

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services - Education
Date of Meeting:	22 April 2021

BLACKPOOL LITERACY STRATEGY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Blackpool Literacy Strategy prior to approval by the Executive, subject to any final amendments and additions.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Literacy Strategy be supported by the Committee as the strategy is integral to Blackpool's continuing improvement as a town.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Literacy Strategy has been co-produced with Scrutiny Committee Members and wider stakeholder groups. It is integral to the 2020/2030 education vision which has been supported, previously by the Committee.

- 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 Continue with the current situation, in the absence of a Literacy Strategy, maintaining the status-quo.

5.0 Council priority:

- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 It is proposed that Blackpool works towards the goals and aims that are outlined in this Literacy Strategy. The Strategy will be monitored by the Blackpool Education Improvement Board, the Opportunity Area Board and the Children and Families Strategic Partnership Board. This will be through the leadership of Council Officers such as the Director of Children's Services and the Assistant

Director – Education. Blackpool is still a statistical outlier in terms of educational achievement and standards of literacy across the town, despite recent improvements. This Strategy is integral to maintaining the progress that the town has made and to improving life chances.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 9(a) – Blackpool Literacy Strategy

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There is significant risk in not adopting the Literacy Strategy as the future life chances of our children and the adults in Blackpool depend upon high quality educational outcomes.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 All Blackpool residents must be able to access the workplace and or further and higher education offers. Currently, a proportion of Blackpool's population, which is higher than the national average, is excluded from these opportunities. This Literacy Strategy seeks to address this issue.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders including Councillors, Headteachers and Academy representatives.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.