

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	7 th March 2016

POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To present the final version of the Council Policy Framework (CPF) and Executive Policy Framework (EPF). The report sets out:
- An updated Policy Framework to reflect the organisation’s new Council Plan priorities;
 - A clear golden thread with strategies aligned to the new priorities;
 - A list of strategies which are due to expire by March 2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend to the Council to:
- a) approve the Council and Executive Policy Framework in light of the new Council Plan priorities, please see Appendices 4a and 4b.
 - b) consider the strategies at Appendix 4c and agree that future iterations of these are approved by the Executive.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 As resources diminish and priorities change it is important that the work the Council does is focused and aligned to the organisation’s priorities; similarly, the number of strategies has reduced over time, and it is equally important that the Council’s strategic direction is clearly articulated.

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To agree a different policy framework.

To not have a policy framework.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The Policy Framework applies to both Council Priorities namely:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Council Policy Framework

The Council Policy Framework or Constitutional Policy Framework consists of statutory documents and ones considered key to delivering the Council’s priorities. In recent years, developments have occurred legislatively and organisationally which have initiated further changes:

- A new Council Plan has been developed and adopted;
- The government published the Welfare Reform and Work Bill which effectively removes the duty to produce a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy.

5.2 Executive Policy Framework

The Executive Policy Framework (EPF) supports the achievement of the strategies in the (CPF). These are approved by the Executive as part of its role to run the Council on a day to day basis. Those developing strategies must obtain Corporate Leadership Team approval before developing or reviewing any document in the Executive Policy Framework or Constitutional Policy Framework. It is also a requirement of the Executive that all strategies, plans and policies are approved by the Corporate Leadership Team beforehand and the Executive.

5.3 Appendix 4b is a list of strategies that forms the basis of the Executive Policy Framework and will be published on the Council’s website with links to the relevant document. It includes a separate list of licensing policies and a separate list of internal corporate strategies. These are strategies which contribute indirectly to the

achievement of the Council's priorities.

5.4 Appendix 4c is a list of strategies which have not been approved by the Executive. It is recommended that future iterations of these strategies are approved by the Executive.

5.5 Partnership Strategies

Many strategies are developed and delivered in partnership with other organisations and are driven by national policy. They are developed on a variety of footprints and can be Blackpool-specific, Fylde Coast or pan-Lancashire. This creates additional complexity when trying to align to organisational priorities.

5.6 Appendix 4d is an attempt to align Executive strategies to the Council Framework; however there is not clear alignment in many cases. Full alignment will happen over time as strategies expire and new strategies are developed in line with the Council Plan.

5.7 Strategy reviews

The following table shows strategies which are due to expire before March 2016. As part of the review process (and for any new strategies), a strategy template will be required for Corporate Leadership Team and Leadership Team to enable links to other strategic plans to be made and for approval to proceed with the development process, in instances where the strategy is not statutory.

Strategy	Progress update
Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2016	A new strategy is in development.
Highways Asset Management Plan	A new plan is in development.
Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 15	A new strategy is in development.
Child Poverty Framework 2012 – 15	There are no plans to refresh this due to forthcoming legislation to remove the duty to have a Child Poverty Strategy. The Council's approach to addressing child poverty will be written into the new HWB Strategy.
Community Safety Plan 2012 – 15	A new strategy is included on this agenda for approval
Housing Related Support Commissioning Strategy 2014 – 16	To be reviewed this year.

Mental Health Action Plan 2013 – 15	This has been refreshed
Alcohol Strategy 2013 – 16	This will be refreshed in May 2016.
Sexual Health Strategy 2013 – 16	A sector led improvement exercise with Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Cumbria County Council is due for completion in June; the strategy will be refreshed by October 2016.
Internal Audit Plan 2015 – 2016	The plan is currently being refreshed.

5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4a – Council Policy Framework (CPF)
Appendix 4b – Executive Policy Framework (EPF)
Appendix 4c– Strategies not included on the EPF
Appendix 4d– Strategies aligned to Council Priority

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 A number of the strategies that are due to expire are statutory. Therefore it is important that the necessary plans are in place to refresh the documents.

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

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

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

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

15.0 Call-in information:

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

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 Date of Decision:

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 Date Decision published:

20.0 Executive Members present:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes :

22.1