GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the proposal for Blackpool Council’s draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20 as outlined in the report circulated to Members under separate cover.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To recommend to Council the £1,544,000 Social Care Support Grant is allocated in full to Children’s Social Care (ref. paragraph 4.7).

2.2 To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20 of £124,073,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2).

2.3 To recommend to Council a level of budget savings of £9.0m (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2).

2.4 To recommend to Council that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1).

2.5 To recommend to Council that the Business Loans Fund is increased from £100m to £200m with immediate effect (ref. paragraph 8.3).

2.6 To recommend to Council that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4).

2.7 To recommend a detailed review of earmarked reserves takes place at Provisional Outturn 2018/19 to reprioritise and unearmark funds to replenish working balances to their target level in 2019/20 should this be necessary (ref. paragraph 10.4).

2.8 To recommend to Council that the 2019/20 costs of £1.188m associated with the Ofsted action plan are agreed and met from higher than anticipated returns from the Business Loans Fund (ref. paragraph 10.5).
2.9 To consider the report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel as attached at Appendix 3 and consider any actions arising from that review.

2.10 To note that key attendees have been invited to address and make representations direct to the Executive at this meeting and that the Director of Resources has addressed a meeting of the Blackpool Business Leaders Group and will feedback comments also at this meeting.

2.11 To consider any further facts and information which subsequently come to light and report the details to the meeting of the Executive on 25 February 2019.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable progression to the next stage of the budget process.

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? Not applicable - the report once approved will become the Council’s new approved budget.

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

As outlined in the Budget report.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are both:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The purpose of this report is to determine the overall level of net expenditure to be included in the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019/20 and to identify a budget savings plan that will ensure a balanced Budget.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
5.3 **List of Appendices:**

Report  
Appendix 1 - General Fund Budget  
Appendix 2 - Savings Summary  
Appendix 3 – Budget Scrutiny Review Report  
Appendix 4 - Equality Analysis  
Appendix 5 - Assessment of Significant Financial Risks

(All circulated to members under separate cover)

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Human Resources considerations are outlined in the budget report, circulated to members under separate cover.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 An Equalities Analysis forms Appendix 4 to the budget report.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 As outlined in the Budget report, circulated to members under separate cover.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 As outlined in the Budget report circulated to members under separate cover. Appendix 5 forms an Assessment of Significant Financial Risks to Substantiate Target Level of Unearmarked Working Balances.

11.0 **Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.
12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place at meetings of the community engagement groups and wider consultation has taken place via the Council’s extensive corporate communication methods which include website, social media and media briefings.

12.2 Consultation with the Trade Unions with regards to staffing issues has been embedded into normal working practices and has also met all formal consultation requirements.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 Budget working papers

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 39/2018

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

14.4 If yes, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

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

15.2 If yes, please give reason:
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 25 January 2019

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 in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1