - Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
  - Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a) Summary of items contained within Forward Plan  
February 2021 to June 2021.

## **6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 None.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 None.

## **8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS****(FEBRUARY 2021 TO JUNE 2021)****\* Denotes New Item**

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
February 2021	Town Centre Investment including necessary acquisitions to facilitate Talbot Gateway Phase Three (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	1/2021	Executive	Cllr Smith
February 2021	Applications for Business Loans above £500,000. (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	2/2021	Executive	Cllr Williams
February 2021	To agree strategic acquisitions and investments in or adjoining the Enterprise Zone (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	3/2021	Executive	Cllr Smith
February 2021	Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy	11/2018	Executive	Cllr Hobson

**Appendix 5(a)**

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
February 2021	To agree the Community Safety Plan and the priorities within the plan to be addressed by the Community Safety Partnership as identified by the Strategic Assessment (Crime and Disorder Audit)	21/2019	Council on recommendation of Executive	Cllr Brookes
February 2021	To seek approval to carry out a public consultation on a proposed Layton Conservation Area.	3/2020	Executive	Cllr Campbell
February 2021	To approve the Publication Version of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document and accompanying supporting documentation	9/2020	Council	Cllr Smith
March 2021	To review and approve the proposed changes to the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy	13/2020	Council	Cllr Williams
February 2021	Review of Statement of Licensing Policy	14/2020	Council	Cllr Hobson
February 2021	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/2022	15/2020	Council	Cllr Brookes
March 2021	To consider and recommend approval of the Council's Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24	16/2020	Council	Cllr Williams
March 2021	To consider and recommend approval of the Council's Revenue Budget for the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.	17/2020	Council	Cllr Williams
March 2021	To consider and recommend approval of the level of Council Tax for the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.	18/2020	Council	Cllr Williams

**Appendix 5(a)**

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
February 2021	To consider the level of rents and service charges to be made in connection with Housing Revenue Account dwellings during 2021/22.	19/2020	Council	Cllr Brookes
March 2021	To consider and approve adoption of the Council's Treasury Management and Investment Strategies for the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.	20/2020	Council	Cllr Williams
March 2021	Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 – The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a capital strategy to demonstrate that capital expenditure and investment decisions are taken in line with service objectives and take account of stewardship, value of money, prudence, sustainability and affordability	21/2020	Council	Cllr Williams

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Scott Butterfield, Strategy Policy and Research Manager
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	3 February, 2021

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY: PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To outline the key activities and steps for 2021 in taking the climate emergency forward as Council and town to make Blackpool net-carbon neutral by 2030, and to give an overview of the Climate Assembly process.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 Full Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 which committed the Council to work towards carbon neutrality across its services, companies and the whole town by 2030.

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

- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- 4.1 None.

### 5.0 Council priority:

- 5.1 The Climate Emergency cuts across both Council priorities:
- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
  - "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

### 6.0 Background information

- 6.1 This report sets out some of the activity required to address the council's Climate Emergency Declaration in 2021. The primary concern is to establish an approach which provides leadership

across the organisation and town to achieve the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

6.2 Key activity underway includes:

- **Delivery of a Climate Assembly** 40 residents, recruited at random then selected to be representative of the population, will meet to produce a series of recommendations and actions over January and February. The final report and other outputs is due in mid-March. Further information will be made available at the meeting in the form of a presentation by FutureGov, the independent organisation leading the work;
- **Carbon Trust “Roadmapping”** This involves establishing a baseline of emissions across energy use sectors and sub-sectors (e.g. transport; dwelling stock etc) based on Blackpool’s infrastructure, with scenarios outlining various trajectories depending on the speed and scale of interventions. Key officers from the Steering Group have determined which aspects of “scope 3” carbon emissions should be included within the scope for planning purposes. Work commenced in January and complete by May.
- **The establishment of the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership** This is intended to be a high-level strategic group drawn from key public, private and VCFS organisations, and the Climate Assembly, which will oversee and champion town-wide work. An initial membership list has been drawn up and further work will take place following conclusion of the Climate Assembly and Carbon Trust work.

6.3 Supporting activity underway includes:

- **The work of the Climate Emergency Steering Group** Meeting approximately every 6 weeks, and covering all council directorates and companies, the steering group is responsible for delivery and oversight of internal carbon emission reduction activity via an action plan (see Appendix), ensuring the Sustainability Impact Analysis tool is used for new projects, and developing and overseeing funding bids.
- **Establishment of a Climate Emergency Delivery Officer post** The post-holder will be responsible for facilitating activity across the town and council to work towards net zero, including the development and administration of the Climate Action Partnership. Recruitment commenced in January.
- **Recruitment to a Climate Expert Panel** As part of the development of the Climate Assembly, the lead provider FutureGov are recruiting expert contributors, some of whom will be invited to join a panel advising on innovative opportunities and potential cross-sector joint working.
- **An update of the Sustainability Strategy.** We have completed a light-touch update to the strategy so it reflects the target established by the declaration. Note that the strategy

currently only covers council activity (see Strategic Framework Review below).

#### 6.4 Planned activity includes:

- **A review and refresh of the council's internal action plan** At present this focuses mostly on corporate enabling activity, and not large scale transformational change. This will change following the output of the Assembly and Roadmapping work. It also needs to integrate actions being delivered by the Energy and Utilities team.
- **Development of a town-wide action plan** This will bring together the output of the Assembly and Roadmap work with the plans of Climate Action Partnership members. It will be a high-level plan with some specific initiatives and projects, but is unlikely to represent a comprehensive approach covering the remaining 9 years before the 2030 deadline. Further work will be required to deliver this (see below).
- **Strategic Framework review** This is closely linked to the action plan work. By early March, the Roadmapping work will have delivered a baseline assessment of emissions sources across the town. Once we have received the recommendations of the Assembly, the science and target-based actions of the roadmapping work, and the input of the Climate Action Partnership, an exercise will be undertaken to highlight areas where strategic thought and decisions are needed for the medium to longer term. This is likely to highlight the need for various additional strategies, including a town-wide sustainability strategy from which sub-strategies (e.g. Decarbonising Transport, or specific views on aspects of this such as EV's) could emerge. This would need to dovetail with our existing strategy framework, with current strategies being re-considered in light of decarbonisation effectively being a new corporate priority. The Core Strategy review due to commence in 2021 will be crucial in this regard.

In addition, Lancashire County Council is intending to deliver two pieces of work as part of a wider exercise to produce a Greater Lancashire Plan, which aims to set a new narrative for the county and maximise its potential:

- a **State of the Environment of Lancashire** report to update a 1991 baseline and identify further indicators across air quality, water quality, waste, noise, energy generation and use, emissions, nature recovery and transport; and
- a piece of work looking at **pathways to carbon emission reduction**.

It is particularly important that the council shapes and leads this work to maximise opportunities to achieve our own targets.

#### 6.5 Whilst work to date has prepared the ground for future activity, impact on the Council's carbon emissions so far has been limited to those achieved by moving to a renewable source of energy for our electricity. Given that the Council is responsible for just 3% of Blackpool's emissions, it is clear that a step change is needed to deliver genuine progress both within the

organisation and across the town. This will be the focus of work in the remainder of 2021.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes/No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 6(a) - Summary of action plan and progress.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 No immediate considerations, with future funding requirements to be identified following the Carbon Trust work.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 The UK government has set a legally binding target on itself to deliver net-zero carbon emissions by 2050; our target would surpass this.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 No immediate implications.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 A draft analysis has been prepared which considers issues of Climate Justice. This will be developed further in line with the outputs above.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 This work is aimed at both delivering net zero, and also changing the culture of the organisation and town in line with this objective.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Internal - Climate Emergency Steering Group. External – In addition to the Climate Assembly, an open-access survey was undertaken to seek the views of the general public, the results of which are being processed.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.



## Appendix: Climate Emergency Activity as at January 2021

### *Actions completed or approaching completion*

- Switched to 100% renewable supply of electricity
- Appointed Carbon Trust to develop pathways to net zero for the Council and Town
- Baselined Council's total emissions output
- Undertook fleet data analysis and options appraisal for Electric Vehicles and Pool Cars – further work on hold until post-pandemic changes to working practices are understood
- Hosting Climate Assembly and Youth Climate Assembly
- Internal steering group structure in place including WOC's
- Initial interest gathered for membership of Blackpool Climate Assembly
- Included Climate Emergency on standard reporting template
- Approved Sustainability Impact Assessment process for major new projects
- Included 2030 objective in Council's Sustainability Strategy
- Tree Strategy drafted and ready for consultation, and funding secured for 2ha of planting to begin in February

### *Actions underway or planned*

- Delivery of successful ERDF bid (£660k, £440k match from Council, other funding TBC) to deliver a whole place-based approach to increasing community resilience to carbon reduction and a net reduction of 405.6 tonnes of carbon per annum:
  - Retrofit of 120 Council houses on Grange Park estate
  - Build 30 new houses with air source heat pumps for affordable rent
  - Replace gas heating @thegrange with ground source heat pump
  - Eco-coaches to deliver 1-1 support across Grange Park
  - Programme of native tree planting
- Exploring switching street lighting to LED
- Exploring development of a solar farm
- Develop proposals for an Energy from Waste facility
- Develop training materials for staff on carbon literacy
- Report on costs of projects contributing to carbon reduction as part of 21/22 budget cycle, including where possible details of carbon reduction in tonnes
- Review suppliers charter and tendering processes
- Develop and deliver external marketing, promotion and behaviour change approach
- Pan-Lancashire environment work via Greater Lancashire Plan
- Develop Air Quality Strategy
- Proposal to develop roof-mounted solar panels on Council buildings

### *Actions currently on hold*

- Internal staff communications campaign
- Develop and share Travel to Work survey with partners
- Furnish an example "show home" to showcase benefits of circular economy with BCH and B&FC

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	3 February 2021

## WASTE SERVICES AND STREET CLEANSING PERFORMANCE REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To review the performance of Waste Services and Street Cleansing, with an emphasis on headline data, statistics and performance indicators. The report provides a brief outline of the various elements of the services and highlights any current or anticipated issues as well as areas where best practice and good performance is taking place.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To scrutinise the performance of the services and identify any matters for further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

- 3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the Waste and Street Cleansing services.

- 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:

- Request Internal Audit to programme into the annual work plan.
- Refer to external audit.

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

4.1 Priority one - The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.

Priority two - Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

#### **5.0 Report Information**

##### **5.1 Scope of the Report**

5.1.1 Waste Services (*Waste*) and Street Cleansing (*Cleansing*) are two of the Council's main, high-visibility frontline service areas responsible for delivering a broad range of specialist services to the public.

5.1.2 The scope of this report includes all functional service areas within Waste and Cleansing.

*WASTE* - including:

- Domestic Waste (incorporating the Refuse and Recycling Collection Contract delivered by the Council's wholly owned waste company, ENVECO.)
- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), including the Re-use Shop.
- Trade (or business) Waste.
- Waste Disposal Contract (Lancashire Waste Partnership with Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Lancashire Renewables Ltd (LRL)).
- Third Sector Partnerships including Bulky Matters (bulky items collection), Rover (mobile recycling unit) and the Re-New Workshop (electrical repair/refurbishment of white goods and IT).

*CLEANSING* – including:

- Street sweeping
- NEAT (Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team) incorporating enforcement and fly-tipping
- Street litter bins
- Beach cleaning
- Weed spraying
- Graffiti removal
- Alley Gate service and maintenance

##### **5.2 Budget Information**

5.2.1 Waste and Cleansing represent a significant proportion of the annual Council spend. The combined budgets for the two services are in the region of £17.88 million with the Waste budget currently at c£13.96 million and Cleansing at c£3.92 million.

### 5.3 What is going well?

#### 5.3.1 Third Sector Partnership Working

Strong links to third sector partner Calico have been developed and maintained over the last few years, with the Furniture Matters Shop on Caunce Street performing well supplying local people in need of affordable furniture. The shop sells furniture, white goods and an array of household items that have been refurbished, reused or upcycled in the warehouse at Bristol Avenue.

Calico also continues to deliver the Rover service which operates 5 days a week stopping at set locations across the town to help residents recycle their waste.

#### 5.3.2 The Rover Service

The Rover service is a mobile recycling unit servicing those residents with no access to a car, which in some of the inner wards is over 50% of the households.

Rover	No of items	No of visitors	Tonnage collected
15/16	42,075	7,069	114.82
16/17	43,029	7,791	116.9
17/18	46,958	7,770	224.68
18/19	71,261	8,727	249.15
19/20	73,414	6,256	167.78

From April 20 to date Rover has collected 51,133 items with 6,064 visitors and a total weight of 138.5 tons. The Rover service did have a period of suspension due to COVID-19.

#### 5.3.3 Bulky Matters

Bulky Matters is the Council's bulky item collection service in partnership with third sector partner, Furniture Matters who now also come under the Calico umbrella.

The bulky waste service continues to perform to target and increasing amounts of collected furniture are going back out to those in need across the town, through partnership working with the Social Fund.

The service is operated in conjunction through a cost sharing agreement with Wyre Borough Council on a 70%/30% split.

Since January 2020 to date, the service has made 3,680 collections with 8,845 items collected. March, April and May 2020 were all affected by the first lockdown when the service was initially suspended, March collection figures were down by circa 100 collection jobs, April around 325 jobs, and May down by approximately 150 jobs.

Calico also supports the delivery of items to support the social fund. The social fund provides local people in need with furniture and other items to furnish their homes.

Of the items collected 37% have been recycled. Items that are not suitable for re-use or recycling are sent to landfill.

The number of items reused or recycled have reduced over the last year as collections of items have had to of been made from outside the property when the service resumed in May 2020 in line with COVID Secure operations.

An additional vehicle is currently being used to support the service and increase capacity for bookings from residents as it has been remarkably busy since the service resumed. COVID Secure measure have been put in place to ensure continuity of service to residents.

#### **5.3.5 Garden Waste Subscription Service (Green and Go)**

In June 2016 the Council introduced a subscription charge for the collection of green waste. Just over 10,000 properties subscribed and generated an income of £250,000 in 2016/17, which then paid for the resources to deliver the service as well as off-set other waste related pressures.

The Green Waste Service was temporarily suspended in March 2020 due to the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the service has continued to perform well maintaining a strong customer base.

Current performance for 2020/21 is 9,679 customers with a forecast revenue of c£3,87k. This increase in revenue will help to alleviate overspend in other areas of Waste, particularly at the Household Waste Recycling Centre where there is significant pressure.

#### **5.3.6 Envenco Refuse Collection Service**

On 1 July 2019 refuse collection services were taken over by ENVECO, a wholly owned Council company. The launch of the service culminated from an 18 months transformation project to reduce refuse collection expenditure by £750,000 per annum. The transformation project included extensive investment to Layton Depot where the new company now operates from and included a brand-new build garage and workshop, refurbishment of existing premises and extensive CCTV monitoring. A fleet of 17 new refuse collection vehicles together with the latest technology installed will allow the Council to deliver an excellent service to the residents of Blackpool.

There is now a project underway to assess the benefits of further integration of ENVECO with the wider StreetScene depot-based services. There is much in terms of potential benefits to realise from the further integration of the services, particularly around service elements relating

to waste minimisation and communications, operational efficiencies and bin management. In addition to the Service Improvement Programme already being delivered, ENVECO is also planning to undertake various trials and pilot schemes in relation to utilising new technology and different ways of working in order to further raise environmental standards across the town.

Consolidation of the additional waste related services with the wider ENVECO operation would strengthen the overall ability of the company to deliver integrated and co-ordinated frontline waste and environmental services, particularly in relation to Street Cleansing. A wider, more agile and multi-skilled labour pool would assist in being able to flex delivery in relation to the changing environment with regards to local and national challenges, regulations and legislation

#### **5.3.7 Lancashire Waste Partnership**

Following termination of the waste PFI and bringing the waste operating company (Lancashire Renewables Ltd) back in-house, Lancashire County Council carried out a substantial programme of transformation, which resulted in significant savings to the waste operating budget.

As well as organisational transformation, there have been significant changes to the way in which the plants operate and the way that waste is processed. This has resulted in substantial savings.

Waste is no longer processed through a Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) process, instead, waste now undergoes a basic pre-sort process before being mechanically separated and then shredded to produce Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF).

The transport contract, formerly delivered by Viridor, was also effectively brought back under local authority ownership over the last 12 months, achieving further savings for Blackpool and Lancashire.

Perhaps the most significant recent development is the incorporation of the Mass Loss Process into the waste operations. This involves a drying-out of waste process which not only significantly reduces the amount of waste to be treated, and disposed of, but also separates out the organic-rich fraction for use as RDF. Again, this has realised further considerable savings to the authorities.

#### **5.4 Keep Blackpool Tidy**

The Keep Blackpool Tidy (KBT) campaign has been significantly affected by COVID-19 and events have had to be cancelled due to this.

During the first lockdown the request for packs increased as well as residents contacting to get involved and litter pick their local area. The highlight for this year has been the Big Beach Clean, an independent volunteer group who have been supported with equipment for litter picking

and the collection the waste they have picked up.

The focus however remains on engagement with volunteers, and the Council continues to encourage residents and businesses to show their commitment by signing up to the campaign at [www.blackpool.gov.uk/tidy](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/tidy) and pledging their support. Litter action packs are continually being distributed to volunteers across the town to support their activities. To date over 400 litter picking packs have been issued.

## **5.5 StreetScene - Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service**

A review of street cleansing and parks operations was carried out following the retirement of the existing parks manager. In January 2020 both services merged into one operation to form a StreetScene workforce which could meet high demand and expectation for quality services. Covid-19 has interrupted the management team's aspirations for the transition of operations but have still achieved a massive seamless delivery of the service which will have been largely unnoticed by the residents and service users.

The services continued to support and deliver essential services during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the initial lockdown, the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre, the suspension of Bulky Matters and Rover service, together with significant changes to refuse collection resulted in a significant rise in domestic fly-tipping and residents with excess waste. The service focussed on supporting residents with the diversion of resources, particularly in back streets. The service also provided assistance in delivering vital Personal Protective Equipment and food for the homeless through supporting the Council's Corona Kindness Campaign.

Grass verges, wide open spaces, community parks and Stanley Park were maintained to high standards despite the challenge of staff self-isolating. The increase in visitor numbers to the green landscape areas was clear and presented a great opportunity for the green assets in the borough to be put to significant use by its residential population. It can never be understated how important the local friends' groups are to local parks and aid in protecting and supporting the parks and playgrounds throughout the year. In particular, the spirit in which following lockdown they rallied to ensure a safe and pleasant environment was there to be enjoyed.

Although the summer season was largely disrupted, when restrictions were relaxed and visitors eventually arrived, and they did so in unprecedented numbers. This presented a challenge for the service in maintaining standards along the promenade and litter levels on the beach, while ensuring the safety of staff. Street Cleansing adapted by extending service hours, increasing the litter bin provision, and working alongside volunteers.

Blackpool Big Beach Clean and LoveMyBeach groups were proactive working across tide timetables, together with individual volunteers who all can be proud of the standard's that have been achieved. Overall Beach and Promenade areas were managed to good effect, and despite



a national focus on mass populations flocking to seaside resorts, this was achieved with minimal negative publicity around standards of cleanliness.

Litter bin provision across the borough is continuously reviewed to ensure provision meets demand, particularly in locations with high levels of litter generation. A litter bin review has been undertaken specifically around secondary retail location provision, where detailed analysis of behaviour and servicing costs has led to extensive replacement of units, providing greater overall capacity and significant reduction in servicing costs.

- 6% Reduction in overall number of litter bins units.
- 46% Increase in overall litter bin capacity.
- 93% Reduction in the use of refuse sacks. (£4k saving, improved storage of waste, reduced manual handling, less plastic to landfill)
- 25% reduction in servicing costs in year 1.
- 48% reduction in servicing costs in year 2.

Now this has been complete, and there is accurate baseline data for comparison, the litter bins throughout the secondary retail areas have been identified as an ideal pilot scheme for innovative litter bin sensors, where technology will enable real time monitoring of fill levels and software evaluation will predict waste behaviour and create custom collection schedules.

These shopping areas continue to be cleaned on a daily or alternate day basis, depending on the size and footfall in the area. The frequency determines the level of litter migrating to residential streets, which is then cause for complaint. All shops have sufficient litter bin provision and as previously mentioned, capacity has increased where required. Where possible, larger capacity litter bins will be installed into the wider residential areas, along arterial routes as funding and replacement provision allows.

The Street Cleaning service is an active member of the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and was participated in the initial roll out of the Land Audit Management System (LAMS) application, which is a quality inspection system. This enables daily recording of standards around litter, detritus, weeds, dog fouling and litter bin cleanliness. This has been a successful implementation and offers benchmarking against similar local authorities.

<b>Performance indicator – 2020/21</b>	<b>output/score</b>
Percentage of sites classed as acceptable (combined litter and detritus)	98.77%
Percentage of sites classed as acceptable (litter)	98.43%
Percentage of sites classed as grade A (fly tipping)	97.32%
Percentage of sites classed as grade A (fly posting)	100.00%
Percentage of sites classed as acceptable (dog fouling)	100.00%
Percentage of sites where bins were overflowing.	0.00%
Percentage of sites containing bins classed as acceptable (bin structure)	100.00%

Percentage of sites containing bins classed as acceptable (bin cleanliness)	100.00%
Percentage of sites classed as unacceptable (hard surface weeds)	2.68%
Percentage of sites classed as unacceptable (detritus)	0.89%
Percentage of sites classed as unacceptable (graffiti)	0.22%
Percentage of sites classed as unacceptable (staining / gum)	0.00%

The street cleansing service continues to prioritise arterial routes through the town above residential street cleaning, as this is considered an effective and efficient use of resource. This has been more prevalent throughout the period when Covid-19 restrictions were in force, as residents take their exercise and make essential journeys through the town, in contributing to overall wellness by minimising litter migration into residential streets. This has resulted in reducing complaints and helping shape people's overall perception of cleanliness standards across the borough.

Beach management continues to support the vision for a blue flag coast and promote bathing water quality objectives delivering key campaign messages and responding to changing attitudes to litter, particularly plastic and its effect on marine environments. Larger capacity litter bins were utilised during the peak summer season and bins also positioned on the beach. Extension of service hours to accommodate litter bin servicing, particularly along promenade and beach access points, has been implemented during periods of peak beach use to ensure ongoing capacity after hours and reduce potential for full or overflowing bins.

## 5.6 Trade Waste

The service continues to perform well in what has been a turbulent year due to Covid-19 pressures on the business community and service operation. The service has been sympathetic to customers and recognised that this year the Council's focus should be on business retention which will be reflected when business returns to normal.

Contracts with businesses have been flexible to meet their requirements rather than stand firm on contracts signed before the pandemic. Unlike competing services that may have taken a hard approach to fulfilling contractual positions. Prior to the January 2021 lockdown, the service maintained 60% of income generation. This is expected to reduce in the final three months of the budget year, due to uncertainty related to the current COVID-19 restrictions. Retention has increased from those businesses who appreciated an approach to service delivery as well as new growth expected from those businesses who may consider their current provider has not been as flexible to their requirements.

All the commercial waste fleet has now been fitted with next generation software and the latest dynamic bin weighing technology to effectively manage waste collections. Investment in innovative technology allows weighing of customers waste to ensure a reasonable charge is being offered, which reflects the collection, frequency, and disposal charge for each business. The service has also implemented a new back-office system that caters to customer's flexibility

requirements and access to the service where changes to collections are easily administered.

The service provides sale of new and refurbished waste receptacles and the team undertakes refurbishment of bins in-house to avoid external contractor costs. The service also offers customers maintenance of their bins in addition to the provision of collections.

## **5.7 Household Waste Recycling Centre (including The Tip Shop)**

In 2020/2021 the HWRC has had to make significant changes to its operation because of the Coronavirus epidemic. During the initial lockdown in March 2020 the site closed its gates between 24 March and 18 May 2020. In order to reopen safely changes were made to service delivery including the creation of 6 socially distanced customer bays. This differs to the 22 customer bays available pre Covid-19. The impact of this change means a reduction in waste streams available for customers to recycle because of the social distancing measures being introduced.

Consequently, during the financial year 2020/2021 the average monthly recycling figure to date has fallen to 57.5% from a high in 2018/19 74.3%

The Tip Shop has been closed for extended periods throughout the pandemic. Sales of compost and Christmas Trees have been suspended and the Tip Shop currently remains closed. The extended closure has resulted in a reduced total income of only £5K during the financial year 2020/2021. This is down significantly from the 2019/2020 income of £80K.

Despite the national lockdown and other tiered measures put into place in Blackpool the HWRC has opened 7 days a week since May 2020 to ensure residents still have the opportunity to recycle. Previously the HWRC was closed on Thursdays.

Opening hours were extended during the summer period offering an 8:00pm closing time to enable residents to use the facility for longer as the numbers of visitors on site had to be limited. Visitor numbers peaked at 1,400 per day in August 2020. In addition to the extended hours the site was open 7 days a week reintroducing Thursday to site opening hours. The current opening hours since late October have returned to 10.00am - 4.00pm

Despite the longer opening hours visitor numbers have averaged 3,654 per week since May 2020 which is down from an average of 4488 visitors per week in the year in 2019/2020.

A number of Environmental Enforcement Officers have been based at the HWRC. The officers provide challenge to individuals who are bringing Commercial Waste onto the site. The individuals who have been challenged range from the van-and-man operators, small private shop owners and hoteliers.

Commercial activities require the business to have a Duty of Care in place for their waste disposal. Offences for this activity are breaches of Duty of Care, Section 34, Waste Carrier

License breach if they do not hold one, Section 33 EPA Unauthorised deposit of Waste. Collectively these offences carry Fixed Penalty Notices up to the value of £1,000.

## 5.8 Environmental Enforcement

The street cleansing service has continued to take a consistent and measured approach to environmental offences. Waste Enforcement has seen steady progress since the last Scrutiny report and is being delivered by officers from within existing resources.

Enforcement legislation has seen extended powers to issue fixed penalties for offences for minor fly tipping known as Unauthorised Deposit of Waste Regulations 2016, Littering from a Motor Vehicle and Householders Waste Duty of Care. These 3 offences are now included to the table below of what authorised officers are able to challenge on a daily basis.

Enforcement which requires investigation is time consuming to meet criminal evidence standards to “prove beyond reasonable doubt” and experience has shown that without this level of evidence, whilst Fixed Penalties can be issued to alleged offenders, it is not possible to take nonpayers through the courts due to being unable to meet the evidence standard.

Often the evidence that is given at the start of the investigation comes from the general public who are not prepared to stand as witness for fear of reprisal and therefore their evidence is classed as “hear say” evidence and cannot be used in the prosecution process.

The balance between issuing a fixed penalty or issuing a formal warning is biased towards the warning due to the evidence standard required. In addition, the COVID-19 social distancing measures together with staff safety has resulted in far fewer face to face doorstep challenges and resulted in formal warnings rather than penalty notice being issued.

STREET CLEANSING ENFORCEMENT	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019 – 2020	2020/2021 To date
Illegal Deposit of Waste Regulations (2016)	29	15	171 of which 42 FPN's	2303 of which 84 FPN's
Littering FPN's (including littering from a vehicle)	302	387	264	132
Flyposting and Graffiti	3	3	2	0
Failure to produce authority.	27	27	32	4
Failure to furnish documentation.	4	15	2	20

Offences in relation to waste receptacles	5	2	18	0
Offences under dog control orders	14	18	18	6
Record of Intended Actions (RIA)	609	396	421	0
Section 46's	168	15	18	0
Section 34's			32	33
Total Formal Enforcement Actions	1,161	878	978	2,498
Total Fixed Penalty Notices Only	552	467	349	197

In addition to new powers the legislation required Fixed Penalty Notices for littering, graffiti and flyposting to be reviewed offering greater flexibility for local authorities to increase the fines to a maximum limit of £150 with a statutory minimum charge of £65. Blackpool chose the maximum level for these offences whilst maintaining the statutory minimum level if the fine was settled within 10 days.

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic a number of areas were found to have large scale fly tipping present. It became necessary to issue warning letters to significant numbers of residents. "The Stratraq" system allowed these letters to be created and recorded easily which explains the increase in figures for the Illegal Deposit of Waste figures shown in the table above.

## 5.9 Dog Warden Services

The service has remained active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic dealing with over 600 enquiries year to date. In addition to routine operational enquiries the team also deal with more technical enforcement. Along with PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) offences such as dog fouling, they also enforce against owners whose dogs are not micro-chipped. The Council's dog wardens will routinely scan for a microchip from all lost and found dogs which come to the Council's attention, serving notice on owners offering 21 days to avoid prosecution. Following a review of duties and enforcement knowledge, the service has been transferred to Public Protection team where support for the legislative elements is better supported.

	2019/20	2020/21
Dog Warden Enquiries	130	71
Dog Attack Incidents	149	131
Dog Fouling Complaints	454	266
Dog found/Straying.	304	176
Total request for service enquiries	1037	644

## 5.10 What are the main challenges or barriers to improvement?

### Waste Disposal Infrastructure and Policy

An agenda item taken to the Lancashire Waste Strategy at the November meeting on which the Council holds officer and member representation. Work is currently underway to produce a working draft for consultation in Spring 2021 (subject to any further delays as a result of COVID-19 testing and vaccination programmes) at which point Council officers and elected members will have an opportunity to scrutinise and feedback on the strategy.

The main aims of the local strategy will centre around issues like standardisation of recyclable materials, plastic packaging industry reforms (plastics tax), deposit return schemes and food waste – all of which have been consulted on at local authority level. However, adopting the principles of the Circular Economy are also a significant driver in promoting re-use and waste minimisation but perhaps the main focal point is the of the local strategy is to develop a post 2025, non-landfill solution for general waste.

With this in mind, the development of an Energy from Waste (EfW) / Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) solution is emerging as the most likely suitable option. EfW facilities are becoming the preferred option in residual waste treatment both nationally and across Europe. These facilities incinerate residual waste while at the same time producing power to feed into the national grid and produce less harmful emissions compared to landfill. There are already two sites within Lancashire that have been granted planning permission for these types of facilities and Lancashire County Council has already undertaken extensive engagement with potential developers.

## 6.0 Performance

### 6.1 In which areas is the service performing well?

- 6.1.1 Street Cleansing provide additional bespoke services to 11 Wards through ward funding to provide a multiskilled/enforcement officer to proactively work alongside the ward councilors to address local concerns and street scene priorities. This level of service has been successful in meeting the expectations of the elected members and proved that dedicated resources over and above the statutory minimum has a positive impact in the confidence the local community has in services responding to their needs and concerns.
- 6.1.2 Since ENVECO began operations, the company has established robust governance, scrutiny and oversight processes by the Board and has enabled the organisational culture to develop its Blackpool focused approach. The operational performance during this unprecedented and challenging period has been excellent and further initiatives, such as the Service Improvement Programme, including bags to bins and absorbing core elements of the service previously delivered by third sector partners have been realised.

## 6.2 In which areas is the service performing less well?

### Highway Weeds

- 6.2.1 The treatment of weed growth on arterial commuter routes continues to be a challenge and during the first lockdown this service was suspended due accessibility to pavements due to parked vehicles and a reduction in resource diverted to other duties or self-isolating staff. Unfortunately, this meant that an optimum window of favourable weather in which to carryout treatments had been missed. When COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, changeable weather conditions made this more problematic, and the service was finding it difficult to recover with what proves an annual challenge. Success is reliant on conditions over which the Council has no control, such as; wind, rain, warmth, sunshine, parked vehicles and other obstructions. The program around residential streets followed a similar decline and became reactive to complaints only with little or no attention offered to back streets.

## 6.3 How does the Council compare with other authorities in terms of benchmarking?

The Council's Waste Services is an active member of the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). Through this association the Council subscribe to APSE's Performance Networks benchmarking group. This group allows us to compare and benchmark the service with other authorities or 'family groups' (in terms of demographics, deprivation indices, etc.). The next batch of reports will be produced at the end of October 2021.

The number of performance indicators produced are vast and far-ranging. In essence, benchmarked against other authorities, the Council's Waste Services is a good performer (within its constraints) however, in the spirit of continuous improvement, officers are always looking at how to do things more efficiently and more cost effectively.

The main headline indicator for waste is the municipal recycling rate. The Council is required to report waste data into the governments Waste Data Flow System. Recycling rates for recent years are as follows:

Year	Recycling Rate
12/13	39.6%
13/14	41.1%
14/15	39.9%
15/16	45%
16/17	33.5%
17/18	39.7%
18/19	39.6%
19/20	38.4%

Our recycling rate is now at the national average and it ought to be noted that the highest performing Council can count on 30% of their overall rate coming from garden waste. Prior to subscriptions, garden waste only contributed 12.5% of Blackpool's overall recycling rate, which reflects the low number of gardens in the housing profile, but highlights that in all other areas of waste collected Blackpool outperforms most other districts in Lancashire.

Some headline indicators are referenced below:

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
Green Waste Subscriptions	11,413	10,091	10,082	9,677
Bulky Matters Collections	4,673	4,064	4,035	2,779
Missed Bin Collections (justified)	2,444	1,630	504	865
Trade Waste Market Share	45%	49%	53%	tbc
Rover Visits	7,770	8,727	6,256	6,072

#### 6.4 **What are the Council's priorities in terms of improving performance this year?**

- Further develop the volunteer support across the StreetScene environment, supporting local and national campaigns in conjunction with 'Keep Britain Tidy' and 'Love my Beach'.
- To further develop and support the Council's corporate commitment to the self-serve Channel Shift ethos.
- To consider the future development of the Council's wholly owned waste company, Blackpool Waste Services Limited, which trades as ENVECO NW Environmental Services Limited (ENVECO), through the potential to expand its operational base by further incorporating additional frontline waste and other associated operational services delivered from Layton Depot.
- Ongoing support and review of third sector working partnerships in order to create increased community recycling initiatives.
- Ongoing review of the recycling off-take contracts at the Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Continue to support Lancashire County Council in development and implementation of the Lancashire and Blackpool Municipal Waste Strategy.
- Continue to expand the green waste subscription service.



- To work with Lancashire County Council in identifying and supporting efficiencies within the operating company (LRL) and to translate these into financial savings.
- Continue to work with the LGA and the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers in relation to contributing to the national debate in order to drive policy.

## 7.0 Finance

7.1 The 2020/2021 revised budgets for Waste and Street Cleansing are shown in more detail in the table below:

SERVICE	2017/2018 BUDGET	2019/2020 BUDGET	2020/2021 BUDGET
Trade Waste	(163,286)	(140,859)	(146,212)
HWRC	1,094,388	1,089,780	1,145,395
Bulky Waste Collection Service	139,748	43,845	129,874
Waste Plants	273,896	9,561,666	9,202,596
Regular Collections	11,941,419	3,376,019	3,234,588
Bin Purchase	53,078	50,085	50,085
Calico	120,000	105,574	104,532
Waste Transfer Station	184,875	227,238	209,209
WEEE Workshop	58,697	43,067	30,920
<b>TOTAL WASTE BUDGET</b>	<b>13,702,815</b>	<b>13,601,671</b>	<b>13,960,987</b>
Street Cleansing	3,468,997	3,414,542	3,662,353
Dog Service, Alley Gates, Porterage	133,564	131,534	141,286
Winter Maintenance	104,567	105,289	105,289
Pest Control	9,735	12,875	14,483
<b>TOTAL STREET CLEANSING BUDGET</b>	<b>3,716,863</b>	<b>3,664,240</b>	<b>3,923,411</b>

<b>TOTAL COMBINED WASTE AND CLEANSING BUDGET</b>	<b>17,419,678</b>	<b>17,265,910</b>	<b>17,884,398</b>
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## 8.0 Cross Departmental Working

8.1 Due to the considerable spend within these service areas, the Council has fostered a wide range of cross-departmental working relationships and sought to maximise the delivery of value through the development and maintenance of strong connections with colleagues in central support services such as Legal, Procurement and Finance. This leads to closer working relationships with key people in delivering objectives, in key areas such as Communications and Marketing, Print Services and Business Support.

## 9.0 Engagement And Communication

### 9.1 How the good work the service is doing is communicated to residents.

- Direct communications via the Council's website, Your Blackpool and increased use of effective and targeted social media.
- The service, along with the rest of the Council, has made extremely effective use of the various social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, which has been well received by residents and proven to be a very popular medium of communication and information dissemination.
- The service was also instrumental in communicating the Corona Kindness Campaign to all residents across the town through a comprehensive bin tagging exercise.
- Regular conversations with residents through the Household Waste Recycling Centre and the Rover service also provide valuable feedback. Use is made of the Waste Liaison Officer to deal with residents and members of the public face to face. The Council also undertake a varied array of internal and external advertising campaigns.

### 9.2 How does the Council know that the services provided are making an impact and are valued by residents?

Blackpool waste services commissions a bi-annual household waste satisfaction survey, which is used to inform decision making and drive future strategy.

Previous years surveys have shown overall public satisfaction with waste services to be high and the data is also used to inform policy and drive service delivery.

The survey is carried out by the council's in-house infusion service every two years with the next survey to be conducted in 2022.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

**No**

**10.0 List of Appendices:**

None.

**11.0 Legal considerations:**

None

**12.0 Human Resources considerations:**

None

**13.0 Equalities considerations:**

None

**14.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

Details of sustainability, climate change and environmental consideration are contained within the report.

**15.0 Financial considerations:**

Details of financial considerations are contained at point 7.0 of the report.

**16.0 Risk management considerations:**

None

**16.0 Ethical considerations:**

None

**17.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:**

Internal customer satisfaction survey will be undertaken in due course.

**18.0 Background papers:**

None

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Clare Nolan- Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 February 2021

## BATHING WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council's statutory and other duties in respect of bathing water management. The report will provide a brief outline of the various statutory duties including statistics and highlights areas of challenge and concerns and information on the work of LoveMyBeach and Turning Tides.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To scrutinise the delivery of the Council's statutory and other responsibilities in relation to bathing water management, note the performance and highlight any areas for further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the report and provide confirmation that the Council is delivering its statutory duties and other responsible duties and actions in respect of bathing water management.

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

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

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

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

##### **4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:**

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Council has statutory duties as set out in the Bathing Water Directive 2006 (BWD) implemented through the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (BWR) in respect of its four bathing waters which are, Blackpool South, Blackpool Central, Blackpool North and Bispham.

5.2 Following the completion of Bathing Water Management Scrutiny Review in 2013, the Scrutiny Committee is to receive a report on an annual basis, relating to progress on its bathing waters.

##### **5.3 Statutory Duties**

5.3.1 The BWR requires Blackpool Council to erect signage at all its bathing waters providing specific details of the bathing water, the quality of the water and any links for the public to enquire at any time during the bathing season about the quality of the water. In addition, the BWD set stricter standards to be adhered to in respect of bathing waters quality compared to previous directives. These stricter standards were imposed following the 2015 bathing season. Blackpool Council responded to the challenges by forming a partnership with Wyre, Fylde and Lancashire County Councils, the Environment Agency United Utilities and Keep Britain Tidy to take collective and collaborative action to ensure our Fylde Peninsula Bathing Waters are the best quality possible and meet the stricter standards directed by the BWD.

In addition to forming a local partnership, Blackpool also embraced a regional approach to improving bathing waters via the Turning Tides Partnership

##### **5.4 Budget Information**

5.4.1 There is no official funding for the delivery of our statutory duties under the BWR. However, the Council works proactively with its partner organisations in particular the Environment Agency and United Utilities to ensure that any available funding to deliver projects or campaigns is explored. Since 2011, Blackpool Council has been successful in obtaining £160,000 from its partner organisations to ensure that Blackpool and its neighbouring authorities comply with its duties and is proactive in delivery of projects to meet the higher standards set out in the BWD 2006. Unfortunately for since 2017 no further funding has been provided to Blackpool in respect of carrying out its Bathing water statutory duties.

## **6.0 Statutory Duty**

- 6.1.1 Blackpool Council has consistently complied with its duty to erect signage at its four bathing waters, Blackpool South, Blackpool Central Blackpool North and Bispham. The signage provides the relevant information about the sampling point which is used by the Environment Agency when they sample. To date, the Council has not received any adverse comments from the Environment Agency regarding its statutory signage.
- 6.1.2 In addition, Blackpool Council has responded to pollution risk forecasting in order to advise the public against bathing if there is likely to be increased pollution at a bathing water on a set day.

## **6.2 What has changed**

### **6.2.1 Bathing water predictions in 2011**

- 6.2.2 In 2011, it was predicted that seven of the eight bathing waters along the Fylde Peninsula would be poor at the end of the 2015 bathing water season, which would have meant having to erect signage advising against bathing.
- 6.2.3 In order to ensure Blackpool Council and its partners achieved the best possible results, the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership was formed and the Turning Tides Regional Partnership was formed, as it was recognised that more could be achieved to ensure the messages and campaigns to improve bathing waters by working with the wider region.

## **6.3 Governance**

- 6.3.1 The original Governance for the partnerships set up to improve bathing waters and promote the benefits of the beach and bathing waters is detailed at Appendix 8(a). During 2021 the Fylde Peninsula Partnership will review the communications and action plan to continue to improve bathing waters.

## **6.4 Challenges**

- 6.4.1 The most significant challenges to bathing waters are described below in respect of source pollution, however Blackpool also needs to provide the resources to work in partnership and expand the knowledge base.

In respect of the latter, during 2020 officers will be trained and upskilled to continue the work to maintain bathing water standards



## 6.5 Source pollution

- 6.5.1 Outfall sewers – United Utilities have invested in providing long sea outfalls in the South of Blackpool at Harrowside and at Anchorsholme in the North and the impact of this change continues to be monitored. United Utilities have been asked to provide an update on the impact of this investment.
- 6.5.2 Animals – animal waste in particularly from areas of salt marsh grazing on the river Ribble are regularly reported and the council erects warning signs to prevent bathing during this type of pollution risk forecast. This will continue to be a challenge in maintaining standards.
- 6.5.3 Dogs and Birds – Work has continued to monitor the impact of pollution from dogs and birds. Public space protection orders are in place during the bathing season. In respect of birds, Blackpool was asked to explore the impact of the starlings and this exercise found that because of the relationship with starlings presence and the bathing season they have little impact as a source of pollution. Gulls however do present a pollution risk to bathing waters.
- 6.5.4 Surface water run off continues to be monitored by Blackpool and the Environment Agency as a source of pollution. This is a challenge particularly during busy periods.
- 6.5.5 Misconnections – Blackpool together with its partners the Environment Agency and United Utilities continue to investigate and enforce on any misconnections or pollution directly to sea from piped sources.

## 6.6 Turning Tides

- 6.6.1 Since 2012 £800,000 has been invested into Turning Tides and the associated LOVEmyBEACH campaigns by United Utilities and the Environment Agency. This has resulted in a fully collaborative approach from stakeholders to improve the regions bathing waters. The investment continued in 2020 despite the restrictions.



- 6.6.2 The Authorities in the North west are utilising the expertise of Blackpool's public health department to promote an active coast, this will continue in 2020.
- 6.6.3 The vision and future for turning tides continues as described in the Partnership Evolution below.



#### 6.6.4 **LOVEmyBEACH and Fylde BeachCare**

The LOVEmyBEACH campaign is managed by Keep Britain Tidy and supported by all local authorities across the North West coast.

Fylde BeachCare is the 'on the ground' element of LOVEmyBEACH; advising groups within the community how they can assist with positive changes to bathing water quality and beach cleanliness. This service links in with Blackpool's street and beach cleaning services and beach patrol.

#### 6.7 **Results at the end of 2020**

- 6.7.1 As a result of the Covid -19 pandemic, the Environment Agency were unable to take the mandatory samples they usually take prior to the bathing water season commencing in mid May 2020 and that are required during the 2020 bathing season

to provide the classification as described by the bathing water directive. Some samples were taken at priority bathing waters, but this was limited to Blackpool North.

- 6.7.2 The Environment Agency announced in November 2020 that they would use the 2019 results to classify the 2020 bathing waters which means that there is no change to the results previously report for the four Blackpool bathing waters.

## **6.8 Short Term Pollution and pollution Risk Forecasting**

- 6.8.1 Whilst Blackpool Council were aware that sampling was not being taken during the 2020 bathing season, the Council continued to apply short term pollution signage at bathing waters when rainfall is expected to be heavy potentially reducing the bathing water quality for short timescales. The advantage is that the public receive additional advice about quality and results can be discounted for providing this advice.
- 6.8.2 Blackpool Council continued to apply pollution risk forecasting signage at bathing waters when pollution events were expected or known to potentially reduce bathing water quality. In normal circumstances results can be discounted for providing this advice, however as reported above sampling was suspended during 2020. It was important to continue to advise to provide the health advice to bathers.

## **6.9 Awards**

- 6.9.1 The results from the 2020 bathing water season mean that Blackpool have again been able to apply for Seaside Awards for Blackpool Central, Blackpool North and Bispham.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 8(a) – Partnerships Governance Arrangements

## **7.0 Legal considerations:**

- 7.1 None

## **8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 8.1 Blackpool Council needs to retain the expertise and resource to deliver the statutory duties in respect of bathing waters and ensure it works with its partners in developing and implementing the action plan to maintain the quality of the bathing

water. The expertise in this area needs to be expanded and include upskilling officers so that the Council remains resilient.

**9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Financial considerations:**

10.1 Funding by partners to Blackpool Council and the Turning Tides Partnership is required to ensure standards continue to be met and campaigns to raise awareness.

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 Failure to implement the statutory duties could lead to action from the Environment Agency against Blackpool Council and failure of the bathing water standards resulting in Blackpool having to erect signs advising residents and visitors against bathing in our waters.

**12.0 Ethical considerations:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

The Council is working with partners, such as part of the Turning Tides Partnership, to ensure bathing water quality and their sustainability.

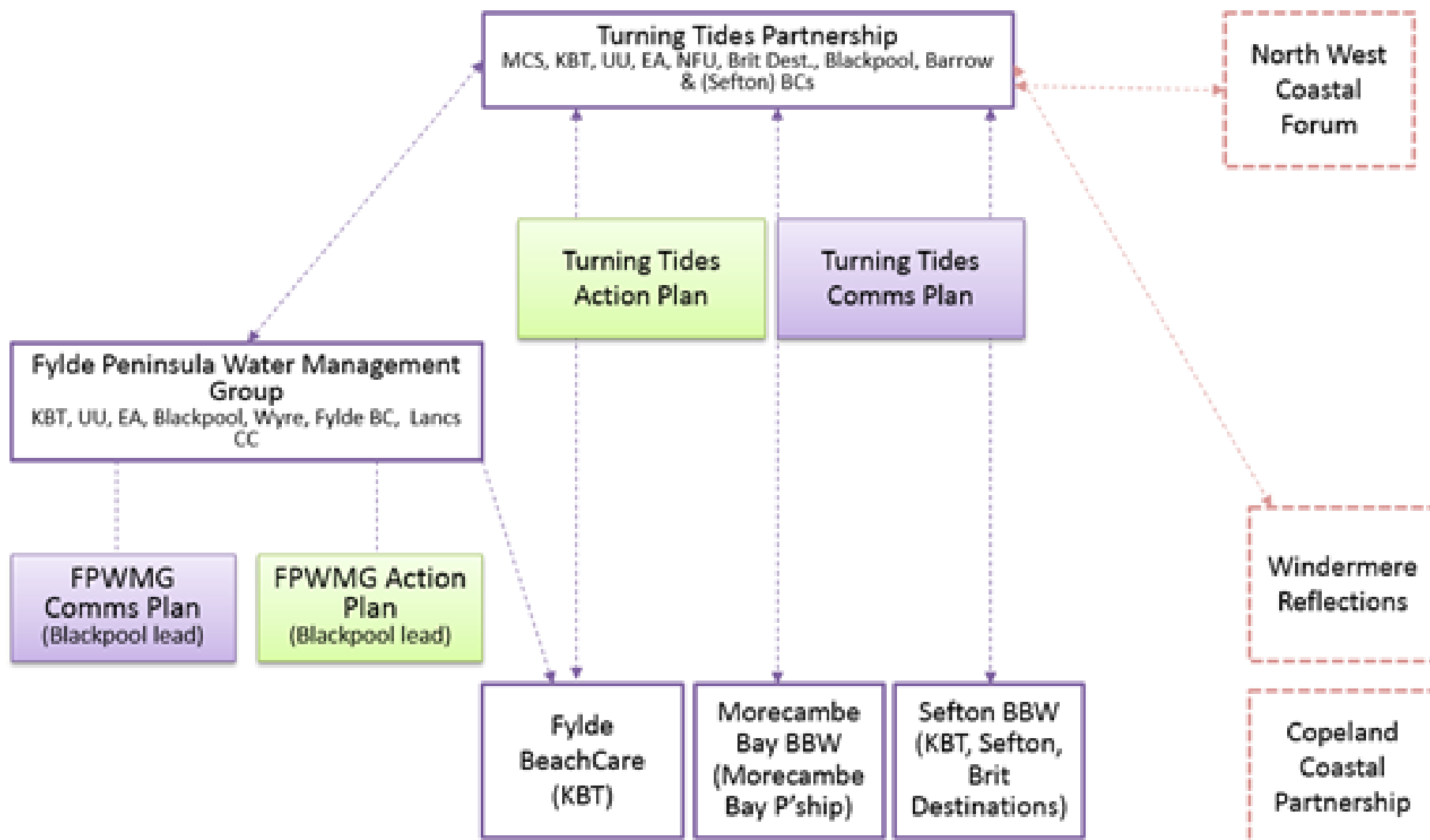
**14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

14.1 Blackpool Council chairs both the Turning Tides Partnership and the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership and are now the lead representatives for the Local Government Association (LGA) Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG) at the National Bathing Waters communications forum.

**15.0 Background papers:**

15.1 None

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**Report to:** **TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:** Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

**Date of Meeting:** 3 February 2021

## **HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL FINAL REPORT**

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

1.1 To consider the final report of the Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Panel.

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

2.1 To approve the final report of the scrutiny review of Housing and Homelessness for submission to the Executive.

2.2 To monitor the implementation of the report's recommendations/actions.

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

3.1 To review the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review prior to further approval by the Executive.

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

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The review's final report cuts across both Council priorities:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

## **5.0 Background Information**

At its Workplanning Workshop in July 2020 the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee identified the Housing and Homelessness as an important area requiring scrutiny. As a result, Committee Members were invited to join a Review Panel to undertake a scrutiny review of the issue.

The review held its meetings between September 2019 and December 2020. While it had been planned to conclude the review in spring 2020, the COVID-19 lockdown had resulted in an amending of the panel's scoping document to address the impact of the restrictions on the Homelessness.

The findings and resulting recommendations from the review are contained within the final report for consideration and approval by the Committee, following which the report will be submitted to the Executive for approval.

Once approved, the TEC Scrutiny Committee will monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

## **5.6 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 9(a) – Draft Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Final Report

## **6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

## **8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

## **9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

## **10.0 Risk management considerations:**



10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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# Blackpool Council



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## **HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SCRUTINY REVIEW**

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## 1.0 Foreword

- 1.1 As scrutineers we realised we were undertaking our work against a backdrop of social deprivation and hardship with Blackpool having the worst health indicators in England. Our interest in housing and homelessness was multifaceted as we sought to enhance the protection of the vulnerable and the provision of opportunity for the aspirational. We were especially interested in the plight of rough sleepers, the journey of the homeless through the system and the roles of the private and voluntary sectors. We hope our analysis and conclusions give fresh impetus to the battle against homelessness and deprivation in housing.
- 1.2 I would like to extend the thanks of the review panel to all those who have taken part in the review process, including Council officers and witnesses from partner and charitable organisations. Their insight and knowledge of the issues investigated by the review has been invaluable in developing our final recommendations.
- 1.3 I also want to thank my fellow scrutiny members for their positive attitude throughout and I particularly commend our Scrutiny Adviser, John Greenbank.

Councillor Martin Mitchell  
Chairman, Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review



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## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 As part of its workplanning workshop for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year the Tourism, Economy and Communities (TEC) Scrutiny Committee identified housing and homelessness as an issue for review.
- 2.2 Housing and homelessness were considered significant issues facing Blackpool. In spring 2018, Full Council had agreed a Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy in response to the housing issues and Members wished to review what impact these had had and what other work was being undertaken to address these issues.
- 2.3 Following the workshop the Scrutiny Committee agreed on 19 June 2020 to undertake the review and nominations were sought for Members to sit on the Review Panel.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Review Panel comprised of Councillors;
- Martin Mitchell
  - Paul Galley
  - Jane Hugo
  - Gerard Walsh
  - Paul Wilshaw
- 2.5 Councillor Mitchell was appointed as Chair for the Review Panel.
- 2.6 The review was supported by John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny) who was in attendance at every meeting.
- 2.7 This review relates to the following priorities of the Council:
- Priority One – The Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
- Priority Two – Our Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

### 3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 The Panel held a meeting on 23 September 2019 to agree the scope of the review and discuss potential avenues of enquiry. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Welfare Reform, Councillor Neal Brookes, also attended this meeting to discuss some of the housing and homelessness issues facing the Council and provide comment on the proposed scope.
- 3.2 Following agreement of the review's scope Members determined that they should hold meetings covering the following subjects;
- Rough Sleeping
  - The role of the Private Sector, including Blackpool Housing Company Ltd
  - The Journey of the Homeless when encountering Council services
  - The impact of Universal Credit
  - Non-Council homelessness services, including Fulfilling Lives
- 3.3 It was also agreed that once sufficient evidence had been gathered then a meeting should be held with Councillor Brookes and the corporate leadership team member responsible for housing to discuss potential recommendations.
- 3.4 It had originally been intended that the review would conclude in Spring 2020. However the advent of the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent national lockdown announced on 23 March 2020 caused the remaining meetings of the review to be postponed until the autumn of 2020.
- 3.5 Details of the meetings are held as follows:

Date	Attendees	Purpose
23/09/2019	Councillors Mitchell, Galley, Hugo, Walsh, Wilshaw  Councillor Neal Brookes – Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform  Mr Andy Foot – Head of Housing	Scoping Meeting
30/10/2019	Councillors Mitchell, Galley, Hugo, Walsh, Wilshaw  Mr Andy Foot – Head of Housing, Vikki Piper, Housing Options Manager Tim Cogan, Head of Public Protection  Antony Ryan, Client, Fulfilling Lives Heidi Church, Navigator, Fulfilling Lives	To discuss rough sleeping in Blackpool and hear evidence from an individual with lived experience of the issue.
26/11/2019	Councillors Mitchell, Galley, Walsh, Wilshaw	To discuss the role of the

	<p>Andy Foot, Head of Housing</p> <p>David Galvin, Managing Director, Blackpool Housing Company Ltd</p>	<p>private rented sector in Blackpool, including the work undertaken by Blackpool Housing Company Ltd.</p>
10/02/2020	<p>Councillors Mitchell, Galley, Walsh, Wilshaw</p> <p>Vikki Piper, Housing Options Manager</p> <p>Lance Posting, Benefits Manager</p>	<p>To gain an understanding of the journey of the homeless when they present to Council services.</p> <p>Also to consider the impact of Universal Credit on those in housing need.</p>
15/09/2020	<p>Councillors Mitchell, Hugo, Walsh, Wilshaw</p> <p>Councillor Neal Brookes – Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform</p> <p>Vikki Piper, Acting Head of Housing*</p>	<p>To re-scope the Review's Scoping Document to take into account the impact of the Covid-19 Lockdown on housing and homelessness.</p>
22/10/2020	<p>Councillors Mitchell, Hugo, Walsh, Wilshaw</p> <p>Vikki Piper, Acting Head of Housing</p> <p>Ian Treasure, Manager, Fulfilling Lives</p> <p>Paul Fisher, Major, Salvation Army</p> <p>Sandra Fisher, Major, Salvation Army</p>	<p>To consider the role of non-Council services in supporting those who are homeless or in housing need.</p>
12/11/2020	<p>Councillors Mitchell, Galley, Hugo, Walsh, Wilshaw</p>	<p>To discuss recommendations and the contents of the Review's final report.</p>
03/12/2020	<p>Councillors Mitchell, Galley, Hugo, Walsh</p> <p>Councillor Neal Brookes – Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform</p> <p>Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration</p> <p>Vikki Piper, Acting Head of Housing</p>	<p>To discuss proposed recommendations with the Portfolio Holder and Officers.</p> <p>To confirm the review's final recommendations.</p>

- 3.6 Following the conclusion of the review's meetings its final report was submitted to the 3 February 2021 meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee for approval in advance of the 22 March 2021 meeting of the Executive for consideration of its final recommendations.



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\*NB Mr Andy Foot left the Council during February 2020, following which Ms Vikki Piper took on the role of Acting Head of Housing.

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## 4.0 Detailed Findings and Recommendations

### 4.1 Context of the Review

- 4.1.1 Housing is a major issue within Blackpool with a large quantity of low quality privately rented accommodation in the form of flats and bedsits. The letting of 80% of these properties to people relying on benefits set at fixed levels gives little incentive for investment from the private sector.
- 4.1.2 Blackpool has also typically experienced high levels of homelessness. Levels of homelessness in Blackpool are three times the national average per head of population and continue to be driven by chaotic lifestyles, social issues and poor quality housing, not by an absolute shortage of housing.<sup>1</sup> This issue is explored further later in this report.
- 4.1.3 Housing difficulties in inner Blackpool have been driven by conversions of former guest houses over a number of decades to poor quality residential uses. This accounts for around 8,000 privately rented homes in the inner area - 50% of the housing stock there:
- Over 80% of privately rented homes are let to recipients of Housing Benefit<sup>2</sup>
  - Rents and capital values in the area are based on Local Housing Allowance rates, with little premium for larger or higher quality homes, so no market incentives for improvement
  - There has been very little housing that would be desirable for professionals looking to work in the centre of Blackpool, with low values limiting development viability, and a strong competing offer in the suburbs
- 4.1.5 These conditions create deprivation and the immediate proximity of such extreme deprivation in inner Blackpool has a detrimental impact on the tourist economy and town centre. The poor living conditions in homes and neighbourhoods compound social problems and make it harder for residents to do well and benefit from new jobs.
- 4.1.6 Inward migration of people with housing needs is also an issue. Analysis of new Housing Benefit claims found that 83% of new claimants came from outside of Blackpool – representing over 4,500 households. Nearly two thirds of these new claimants from outside Blackpool found their new home in the inner area of Blackpool – an area with only 20% of the borough's housing stock. This led to many being housed in poor quality private rented housing.<sup>3</sup>
- 4.1.7 Conditions are relatively poor in the private housing stock because it is older on average than most other areas and low incomes make it hard for owners and/or occupiers to invest in their homes. A high proportion of homes are also let by private landlords to the Housing Benefit market with little incentive to invest. However, the social rented stock has received major investment over the last few years, including an additional £60 million invested in the Blackpool Coastal Housing's 5,000 homes to meet the Decent Homes Standard.

<sup>1</sup> Blackpool Council's Housing Strategy 2018-2023

<sup>2</sup> Blackpool Council's Housing Strategy 2018-2023

<sup>3</sup> Housing Strategy 2018-2023

4.1.8 Blackpool has a relatively high proportion of households who the Government classes as being in “fuel poverty” – 13.5% of households - because of a combination of low incomes and poor energy efficiency in the local housing stock.

4.1.9 The extent of homelessness in Blackpool is shown by<sup>4</sup>:

- Around 3,200 households (out of 64,000 total households in the town) sought help from the Council’s Housing Options team in 2018/2019 because they were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This level of contacts is rising year on year.
- Most households are helped before they become homeless, with homelessness prevention increasing and the number of people becoming homeless going down. The total number of households found to be homeless has reduced slightly over the last three years, reducing from 702 in 2015/2016 to 603 in 2017/2018 (comparable figures not available for 2018/2019 as the legal framework changed). Despite this reduction, as previously mentioned, Blackpool still has over three times the national average number of homeless households per head of population, with the difference mostly accounted for by high numbers of single people and couples without children.
- Temporary accommodation is provided to households who are homeless and in priority need because they are vulnerable, including families with children, with typically 35-40 individuals and families in temporary accommodation at any one time. Temporary accommodation hostels owned by the Council and managed by Blackpool Coastal Housing have had very high levels of occupancy for the last three years and this has led to fairly frequent use of short term Bed and Breakfast accommodation. But the number of households in temporary accommodation is still lower than most comparable areas and the average length of stay in temporary accommodation has reduced from 56 days in 2017/2018 to 33 days 2019/2020.
- The number of rough sleepers rose in Blackpool in the years up to 2015 but has been steady for the last three years. The number of rough sleepers can appear higher because it is often hard for the public to distinguish rough sleeping from those begging and street drinking. The count in November 2018 identified 12 rough sleepers in the town at that point, which was the third highest total in Lancashire after Preston and Blackburn, and around 120th in the country (out of 325 local authority areas). While the number out on any one night has been steady, the total number of individuals found to have slept rough at least once in a year increased significantly from 160 in 2015/2016 to 235 in 2017/2018.

4.1.10 Whilst there has been some success in preventing homelessness and reducing the number of households who end up homeless the rise in the total number of people at risk of rough sleeping is a particular cause of concern as this category includes high numbers with complex problems and advanced support needs.

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<sup>4</sup> Blackpool Council’s Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023

- 4.1.11 It was reported that social issues are the most important driver of homelessness in Blackpool, not lack of accommodation; there is a large supply of easily accessible flats in the town. The easy accessibility of homes in the private sector fuels transience and leads to high levels of homelessness. There is a tendency in Blackpool for tenancies to continually break down because of the poor quality of accommodation, the poor behaviour of some tenants, and the expectation that there will always be somewhere else available. The biggest challenge is to give the right support to help people address issues in their lives.<sup>5</sup>
- 4.1.12 Many of the increasingly large number of people who have slept rough at least once in the past year had also in the same time period acquired accommodation which they had then lost. The cause of this was often chaotic lifestyles and social isolation. Reasons for increased rough sleeping include the impact of welfare reform and the reduction of support services. A large majority of rough sleepers have complex needs, predominantly relating to substance or alcohol abuse or mental health.
- 4.1.13 The Council's Housing Strategy 2018 and Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2018 set out all of the current challenges and priorities for action, the following key issues were highlighted<sup>6</sup> for consideration by the Panel:
- Building more new desirable family homes in inner Blackpool to establish a more sustainable mix of homes. This is essential to the town's future and has to be done at a scale to give confidence to developers and new residents. Foxhall Village is the first successful example of this but further developments will be financially undeliverable without grant funding from Government to help acquire land and demolish existing buildings.
  - Re-modelling the stock of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to create better quality homes that are attractive to a wider market. My Blackpool Home is actively delivering more homes through conversion and refurbishment but cannot afford to acquire and re-model many existing HMOs while they continue to be profitable for current owners, fuelled by benefits payments. In February 2020 the Council's Adult Social and Health Scrutiny Committee established a scrutiny review to investigate this issue. Members of the Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review were asked to sit on this review to ensure no duplication of work took place.
  - Continuing high numbers of people coming for help with housing. Council services can provide a good response to prevent homelessness and link homelessness support with wider help however cannot address the underlying social issues that drive homelessness without much wider investment and coordination of support between public agencies. The difficulty of this is exacerbated by the constant in-flow of vulnerable people from other areas.
  - Continuing challenge of regulating the private rented sector. While the Council is ambitious in its aims to transform the structure of the housing stock over time, it

<sup>5</sup> Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023

<sup>6</sup> Housing Strategy 2018-2023

will have to use all of its powers to enforce minimum conditions and drive out bad practice now. There is constant pressure on Housing Enforcement who do not have sufficient resources to address all of the issues that arise in Blackpool's very large, poor quality, private rented sector. As well as increased enforcement activity support is needed from Government to make Housing Benefits payments reflect the quality of homes and create the financial conditions for landlords' investment in better accommodation.

- Lack of capital funding and services to advise and assist owner occupiers to maintain and improve their homes and a lack of consistent funding to address poor energy efficiency. Work is needed to maximise the funding that can help low income owners and tenants get the property improvements they need to stay healthy.

## **4.2 The Council's Response to Housing and Homelessness**

### **4.2.1 Improving existing homes**

4.2.2 New licensing schemes have been introduced to parts of inner Blackpool to help maintain minimum standards in the private rented sector – following the selective licensing schemes in South Beach and Claremont, the largest scheme to date went live in the Central area on 26 March 2019. Additional licensing of HMOs has already been in place in the Central area since July 2016. The schemes aim to improve management standards, reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and consequently the adverse impact of privately rented accommodation on the inner area neighbourhoods.

4.2.3 A new wholly-owned company, Blackpool Housing Company, was formed to acquire a market changing stake in the private rented sector and deliver better quality and more stable private rented properties. Three years in to the acquisition and investment phase "My Blackpool Home" has acquired and refurbished 300 properties and is on target to have 425 homes by March 2020.

4.2.4 The Clusters of Empty Homes Fund helped refurbish and bring back into use 100 empty homes, using £1.6 million of grant assistance.

4.2.5 In the Revoe area of inner Blackpool, 700 private homes have benefitted from external solid wall insulation. Most recently, the Central Heating Fund has improved EPC ratings so that 96% of homes receiving investment achieved an EPC rating of level A-D.

### **4.2.6 Improving Council Housing**

4.2.7 The Council has been able to demolish tower blocks and replace them with high quality family accommodation for affordable rent. The last phase of the Queens Park estate re-development was completed early in 2019. A total of 500 flats have been demolished and 103 new houses and 88 flats have been developed for Council tenants.

4.2.8 At Troutbeck Crescent 81 flats are being demolished and replaced with 75 high quality new family homes, bungalows and flats.

#### 4.2.9 Building more high quality homes

4.2.10 Support has been given to the ambitious development of 410 new homes at Foxhall Village with site assembly and preparation so that the Council's developer partner, Hollinwood Homes, can bring forward the new homes. To date 200 homes have been successfully delivered and the third of four phases started in June 2019, to include further affordable homes as well as homes for sale.

#### 4.2.11 Tackling Homelessness

4.2.12 the Council has also sought and invested new resources into services to help prevent and resolve homelessness, including the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and the Homelessness Reduction Act New Burdens Funding<sup>7</sup>. While the demand for help has increased the number of people becoming homeless had been stabilised before the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown.

4.2.13 The Review Panel agreed that additional monitoring of housing and homelessness issues were required by the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee. It has therefore been recommended that an annual report be provided to the Committee to provide Members with an ongoing overview of the work being undertaken.

#### **Recommendation One**

**That the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee receive an annual report on Housing and Homelessness informing them of work undertaken, performance and funding received.**

#### **4.3 Covid-19 Lockdown<sup>8</sup>**

4.3.1 On 23 March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Government ordered a nationwide lockdown. As a result of this Local Authorities were directed to do whatever they reasonably could to accommodate anyone rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping by the weekend of 28 March 2020. Government guidance also advised that night shelters should close.

4.3.2 Blackpool Council and its partners had anticipated that this may occur and was therefore prepared to move quickly to accommodate those at risk. Particular attention was also paid to families in the pre-lockdown period and the Housing Service, supported by My Blackpool Home, was able to quickly move a number of families into settled accommodation.

<sup>7</sup> Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023

<sup>8</sup> Homelessness – Covid 19 Response – Housing Services Report to 22 July 2020 Scrutiny Leadership Board

- 4.3.3 This allowed Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH) to re-organise the family hostel (Central Drive) so that each family had their own kitchen and bathroom, allowing for social distancing/self-isolation.
- 4.3.4 In respect of single people, the decision was taken, with BCH, to reduce the number of people in the single person hostel (Gorton Street) to reduce pressure on shared spaces. BCH implemented guidance from Public Health in supporting the remaining residents to stay as safe as possible.
- 4.3.6 The emergency beds on Chapel Street initially had to close as they only provided night-time accommodation, but with the support of Blackpool Coastal Housing repairs team, and Blackpool Fulfilling Lives, Street Angels were able to re-open within two weeks, providing 24 hour accommodation for up to eight single people.
- 4.3.7 Housing Options and Public Health quickly worked together, with other key partners, to put the national model of best practice in place, including:
- Covid-19 non-symptomatic/low risk: Accommodation for people to comply with Government guidelines but are not yet symptomatic.
  - Covid-19 Protect: Accommodation for people with underlying health issues
  - Covid-19 Care: Accommodation for people who have/may have symptoms
- 4.3.8 At the start of the lockdown period, it became apparent that the support mechanisms in place for the general population were not suitable for the homeless population who were being placed in Bed and Breakfasts throughout Blackpool.
- 4.3.9 Whilst their housing needs were being met their support requirements were different and complex. As such a “Homelessness Support Group” led by Public Health, was developed, essentially comprising of the existing homelessness partnership members plus other agencies working with homeless people.
- 4.3.10 The Homeless Support Group worked collaboratively to provide the following additional support:
- Twice daily food deliveries, coordinated by Blackpool Council and Blackpool Food Bank and provided and delivered by a partnership of Soup Kitchens (The Well Café, St. Marks Church, Streetlife and The Albert Project). The Hive Café also provided a vital catering service.
  - Over 100 Care packs and other items were delivered by a number of partners, including Streetlife, Headstart, Salvation Army, Comfort Zone and Blackpool Fulfilling Lives. Items provided included radios, cleaning products, clothing and toiletries.
  - A fortnightly laundry service was funded by Blackpool Fulfilling Lives (BFL) and coordinated by Blackpool Council.
  - For those moving into dispersed accommodation, food parcels via Corona Kindness were provided and face-to-face welfare checks undertaken weekly. This included where needed a Stop Smoking intervention. Nicotine Replacement Therapy was also available.

- Priority in patient detox was made available by Delphi and a community needle exchange provided. Hotels were also provided sharps boxes and Naloxone support if needed.
- 4.3.11 This additional support reduced the need for people to leave their accommodation as frequently, enabling them to comply with the government guidance on essential travel. Overall the work of the group was noted to have been successful in co-ordinating the response to the lockdown. Members considered that the valued support provided during the lockdown could be further targeted to work to prevent homelessness and support the homeless post-pandemic. The Review Panel therefore recommended this group continue following the lockdown to co-ordinate the multi-agency response to homelessness.
- 4.3.12 The Review Panel noted that the Council and third party agencies, through the Blackpool Homelessness Partnership, had performed well during the Covid-19 Lockdown and had been able to protect those at significant risk of infection. In light of this it was recommended that the Chair of the Review Panel write to Blackpool Homelessness Partnership in recognition of their good work.
- 4.3.13 Members were also provided with reassurance that the Blackpool Homelessness Partnership and the Fylde Coast Partnership, which included the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Trusts, were monitoring Covid-19 levels and were prepared for a resurgence of infections and potential future restrictions.
- 4.3.14 During the presentation of evidence provided to the Review at its September 2020 meeting the Acting Head of Housing, Ms Vikki Piper, informed Members that the impact of Covid-19 would necessitate a review of the performance of the Council's existing Homelessness Prevention Strategy. Members welcomed this and recommended that the views of people with lived experience of housing services, both before and during the lockdown, be included to help shape the Strategy.

#### **Recommendation Two**

**That the Chair of the Review Panel write to the members of the Blackpool Homelessness Partnership in recognition of their good work during the Covid-19 Lockdown.**

#### **Recommendation Three**

**That the Homelessness Support Group be maintained following the pandemic to co-ordinate support to the homeless. If agreed, an update on the work of the group to be provided to the Tourism Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee within six months of the submission of this report to the Executive.**



#### **Recommendation Four**

**That the performance of the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023 be reviewed in the light of the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic and that people with lived experience of homelessness be involved at an early stage of this review in addition to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee.**

#### **4.4 Alternative Giving Scheme**

- 4.4.1 The Review Panel heard details of the Council's Alternative Giving Scheme, which was designed to raise awareness of the Blackpool Food Partnership. The aim of the scheme was to encourage donations to the partnership, instead of giving money to individuals begging on the street. It was recognised that although well intentioned, giving money to those begging could result in it being spent inappropriately, for example on drugs and alcohol. However donations to the partnership would be used to support its food bank, which provided food parcels to those in need.
- 4.4.2 Advertising of the scheme had taken place with posters on public transports and in bus and tram stops.
- 4.4.3 Although supportive of the scheme and its aims, the Review Panel noted that they, as Councillors, had been unaware of it. The scheme was recognised as an important part of supporting the homeless and those using food banks, by allowing those members of the public who wished to give money a facility to do so where it could be spent appropriately. However it would require wider publicising to ensure its potential was realised.

#### **Recommendation Five**

**That the branding of the Alternative Giving Scheme (Blackpool Food Bank) be reviewed by Housing Services to determine how to highlight to the public how they can donate to homeless causes in Blackpool and to provide greater clarity to Council Officers on how they can promote the scheme.**

#### **4.5 Severe Weather Emergency Protocol**

- 4.5.1 The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is a function used to protect the health and wellbeing of those sleeping rough in adverse weather conditions. Having a protocol is not a statutory function but is considered best practice by Homeless Link (a national charity of which the Council is a member)<sup>9</sup>.
- 4.5.2 Council policy states that if three consecutive days of temperatures below freezing are forecast then accommodation should be offered to those sleeping rough. It was also

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/guidance-on-severe-weather-emergency-protocol-swep-and-extended-weather-provision>

noted that the SWEP is often used as an opportunity to further engage with the homeless and attempt to prevent their return to rough sleeping.

- 4.5.3 Although it was recognised by the Review Panel that freezing weather conditions could be dangerous to those sleeping rough, it was also raised that other weather conditions, such as heavy rainfall could be equally as hazardous. However these were not mentioned by the protocol. There it was decided that a recommendation should be included to ask that consideration be given to expanding the scope of the SWEP to cover all severe weather events.
- 4.5.4 Members also felt that the three day forecast before the SWEP could be implemented was too long, recognising that even a single night of severe weather could cause significant harm or death to a rough sleeper. A recommendation was therefore made that consideration be given to reducing this timescale, so that the SWEP could be implemented as soon as severe weather is forecast.

**Recommendation Six**

**That Housing Services give consideration to using the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) in all severe weather events. Consideration should also be given to reducing the number of days of severe weather forecast, currently three, before the using the SWEP.**

**Recommendation Seven**

**That notification of the implementation of the SWEP be extended to include Councillors.**

**4.6 Accreditation of Lettings Agents**

- 4.6.1 During its consideration of the role of the Private Sector in housing in Blackpool the Review Panel was informed that the Council had sought funding from the government in 2018 to establish a scheme for the accreditation of lettings agents within Blackpool.
- 4.6.2 Such a scheme would give accredited status to lettings agents who maintained their properties to a high standard. It was hoped that this would then encourage the improvement of housing stock in the private sector.
- 4.6.3 Despite the offer of funds by the government to support this proposal Officers had determined that the amount offered would be insufficient to establish an accreditation scheme in Blackpool. A second bid had been made in 2019 but had again failed to secure sufficient funding. As a result no scheme had yet been established in Blackpool.
- 4.6.4 While noting that it was not practical to establish an accredited lettings agent scheme without government funding, the Review Panel recognised that such a scheme would be of benefit to Blackpool. Therefore members recommended that should sufficient funds become available further consideration should be given to developing an Accredited

Lettings Agent scheme, to encourage the improvement of housing stock in the private sector.

**Recommendation Eight**

**That, should funding become available within the next two years, the Council re-consider the development of an Accredited Letting Agents Scheme. If such a scheme becomes viable then details should be provided directly to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee.**

**4.7 Lived Experience**

- 4.7.1 At its 30 October 2019 meeting the review heard evidence from a Client at Blackpool Fulfilling Lives. They described their experience of substance abuse and homelessness in Blackpool including his interaction with various homeless services.
- 4.7.2 As part of their evidence they informed Members that they had attempted contact with the Council's Housing Options service but had been unsuccessful in obtaining assistance. This had resulted in them holding a negative view of the face-to-face contacts with the Housing Options service and its ability to help homeless people.
- 4.7.2 Although the Review was unable to determine the exact circumstance of Mr Ryan's case and why they had not received assistance when they presented themselves to Housing Options, Members were appreciative of their attendance at the meeting and the evidence they had provided.

**4.8 Housing Options Mystery Shopping**

- 4.8.1 As part of the evidence received regarding the performance of the Council's Housing Options service, Members queried if any mystery shopping exercises were undertaken to monitor the performance of face-to-face contacts with the service. Officers explained that no such exercises were undertaken but that other key performance data was collected, outlined in the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy.
- 4.8.2 The Review Panel had been made aware that Fulfilling Lives had adopted a scheme which could be used by Housing Options to mystery shop homelessness services in Blackpool. This scheme had been adopted by other members of the Blackpool Homelessness Partnership.
- 4.8.3 Although the Council had chosen not to take up this scheme Members were of the view that a mystery shopping exercise would be of benefit to the Housing Options service in allowing officers to gain insight into the experiences of the individuals presenting to it. Therefore it was recommended work be undertaken to develop a mystery shopping exercise for Housing Options face-to-face services.

#### **Recommendation Nine**

**That a mystery shopping exercise be developed to help assess the performance of Housing Options' face-to-face services. The data from this exercise to be then reported to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee as part of the first recommended annual report scheduled for November 2021.**

#### **4.9 Funding**

- 4.9.1 A common theme in evidence provided to the review by witnesses was that increased funding is required to ensure that homelessness work could be successful.
- 4.9.2 Although it was recognised that long-term prevention of homelessness required engagement with individuals to address personal issues that the homeless possess additional funding would help in providing this.
- 4.9.3 The Review Panel therefore recommended that the Housing Service should continue to seek sources of additional funding from central Government. It also asked that the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee be kept informed of these efforts so that outcomes could be monitored by Members.

#### **Recommendation Ten**

**The Council should continue to take every opportunity to press for extra funding for those in housing need from central government. The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee to be informed when extra funding is secured and involved in monitoring of its usage and outcomes. This information should be included in the annual report to Committee.**

## 5.0 Summary of Recommendations

### Recommendation One

That the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee receive an annual report on Housing and Homelessness informing them of work undertaken, performance and funding received.

### Recommendation Two

That the Chair of the Review Panel write to the members of the Blackpool Homelessness Partnership in recognition of their good work during the Covid-19 Lockdown.

### Recommendation Three

That the Homelessness Support Group be maintained following the pandemic to co-ordinate support to the homeless. If agreed, an update on the work of the group to be provided to the Tourism Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee within six months of the submission of this report to the Executive.

### Recommendation Four

That the performance of the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023 be reviewed in the light of the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic and that people with lived experience of homelessness be involved at an early stage of this review in addition to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

### Recommendation Five

That the branding of the Alternative Giving Scheme (Blackpool Food Bank) be reviewed by Housing Services to determine how to highlight to the public how they can donate to homeless causes in Blackpool and to provide greater clarity to Council Officers on how they can promote the scheme.

### Recommendation Six

That Housing Services give consideration to using the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) in all severe weather events. Consideration should also be given to reducing the number of days of severe weather forecast, currently three, before the using the SWEP.

**Recommendation Seven**

That notification of the implementation of the SWEP be extended to include Councillors.

**Recommendation Eight**

That, should funding become available within the next two years, the Council re-consider the development of an Accredited Letting Agents Scheme. If such a scheme becomes viable then details should be provided directly to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

**Recommendation Nine**

That a mystery shopping exercise be developed to help assess the performance of Housing Options' face-to-face services. The data from this exercise to be then reported to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee as part of the first recommended annual report scheduled for November 2021.

**Recommendation Ten**

The Council should continue to take every opportunity to press for extra funding for those in housing need from central government. The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee to be informed when extra funding is secured and involved in monitoring of its usage and outcomes. This information should be included in the annual report to Committee.

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## 6.0 Financial and Legal Considerations

### 6.1 Financial

6.1.1 *Director of Resources to be consulted*

### 6.2 Legal

6.2.1 *Legal Services to be consulted*

DRAFT

## Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Action Plan

To be completed following Committee approval

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Notes
Recommendation One						
Recommendation Two						
Recommendation Three						
Recommendation Four						
Recommendation Five						
Recommendation Six						
Recommendation Seven						
Recommendation Eight						



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Recommendation Nine						
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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 February 2021

## SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the Workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan 2020-2021, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.
- 2.2 To monitor the implementation of the Committee's recommendations/action.
- 2.3 To consider a referral from the Audit Committee to undertake CCTV Scrutiny
- 2.4 To note the outcome of the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure that recommendations/actions are being monitored, the Workplan is up to date and is an accurate representation of the Committee's work.
- |      |  |     |
|------|--|-----|
| 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?                  | N/A |
| 3.3  | Other alternative options to be considered:  |     |
|      | None.  |     |

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 N/A

**5.0 Background Information**

**5.1 Scrutiny Workplan 2020/2021**

5.1.1 The Workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that the Committee will undertake over the course of the year.

5.1.2 Committee Members are invited, either now or in the future, to suggest topics that might be suitable for scrutiny in order that they be added to the Workplan.

**5.2 Monitoring Implementation of Recommendations**

5.2.1 The table attached at Appendix 10(c) has been developed to assist the Committee in effectively ensuring that the recommendations made by the Committee are acted upon. The table will be regularly updated and submitted to each Committee meeting.

5.2.2 Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and ask follow up questions as appropriate to ensure that all recommendations are implemented

**5.3 Scrutiny Review Checklist**

5.3.1 The Scrutiny Review Checklist is attached at Appendix 10(b). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny.

5.3.2 The Committee is recommended to place an emphasis on the priorities and performance of the Council when considering requests for scrutiny reviews.

**5.4 CCTV Scrutiny Referral**

5.4.1 At its 30 November 2020 meeting the Audit Committee referred the issue of scrutiny of the upcoming review of CCTV to the TEC Scrutiny Committee. Details of the decision can be found in the Audit Committee Minutes from November, outlined below;

5.4.2 *“Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services reported that CCTV was a challenging area which had previously experienced underinvestment. He outlined the response to the audit’s findings which included an exercise to remove*

*or replace redundant or non-functioning equipment to be undertaken; a full assessment of the condition of all CCTV signage; an exercise to undertake a full survey of the current CCTV provision in order to update the inventory; advice to be sought from the Procurement team regarding the tender of all aspects of the CCTV project; an appropriately experienced dedicated project manager to be resourced to ensure that the CCTV project would be effectively managed; advice from the Information Governance Team to be obtained regarding a Data Protection Impact Assessment which would incorporate changes to be made to the CCTV provision as part of the project and the possibility of providing neighbouring local authorities with CCTV provision would be explored. Mr Blackledge acknowledged the scale of the project and advised that work would span a period of 18 months. Due to the amount of work involved, the Committee agreed to make a recommendation to the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee to offer support and assistance to the CCTV review.”*

5.4.3 The Committee is therefore asked to consider if this is a topic it wish to include on the Workplan.

## 5.5 **Community Safety Partnership Review Panel**

5.5.1 On 2 December 2020 members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee held a review panel meeting to consider the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2020.

5.5.2 The review panel made the following comments to be taken into consideration during development of the strategy;

- That the 2021 meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel input into the draft Community Safety Plan 2022;
- That the following information be provided electronically to Members of the Review Panel;
  - The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse and subsequent convictions;
  - Details of the number of reports of sexual abuse and rape, the number of prosecutions undertaken and the number of convictions achieved, along with a comparison of national trends;
  - The latest statistics regarding burglaries in Blackpool; and
  - The latest statistics regarding reoffending in Blackpool.

5.5.3

A copy of the review panel’s report can be found at Appendix 10(d)

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**5.6 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 10(a) - Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny  
Committee Workplan

Appendix 10(b) - Scrutiny Review Checklist

Appendix 10(c) – Tourism, Economy and Communities Committee  
Action Tracker

Appendix 10(d) – Community Safety Partnership Review Panel  
Report

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2020-2021	
3 February 2021	<p><b>1. Waste Services and Street Cleansing</b> update on domestic waste collection new company performance, however, focus on services still provided by the Council such as street cleansing to prevent duplication with the work of the Shareholder's Advisory Board. To include details of household waste recycling.</p> <p><b>2. Bathing Water Quality Annual Report</b></p> <p><b>3. Climate Emergency Update</b> – Steps taken following declaration of Climate Emergency in Full Council July 2019 and an update on progress organising the Climate Assembly and details of progress on the <b>Single Use Plastics</b> Action Plan.</p> <p><b>4. Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Final Report</b> – To agree the final report and recommendation of the review. If agreed the report will be submitted to the Executive for consideration.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Report back from <b>CSP Review Panel</b> held 2 December 2020</p>
14 April 2021	<p><b>1. Town Centre Regeneration Update</b> – To include information on the progress, the long term impact of lockdown on economic development and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects and how these will support job creation in the town.</p> <p><b>2. Tourism Performance</b> - To include a representative of a Blackpool Tourist attraction and details of Business Tourism. To look forward to the 2021 season and any long term impact from the pandemic.</p> <p><b>3. Parks and Green Environment Annual Report</b> – To include information on the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Lockdown and future plans.</p> <p><b>4. Climate Emergency Update</b> – <i>Steps taken following declaration of Climate Emergency in Full Council July 2019 and the outcome of the Climate Assembly. (Subject to change)</i></p>

Scrutiny Review Work	
Recommencing 23 September 2019	Full scrutiny review of <b>Housing Strategy/Homelessness</b> . To have a look at the impact of strategy and policy on homelessness levels and prevention of homelessness. The scope of the review will be revisited to reflect the impact of the pandemic on provision.
23 September 2020	<b>Active Lives Strategy Review Panel</b> to consider draft strategy – September 2020 (jointly with the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee)
20 April 2021	A review of the <b>Illuminations, including</b> impact, sustainability and commercial opportunities. Future plans and the Town Deal funding business case.
2 December 2020	<b>Community Safety Partnership Review Panel</b> – to consider the performance of the CSP and impact of lockdown on its work.
March 2021	<b>Lancashire Waste Strategy Policy</b> development scrutiny of the draft strategy.
April 2021	<b>Sustainability Strategy Policy</b> development scrutiny of the draft strategy.
TBC 2021	<b>Arts and Culture</b> - Details of the impact of Covid-19 arts and culture within Blackpool.
TBC 2021	<b>Town Deal and Economic Development</b> - Details of the Town Deal and impact of Covid-19 on Economic Development within Blackpool.
TBC	<b>Air Quality Strategy</b> policy development scrutiny of the draft strategy.

**SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST****Title of proposed Scrutiny:**

The list is intended to assist the relevant scrutiny committee in deciding whether or not to approve a topic that has been suggested for scrutiny.

Whilst no minimum or maximum number of 'yes' answers are formally required, the relevant scrutiny committee is recommended to place higher priority on topics related to the performance and priorities of the Council.

Please expand on how the proposal will meet each criteria you have answered 'yes' to.

	Yes/No
The review will add value to the Council and/or its partners overall performance:	
The review is in relation to one or more of the Council's priorities:	
The Council or its partners are not performing well in this area:	
It is an area where a number of complaints (or bad press) have been received:	
The issue is strategic and significant:	
There is evidence of public interest in the topic:	
The issue has potential impact for one or more sections of the community:	
Service or policy changes are planned and scrutiny could have a positive input:	
Adequate resources (both members and officers) are available to carry out the scrutiny:	

**Please give any further details on the proposed review:**

**Completed by:**

**Date:**

**MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

.	DATE OF REC.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG Rating
1	23 January 2019	That bi-annual updates on the progress of Town Centre Regeneration Projects be included on future agendas	Ongoing	Nick Gerard/John Greenbank	Items for monitoring the progress of Town Centre Regeneration Project have been scheduled for every six-months. Next Update April 2021.	Ongoing
2.	5 February 202	To monitor the implementation of the Council's Climate Emergency declaration, including Single Use Plastics.	Ongoing	Scott Butterfield/John Greenbank	Items for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations have been scheduled	Ongoing
3	25 September 2020	To consider the update and endorse the recommendation of the Review Panel as follows: That the Active Lives Strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More detail on how the sea-front can be utilised to encourage active lifestyles;</li> <li>• Consideration be given to developing a communication and marketing program to help engage the public; and</li> <li>• Greater consideration be given to how to increase the use of the facilities available in the town to encourage active lifestyles.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	John Blackledge/Lisa Arnold	The Active Lives Strategy was considered at the 25 January 2021 meeting of the Executive.	Ongoing

4.	2 December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the 2021 meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel input into the draft Community Safety Plan 2022;</li> <li>• That the following information be provided electronically to Members of the Review Panel; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse and subsequent convictions;</li> <li>○ Details of the number of reports of sexual abuse and rape, the number of prosecutions undertaken and the number of convictions achieved, along with a comparison of national trends;</li> <li>○ The latest statistics regarding burglaries in Blackpool; and</li> <li>○ The latest statistics regarding reoffending in Blackpool.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Partially Complete	Dominic Blackburn/John Greenbank	<p>The draft CSP Plan 2022 is due to be drafted and will be submitted to the CSP Review Panel due to be held in December 2021.</p> <p>The information requested by the Review Panel was circulated in December 2020.</p>	Ongoing
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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	2 December 2020

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 2020

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To update on the work undertaken by members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee in carrying out the statutory annual review of the Community Safety Partnership.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the update, determine if any further scrutiny work is required and approve the following actions agreed by the review;
- That the 2021 meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel input into the draft Community Safety Plan 2022;
  - That the following information be provided electronically to Members of the Review Panel;
    - The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse and subsequent convictions;
    - Details of the number of reports of sexual abuse and rape, the number of prosecutions undertaken and the number of convictions achieved, along with a comparison of national trends;
    - The latest statistics regarding burglaries in Blackpool; and
    - The latest statistics regarding reoffending in Blackpool.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee has an overview of work that has been undertaken within its remit.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

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

4.1 None

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny is the Council’s statutory Crime and Disorder Panel. As part of this duty, it is required to meet at least once in a Municipal Year to consider crime and disorder issues. As in previous years the Committee has undertaken this function in 2020 by holding a dedicated Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Review Panel meeting to consider the CSP’s work and priorities. In 2020 this meeting was held on 2 December 2020.

**7.0 Community Safety Review Panel**

7.1 On 2 December 2020 members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee held a review panel meeting to consider the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report. Councillor Mitchell chaired the meeting with the following members also present;

7.2	Councillor P Burdess Councillor J Hugo	Councillor G Walsh Councillor P Wilshaw
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7.3 The meeting was also attended by Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet member for Housing and Welfare Reform, Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Mr John Blackledge, Director of Communities and Environmental Services, Mr Dominic Blackburn, Community Safety Manager, Chief Inspector Mark Morley, Lancashire Constabulary and Mr Mark Winder, Acting Group Manager, Community Protection, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

7.4 Mr Blackledge informed the meeting that responsibility for Community Safety at the Council had changed during the last twelve months. The Community Safety team had moved to work alongside Public Protection within the Communities and Environmental Service Directorate at the Council.

7.5 During 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic had created significant challenges for all partners of the CSP. In response a Covid Taskforce Group had been established, which had met twice weekly to discuss and address issues that had arisen. The Domestic Abuse Group had also been established in November 2020 and would lead on implementing the provisions of the



Domestic Abuse Act. It was also noted that a new Domestic Abuse Officer had been appointed to help with this work.

- 7.6 A new Community Safety Plan is also to be planned to be approved for 1 April 2022. This would be developed by the CSP following a strategic needs assessment scheduled for late 2021. The input of the TEC Scrutiny Committee was welcomed to input into this process with the Panel agreeing to organise a Review Panel in late 2021 to consider the outcome of the assessment and potential future priorities.
- 7.7 The Panel queried how well resourced the CSP was to undertake its work. Mr Blackburn responded that the CSP had been working well and had the tools and powers to effectively undertake its work. He also agreed to share a copy of the Community Safety Team's staff structure for information.
- 7.8 The meeting also discussed the use of Community Protection Notices (CPN). Mr Morley reported that the use of CPNs in Blackpool represented best practice and that other areas of Lancashire had looked to learn from.
- 7.9 The Panel considered the follow CSP priorities 2019-2022;

### 7.10 Domestic Abuse

Mr Morley informed the Panel that Domestic Abuse (DA) remained an ongoing concern especially during the Covid-19 lockdown where many victims could have been trapped with their abuser. This had required work to find ways for them to come forward and report DA. However it was noted that more victims had been coming forward and being carried forward to prosecution.

- 7.10.1 The Panel asked, and Mr Morley agreed, that the data regarding DA be shared showing the number of reports and the number of offenders subsequently prosecuted and convicted be shared with the TEC Scrutiny Committee for information.
- 7.10.2 Messaging for DA and what services were available was also recognised as important by the Panel. Mr Blackburn responded that there was a Tackling Violence Reduction Team whose work included messaging, and Mr Blackledge added the importance of having a joined up message between partners had been recognised to ensure a co-ordinated approach.
- 7.10.3 The Panel also queried what services were available for adults who had been attacked by young people who were either a family member or in their care. Mr Blackburn replied that over the last eighteen months there had been eighty nine such reports. He added that the Police and Crime Commissioner had supported training on supporting victims and young people for partners' staff.

**7.11 Violence Against the Person**

Mr Blackburn informed Members that 'Violence Against the Person' covered a number of categories of violence and that there were a number of working groups in existence that worked to address it.

- 7.11.1 He also stated that Lancashire Constabulary had specialist teams on Friday and Saturday nights to address the issue of violence in Blackpool town centre.

**7.12 Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Panel noted that information provided regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had shown that there had been an increase during 2020. Mr Morley informed Members that this had been the result of calls regarding breaching of Covid-19 lockdown regulations being logged as ASB and therefore the increase in numbers did not represent a concern for the CSP.

- 7.12.1 Mr Blackburn added that the requirement to bring homeless individuals sleeping rough indoors before the first national lockdown had resulted in a number of people with complex needs being placed together in accommodation. This had led to some instances of ASB early during lockdown that had subsequently been resolved.
- 7.12.2 Members also asked if the use of Covid Marshals had been successful in encouraging people to abide by Covid-19 restrictions. Mr Blackledge explained that although the marshals did not possess any enforcement powers they had been successful in encouraging people to follow guidelines. The number of marshals needed was also queried, with Mr Blackledge informing Members that there had been forty during the summer but since the move into Tier Three of national restrictions this had reduced to around twenty. He added that funding for the marshals had come from government grant.

**7.13 Sexual Assault and Rape**

The Panel noted from the report that the level of sexual assaults and rape had not changed during 2020 and asked if the figures for the offence could be clarified. Mr Morley responded that the lockdown had meant that fewer instances had been reported, in part attributed to the closing of the night time economy for much of the year. However he expected that following the foreseen lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in 2021, that there would be an increase in the figures.

- 7.13.1 Members also asked what the conviction rate for those reported of committing sexual assaults and rape were in Blackpool, noting that media reporting had shown that the national figure was low. Mr Morley responded that the offences could be difficult to prove and that every report was passed to the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and taken as far as was possible. It was also important to recognise the victims in cases and ensure that enough support as possible was put in place regardless of the outcome of a criminal investigation. He

also emphasised that the final decision for undertaking a prosecution was the responsibility of the Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS), not the Police.

- 7.13.2 The Review Panel asked that details of the number of reports of sexual abuse and rape, the number of prosecutions undertaken and the number of convictions achieved, along with a comparison of national trends be provided to Members for information.

7.14 Child Exploitation

Mr Blackburn reported that lots of positive work had been undertaken during 2020 to address the issue of Child Exploitation (CE), including criminal and sexual exploitation. A Daily Exploitation and Missing meeting had also been established to allow the rapid sharing of information, the consideration of data and the identification of issues between partners. This was reported as having worked well.

- 7.14.1 Members queried why referrals of sex offenders had been made to housing in the Talbot and Claremont wards in Blackpool and asked if this increased the risk to young people in those areas. Mr Blackburn responded that it was a complex issue, but that every placement was risk assessed and partners were aware of the threat that the sex offender could pose. Mr Morley added that partners were experienced in managing risk and that each offender was subject to regular checks and arrests would be made of anyone breaching conditions of their referral. Councillor Brookes added that each offender had an individual plan which allowed partners to know where they were and keep track of them.
- 7.14.2 The Panel also noted that a key component of the County Lines drugs gangs was the criminal exploitation of children and asked if Lancashire Constabulary had engaged with hotels and guest houses in seeking to address the issue in 2019-2020. Mr Blackburn replied that the CSP had engaged with hotels and guest houses to help them identify potentially inappropriate bookings linked to County Lines. He also explained that Section 116 powers could be used to challenge such bookings, however there had been no use of such powers despite hotel operators expressing support for them.
- 7.14.3 It was also asked if any training existed for CSP partners on Child Sexual Exploitation. Councillor Farrell responded that Fylde Coast Womens Aid operated a programme for providing such training called "Wired".
- 7.14.4 Mr Winder added that the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) had been used to help identify cases of CE during ordinary fire safety inspections. It was noted that the FRS was a trusted organisation who often had better access to people's homes than other agencies.
- 7.14.5 Burglary

Members also discussed the rate of burglary in Blackpool, Mr Morley explained that rates of detection were typically low but recognised that it was a high impact crime for victims. In

response to this the Police sought to deploy to every reported instance to provide reassurance to communities. Mr Morley added that he would provide the latest statistics for Burglary in Blackpool to Members for information.

**7.15      Other Areas of Work**

Modern Slavery – Training was provided to partners to ensure that signs of modern slavery could be recognised and reported. It was also noted there was an ongoing issue of slavery being used in the operation of cannabis farms, controlled by criminal gangs often based outside of Blackpool.

7.15.1      Sex Workers – Partners had been undertaken visits to “Massage Parlours” and other businesses known to operate as brothels to ensure that women working there were safe and that sexual health advice could be offered. During the national Covid-19 lockdown an issue of operators violating restrictions had been noted and where possible the Council would seek to prosecute them.

7.15.2      Street Sex – This was noted as an issue in the Central Drive area and Church Street in Blackpool. In response the Police and Council had installed CCTV in problem areas, which had led to a reduction offences. It was however reported that some street sex workers had moved online to attract business.

7.15.3      Reoffending – In response to a query regarding levels of reoffending in Blackpool, Mr Blackburn agreed to provide the latest data to members of the Review Panel.

7.16      The Review Panel thanked the officers and members of the CSP in attendance and noted the following actions;

- That the 2021 meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel input into the draft Community Safety Plan 2022;
- That the following information be provided electronically to Members of the Review Panel;
  - The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse and subsequent convictions;
  - Details of the number of reports of sexual abuse and rape, the number of prosecutions undertaken and the number of convictions achieved, along with a comparison of national trends;
  - The latest statistics regarding burglaries in Blackpool; and
  - The latest statistics regarding reoffending in Blackpool.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**8.0 List of Appendices:**

8.2 None

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Legal considerations:**

10.1 The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee is required as the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder Panel to meet at least once a year to consider crime and disorder issues.

**11.0 Risk management considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Equalities considerations:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

13.1 None

**14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

14.1 None

**15.0 Background papers:**

15.1 None

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