

## **Healthwatch Blackpool Board Meeting 29 March 2017**

### **The Future of Healthwatch Blackpool Company**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal to dissolve the Blackpool Healthwatch Limited Company now that it has been incorporated into the Lancashire Healthwatch Board.

#### **Background Information**

As Board members are aware, the previous contract holders (with the Local Authority's commissioning team) Empowerment, had surrendered the contract to support Healthwatch Blackpool with effect from 31 December 2016.

The new contract has been awarded to Healthwatch Lancashire, with whom a positive relationship had been developed. It was considered that this partnership could achieve value for money, whilst maintaining Blackpool's independence and recognising and safeguarding its own identity. The Local Development Plan, part of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) already grouped together Blackpool with Wyre and Fylde, which are part of Lancashire Healthwatch. Ms Sheralee Turner-Birchall, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Lancashire will be in attendance at the meeting and as part of other agenda items on the Board will include updating members with the current situation, staffing arrangements and appointing two Directors to the Lancashire Board.

The Healthwatch England branding guidelines and the change of the contract holders mean that Blackpool Healthwatch cannot continue to exist as a separate entity, as well as Lancashire Healthwatch. The Company has no assets, no liabilities and has not been active for three months (part of the requirements to be voluntarily dissolved) and it is therefore suggested that an application be made to Companies House to be struck off the register of companies.

#### **Recommendations**

The Board is asked to agree:

1. To authorise the legal steps necessary to secure the voluntary dissolution of Blackpool Healthwatch Limited (Company number: 08584258) by making an application to Companies House to be struck off the Register of Companies; and
2. That at least three directors sign Form DS01, to commence this process.