

# Public Document Pack



## BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 17 June 2014

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Blackpool Council** to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Blackpool on Wednesday, 25 June 2014 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

Head of Democratic Services

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### **Business**

#### **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; 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 Services in advance of the meeting.

#### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2014** (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 as a true and correct record.

#### **3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

#### **4 MINUTES SILENCE**

Councillors will be asked to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to former Mayor and Councillor Mrs Joan Greenhalgh who sadly died on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May and former Chief Executive, Steve Weaver who sadly died on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May following an incident whilst cycling in France.

#### **5 COUNCILLOR MRS JOAN GREENHALGH**

Following the sad death of Councillor Mrs Joan Greenhalgh, Group Leaders and/ or representatives will be invited to pay tribute to Councillor Mrs Joan Greenhalgh and to pass a resolution of condolence.

#### **6 MR STEVE WEAVER**

Following the sad death of Mr Steve Weaver, former Chief Executive, Group Leaders and/ or representatives will be invited to pay tribute to Mr Weaver and to pass a resolution of condolence.

#### **7 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS** (Pages 9 - 50)

To receive reports from the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members and consider matters arising from councillors.

- a) Leader of the Council - Councillor Blackburn
- b) Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration - Councillor Jackson
- c) Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Safety and Enforcement - Councillor Campbell
- d) Cabinet Member for Children's Services – Councillor Taylor
- e) Cabinet Member for Tourism and Leisure - Councillor Cain
- f) Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care - Councillor Rowson
- g) Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Equality and Diversity - Councillor Jones
- h) Cabinet Member for Public Health - Councillor Collett
- i) Cabinet Member for Street Scene and the Environment – Councillor Cross
- j) Cabinet Member for Culture and Heritage – Councillor Wright

#### **8 REVENUE BUDGET SAVINGS 2014/ 2015** (Pages 51 - 62)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive relating to a replacement option for savings identified in the Revenue Budget for 2014/ 2015.

#### **9 CORE STRATEGY** (Pages 63 - 80)

This report relates to the proposed Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy.

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

(Pages 81 - 90)

The Council will be asked to consider a review of the political balance calculations following the election of three councillors at the recent by elections held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

## 11 MOTIONS

To consider the following motion which has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1 :-

a) WORKING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME. Councillor Williams to propose.

Council is asked to endorse a proposal that Jobs Seekers Allowance currently being paid to young individuals should be paid direct to employers who would then make up the difference to the living wage and they would also provide a working career apprenticeship to these young unemployed individuals. The initiative would be aimed at employers who are currently trading in craft skills such as electricians, mechanics, engineers, plumbers, heating engineers etc.

Not only would the initiative provide a fulltime apprenticeship for the young unemployed, lasting up to four years, it would provide them with life long skills ensuring continued employment and income. For the employer it would provide a cost effective way of expanding their own workforce enabling them to handle more work and larger projects.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister in support of such a scheme and recommends that it be formally considered by Central Government.

### **Venue information:**

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

### **Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Services Projects Officer, Tel: (01253) 477034, e-mail [yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk)

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at [www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk).

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### **Present:**

Councillor Collett (in the Chair)

### Councillors

Blackburn	Cross	Hunter	O'Hara
Brown	Mrs Delves	Hutton	Owen
Mrs Callow JP	Doherty	Jackson	Rowson
Callow	Elmes	Jones	Ryan
Clapham	Evans	Lee	Smith
D Coleman	Galley	Matthews	Stansfield
G Coleman	Green	H Mitchell	Wright
Cox	Haynes	M Mitchell	

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Carl Baker, Deputy Director for Children's Services

John Blackledge, Assistant Chief Executive - Leisure and Operatonal Services

Alan Cavill, Assistant Chief Executive - Regeneration, Tourism and Culture

Delyth Curtis, Assistant Chief Executive - Adult Services

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Steve Thompson, Assistant Chief Executive - Treasurer Services

Mark Towers, Head of Democratic Services / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Assistant Head of Democratic Services

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Services Projects Officer

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Cain who was on official Council business.

## **1 THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor M Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Jackson and

**Resolved:** That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Valerie Haynes be elected Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool for the municipal year 2014/2015.

## **2 THE MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Haynes made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Mayor according to the requirements of the law and thereupon took the Chair.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014

### 3 THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by the Mayor, Councillor Haynes, seconded by Councillor Blackburn and

**Resolved:** That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Chris Ryan be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool, for the municipal year 2014/2015.

### 4 THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Ryan made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor according to the requirements of the law.

### 5 THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor, Councillor Haynes, addressed the meeting.

### 6 CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INCOMING MAYOR

Councillors Blackburn, Williams and Green congratulated Councillor Haynes upon her election as Mayor. Bürgermeister Klaus Strehl also offered his congratulations on behalf of the people of Bottrop.

### 7 APPRECIATION OF THE EX-MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded by Councillor Smith and

**Resolved:**

‘That Blackpool Council places on record its appreciation of the duties so very ably and enthusiastically undertaken by Councillor Eddie Collett, as Mayor of Blackpool. His dedication for the town, together with his many years of service on the Council have stood him in good stead for his year as Blackpool’s civic head while continuing to hold down a full time job.

The Blackpool Mayoralty again maintained its status as a busy one this year with a variety of civic engagements.

Eddie and Heather began the mayoral year with the Royal Garden Party in London and towards the end of the mayoral year with a visit to Blackburn Cathedral where Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip were attending the Maundy Thursday service.

Blackpool still attracts a large number of conferences and the Mayor and Mayoress attended a variety of annual gatherings such as; National Pensioners Convention, UK Bus Driver of the Year Awards, WMCIU, Royal Pigeon Racing Association, USDAW and the World Ballroom Dancing Congress to name a few.

## **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014**

Many Ex-Service organisations still hold their Annual Reunions in Blackpool and Eddie and Heather attended reunions of the Canal Zoners, the Royal Artillery Association, Aden Veterans, the Royal Air Force Association, Battle of Britain Commemoration and the HMS Penelope Association.

National Armed Forces Week, during June, was again a great success attracting thousands of visitors to the town and the Mayor and Mayoress attended a variety of events during the week.

During his mayoral year, Eddie took great interest in small business and enterprise with several very popular evening parlours, which serviced as an extremely good basis for those involved gathering information and networking.

Eddie as a lecturer himself fully supported during his mayoral year the schools and colleges of Blackpool by attending school productions, graduation ceremonies and exhibitions.

Eddie took great pleasure in welcoming our new citizens to the town at the many very popular Citizenship Ceremonies that were held throughout the year.

This year, the Mayor chose Snows Heights and Liberty as his charities to benefit from the Mayor's Charity Appeal and he raised a large amount of charitable donations at well over £22,000.

A special reference has to be made to the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, David and Jean, for their support and contribution to this mayoral year and to Rev Michael Ward who acted as Mayor's Chaplain and has assisted at Council Meetings and other civic events.

This resolution would not be complete without particular reference to the Mayoress, Heather, who supported Eddie at all major events throughout the year.

To Eddie and Heather, Blackpool Council places on record its sincere appreciation of their services as Mayor and Mayoress, and expresses the hope that memories of their mayoral year will stay with them forever.

The Council extends to them both, every good wish for the future.'

### **8 THE EX-MAYOR'S REPLY TO THE RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

Councillor Collett replied to the resolution of appreciation.

### **9 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH 2014**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council held on 12th March 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

## 10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements on this occasion.

## 11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council considered the report on the appointment of its committees for the 2014/2015 municipal year. In doing so, it noted the application of the political balance rules and that in accordance with legislation, a political group could only be treated as being constituted when it comprised of two or more members of the Council and that a single member had no legal entitlement to places on committees, unless there was a resolution of Council, which no member voted against. Members were aware that there were currently three casual vacancies on the Council and that as the previous holders of the vacant seats were Labour councillors, the political balance calculations reflected the appropriate reduction in the number of seats to be allocated to the Labour group in some committees.

It was noted that the Licensing Committee was not subject to these calculations although the proposals were for the Liberal Democrat member to be appointed to that Committee and to continue to be involved in the scrutiny panels appointed by the Scrutiny Committee.

In relation to other committees (namely the Scrutiny Committee, Health Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee, Appeals Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Standards Committee and Chief Officers Employment Committee) it was recommended for these to be reappointed according to their current terms of reference. It was also proposed for the Area Forums to be reappointed on the basis agreed in December 2013.

A full schedule of committees was submitted to the Council containing the notified names of committee members, Lead Scrutiny Members/Shadow Cabinet Members and proposed Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship nominees.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Jackson seconded):

1. To appoint a 'Scrutiny Committee', in line with the political balance calculations set out at Appendix 11(a) to the Council report, (membership of fourteen and with a composition of nine Labour and five Conservative), with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution.
2. That the 'Scrutiny Committee' also appoints the two diocesan co-opted representatives and the two governor co-opted representatives.
3. That the Scrutiny Committee be requested to appoint a 'Call In' Sub Committee, (membership of eight and with a composition of five Labour and three Conservative), to meet as and when required, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution.
4. That the Scrutiny Committee continues to set up short life scrutiny panels for review purposes, to include, where appropriate, any other non-executive member of the Council, including the Liberal Democrat member.



## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014

5. That six 'lead' scrutiny members continue be appointed on the basis of four Conservative 'lead' members and two Labour 'lead' members, the lead members to be as set out in Appendix 11(b) to the Council report (these to also be standing members of the Scrutiny Committee).

6. To also appoint the following committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 11(a) to the Council report. These are:

- Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of eight and with a composition of five Labour and three Conservative)
- Planning Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Appeals Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative)
- Finance and Audit Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).
- Standards Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).
- Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).

7. To agree that the powers and duties of those committees at resolution 6 above remain as set out in the Constitution.

8. That the Licensing Committee also be re-appointed with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fourteen and a composition of nine Labour, four Conservative and one Liberal Democrat).

9. That the Licensing Committee be requested to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).

10. To note the appointment of members to committees as set out in Appendix 11(b) of the Council report.

11. That the seven Area Forums be re-appointed with the continuing powers and duties as agreed at the Annual Council 2012 and 2013.

12. To agree to the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those committees identified at Appendix 11(b) to the Council report, based on the above recommendations, with the exception of the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, where it is recommended that this position be appointed by the Committee itself.

13. To confirm the recommendation of the Health and Wellbeing Board in that Amanda Doyle be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board and re-affirm the membership of the Board as set out in Appendix 11(b) of the Council report.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014

14. To agree that the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

15. To agree that a further report be submitted to the June Council meeting on the political balance calculations and their effect on committees following the election of three councillors at the by elections on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.'

**Motion carried:** The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

### 12 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Council considered whether to make any changes to the scheme of delegation for which it had responsibility.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Jackson seconded):

'That no changes are made to the scheme of delegation for which the Council has responsibility'.

**Motion carried:** The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

### 13 PROPER OFFICER DESIGNATIONS

It was reported that a number of organisational, legislative and personnel to Public Health England and the National Health Service had made it necessary to update functions for local authorities in Cumbria and Lancashire, in relation to proper officers with the statutory duty as consultants in communicable disease control.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Jackson seconded):

'1. To confirm the Proper Officers as outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the Council report, with effect from 12 May 2014.

2. That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to update the Constitution accordingly.'

**Motion carried:** The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

### 14 PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Council considered a programme of meetings for the municipal year 2014/2015.

**Motion:** Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Jackson seconded):

'1. To approve the calendar of meetings for the 2014/2015 municipal year for Council and committees.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 12 MAY 2014

2. To agree that the dates for the Area Forum meetings be determined by the Head of Democratic Services after consultation with the Area Forum Chairmen.'

**Motion carried:** The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

### Mayor

(The meeting ended at 3.00 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Lorraine Hurst, Assistant Head of Democratic Services  
Tel: 01253 477127  
E-mail: [lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk)

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## LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR BLACKBURN

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### Financial Management

The 2013/ 2014 Accounts prepared under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) format have been completed. These will now be examined by our external auditors and reported to the Finance and Audit Committee on 18th September. The draft Accounts show that the Council's working balances at 31st March have almost reached their £6 million target at £5.8 million.

### Asset Management

Phase one of the Central Business District development is almost complete with the refurbished multi-storey car park and petrol filling station now open and in use. The new Council offices have been handed over and services have started moving in and are programmed to be completed by autumn 2014. The new Sainsbury's supermarket will conclude Phase One and open to the public in the summer following completion of the internal fit out which is currently underway.

### Electoral Services

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May the elections for the European Parliament were held, together with 3 local by elections. The new councillors elected were as follows; Councillor Mrs P Jackson (Labour), Hawes Side ward, turnout 30.3%, Councillor K Benson (Labour), Layton ward, turnout 33.7% and Councillor I Coleman (Labour), Talbot ward with a 28.5% turnout.

The turnout in the Blackpool area of the North West Region for the European Parliament was 30.2%. For the North West region the seats were allocated as follows: 3 Labour, 3 UKIP and 2 Conservative. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the staff who worked on these elections, over 250 people were involved from across the Council in various roles and without their help on top of their normal jobs, elections would not be able to be supported in the way currently are.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, Individual Electoral Registration (IER), went live. Under the new system, instead of receiving a household registration form, everyone will have to take responsibility to register individually, including providing identification information such as a National Insurance number and date of birth. For the first time people will also be able to register online. Initially this will not affect the vast majority already registered who have been transferred across from the previous register but any new rolling registrations will have to register on the new format.

### Revenues, Benefits, Invoices and Payments

Council Tax collection at the end of year was 93.1%, which is 2.4% less than the same period last year. The introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has had a significant impact on collection, as we anticipated it would. At the end of April collection was 1.5% down on the previous year, 9.5% compared to 11.0%. The Business Rates collection figure shows improvement at year-end at 94.9%, compared with 94.3% for the same period in the previous financial year. At the end of April a small reduction is shown, 8.2% compared to 9.1% the previous year. Strenuous efforts will continue to collect all Council Tax owed, as in the current financial circumstances, we owe it to our staff and our residents to ensure that our income is maximised.

The average time to process new benefit claims and changes is currently 26 days.

At the end of April there were 556 cases affected by under-occupancy and there are now 122 households affected by the Benefit Cap.

At the end of March 2014 all Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) received for 2013/ 2014 had been allocated. During April 2014 we have already spent 21% of the 2014/ 2015 funding, which has been reduced this year by around £100,000. DHP expenditure will be carefully monitored over the coming months.

The Discretionary Support Scheme had a total of 457 crisis applications (66% approved) and 111 community care grant applications (42% approved) during April 2014.

The Council's centralised Advice Team will be located within Treasurer Services from June 2014 and will consist of two debt advisors, two welfare benefit outreach workers and an administrative support officer.

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has announced the rollout of Universal Credit in the North West region during 2014 and discussions are ongoing with the DWP implementation team. Whilst we do not expect a large number of Housing Benefit customers to be affected initially, further briefings will be arranged as soon as more information is known.

### **Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Credit Union**

The Credit Union's growth continues with total savings topping £2.5m this month. Preston City Council has selected the Credit Union as its preferred supplier of Credit Union Services and services will be opened to Preston City Council staff and their families in June as part of a managed growth strategy.

### **Risk Services**

The Benefit Fraud Team identified overpayments of £1.8 million in 2013/ 2014, which is an excellent achievement by the team, but also a strong indication that benefit fraud continues to be a problem in Blackpool. We have now received confirmation that the Council's Benefit Fraud Team will transfer to the Department of Work and Pensions to join the Single Fraud Investigation Service in April 2015.

Work has been undertaken by Adult Social Care and the Civil Contingencies Team to identify volunteers to take part in the Emergency Response Group. Numbers continue to remain low however work is ongoing to recruit to this important role. A Rest Centre Exercise including the Emergency Response Group and the Voluntary Agencies was held in April.

The Council's new insurance policies have now been implemented and took effect from 1st April. Performance against these new policies will be monitored throughout their life to ensure that they are providing the relevant cover aligned to the Council's risk appetite.

### **Contracts and Purchasing**

The 2014/ 2015 work programme for the Corporate Procurement team has been signed off by all Departmental Management Teams. Tenders completed and contracts awarded since the last report include the following. Members will note how effective our new procurement processes are in ensuring local firms are able to compete for Council business.

- Milk - Lot 1 School – Town Head Farm, Lot 2 Kitchen – Fresh Pastures
- Fruit and Veg – Ralph Livesey
- High Ropes Course, Stanley Park – JMA
- Common Edge Catering – Whites (local)
- Health Works Award & Healthier Catering - ABL
- Feminine Hygiene Bins (nappy bins etc) - Initial (local)
- Child Safety Services - Barnardos (local)
- Applied Suicide Intervention training - Nicki De Costa (local)
- Support services for Adult Carers - Blackpool Carers (local)

- Fitness Equipment for Bickerstaffe House - Matrix Fitness
- Annual Council Tax Billing Printing - Outsource Documents
- Intruder Alarms - Automatic Alarms
- Reg 33 (Safeguarding) - NYAS
- Staff Uniforms - MWUK t/a Alexandra
- Hot drinks vending machines for leisure centres - Simply Coffee
- Alley Gates - Fylde Coast Gate Company (local)
- Ad Hoc marketing for FYCreative - Happy Creative (local)
- Central Business District Office Moves - Commercial Transfer
- Delivery of Members Mail - C Cabs (local)
- Framework Agreement for Day-to-Day Reactive Repair and Maintenance
- Lot 1 Electrical £0 - £500 – J and J Electrical (local)
- Lot 2 Electrical £500 - £50,000 – J and J Electrical (local)/ Jack Cunliffe (local)/ Technical and Electrical (local)
- Lot 3 Mechanical £0 - £500 – T. Jolly Services
- Lot 5 Asbestos Removal £0 - £50,000 – Aspect Contracts /Rhodar/LAR Ltd
- Provision of Gas – Corona Energy
- Winter Gardens Operator – brought back in-house.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Board is currently overseeing refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which is a document that describes in detail how the Borough population is made up. Three of the five core chapters are now updated. An event to engage and raise awareness of the JSNA with Voluntary and Community Sector partners is planned for the summer.

At the end of March the Board took part in the Local Government Associations (LGA) health and wellbeing peer challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to support Council's to implement their new statutory responsibilities in health and well-being and support Health and Wellbeing boards to become more confident in their system wide strategic leadership role. The challenge involved a four day on-site visit by a team of national peers across health and social care who met with senior and operational staff across the Council, NHS, Police, Fire and Ambulance Service, schools, local Healthwatch and the Voluntary and Community Sector. A feedback report has been produced by the peer team which sets out a number of development areas and key recommendations to enable both the Council and the Board take forward the health and wellbeing agenda.

Blackpool's Better Care Fund (final) plan was submitted to NHS England in early April. Initial feedback on the submission has been positive, however all local areas at this current time are awaiting formal responses from NHS England on their final plans.

The Board held its second away day in May, the purpose of the event was to consider the outcome of the health and wellbeing peer challenge, identify next steps in order to implement the recommendations outlined in the feedback report and agree future priorities. The Board will hold a thematic debate on Dementia in July

### **Staff and Public Communications**

In May, the Heritage Lottery Fund announced funding of £1.2 million towards the development of the Blackpool museum. This generated extensive coverage across the region including on BBC North West Tonight.

Other topics generating media interest have been seaside awards, bathing water testing, demolition of Queen's Park, Dancing with Dementia event at the Tower Ballroom and the proposed closure of Yeadon Way.

Over the last year the Council's social media accounts have grown significantly in popularity. The number of people liking the Facebook page has increased from 2500 to 4600. Twitter followers have increased from 5500 to 9500.

The next issue of 'Your Blackpool' will be delivered ahead of the school summer holiday with a "what's on" guide for the summer and update on the Talbot Gateway.

## **Strategy Development and Research**

### Welfare Board

The Welfare Board has agreed a training package to alert frontline staff to the welfare reform changes and how their clients may be affected. This will be rolled out during the summer months prior to the introduction of Universal Credit in November 2014.

Financial advice services have been reviewed and a single access point has been developed for residents seeking welfare and debt information and support. This will be operational in July 2014.

A digital inclusion pilot, held at the Council for Voluntary Services, has now been in place since January 2014. The pilot opens up computer access for Jobseekers one afternoon a week, providing additional computer's for those seeking work and relieving the pressure on Library computers. Volunteers and people taking part in the Job Centre work placement scheme offer advice and support to people.

Further capacity has been provided via Blackpool Coastal Housing, funded by a bid made to the Tenant's Project Fund. The hub adds another five computers to the town centre for use by Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited clients.

### **"Customer First"**

In the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014, the Customer First team has answered over 100,000 telephone calls on the Customer First line and over 50,000 calls on the Council Tax line with an answered rate of 38% on both lines. Responses have also been sent to over 5,000 emails received from customers.

From 2nd June, Customer First staff have been covering the reception point at Number One, Bickerstaffe Square. They will meet and greet customers and visitors to the new offices and ensure that all visitors are signed in, provided with a visitor lanyard and collected for their meeting.

In line with staff moving to the new building a new meeting room system is being created. This will mean a new, more efficient way of viewing and booking meeting rooms.

Post Team corporate post standards have been devised and will be distributed in a Welcome Guide to all staff moving to Number One, Bickerstaffe Square.

### **Council Efficiency Programme**

The Budget for 2014/ 2015 required total savings to be found of £15.8 million. As at 30th April 2014 (month 1) 59% of the 2014/ 2015 savings target has already been delivered.

### **Human Resources**

#### Occupational Health and Employee Well Being

The Council is running an employee exercise challenge "1Blackpool World Cup Challenge". The aim of the challenge is:

- Collectively travel the same distance in air miles as Blackpool to Rio and back (11,600 miles)



- Any form of physical activity counts, both inside and outside work
- The challenge runs from 21 May until the day after the World Cup Final (14<sup>th</sup> July)
- Two organised walks are planned to launch the challenge and there is the possibility of an organised fun run and 7 a-side football tournament

#### Unpaid Leave

Thanks to the support of the Trades Unions and employees the Council has been able to achieve the required £1 million per annum savings through voluntary unpaid leave requests for this year and next. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very grateful for the continuing support of the workforce.

#### Redundancies

Work is now almost complete in relation to Redundancies required to achieve the 2014/ 2015 savings.

The voluntary redundancy scheme was very successful this year with over 100 voluntary redundancy requests being agreed which enabled the council to reduce the number of compulsory redundancies required to achieve the savings quickly and efficiently. Where employees have been made redundant they have been offered 1:1 support with job search skills such as CV writing, job applications and interview techniques.

#### LGPS changes

With effect from 1st April 2014 changes were made to the Local Government Pension scheme. Key changes include a move from a final salary scheme to a career average salary scheme and ability for employees to pay 50% contributions for 50% benefits if they cannot afford to pay the full contribution rate required.

#### New mandatory E Learning modules

The Council has launched two new modules for completion by all employees. One relates to Fire Safety Awareness to reduce the risk of fire and to ensure the Council meets its Health and Safety obligations and the other is the Customer Care programme, which will ensure that every employee understands what is expected of them in terms of dealing with customers.

#### Culture Change Workshops

This year is a big year for change amongst Council Employees as we see the new offices at Bickerstaffe Square open. The move has prompted a need for the whole Council to embrace a culture change and to make changes to the ways in which we have traditionally operated, even if you are not moving to new offices. All managers, supervisors and team leaders were invited to attend a Making Change Happen session during May at Bickerstaffe Square. 296 Managers attended and evaluations were very good and included comments such as 'Absolutely the best session about change I have experienced in 20 years of working for the Council.'

#### **Fairness Commission**

The Fairness Commission continues to work hard in relation to addressing quality of life issues for the citizens of Blackpool:

#### Easter Buddies Campaign

The Easter Buddies Campaign started with coffee mornings in libraries across the town. Fairness Commissioners interacted with over 200 people who defined themselves as lonely or socially isolated. Staff from a range of partner organisations was on hand to provide support and a number of other issues were highlighted and dealt with. Additionally at least two thirds of those in attendance were signposted to activities, groups and clubs to help them make greater connections in their communities. The scheme will now continue as the Blackpool Buddies Campaign and the coffee mornings will continue, at the request of those who attended.

### Dementia Friends

Blackpool Fairness Commission continues to support attempts to make Blackpool Dementia Friendly. Courses continue to be delivered and a Dementia Alliance Event will be delivered in July.

### Children's Summit

The Fairness Commission has invited 100 children and young people to join them for a Children's Summit at Blackpool Tower Circus on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The event will see children from all of the School Council's given the opportunity to pose questions to a panel of senior officers including Blackpool Council, Lancashire Police, Blackpool Hospitals Trust, Lancashire Fire and Rescue and North West Ambulance Service. They will also get to participate in an hour-long circus performance to thank them for taking part. After the event, members of the panel will visit children who are unable to attend including those at Brian House, they will engage in appropriate activities to ensure they can be involved in the process.

### Fairtrade

Blackpool Fairness Commission is driving forward activity to achieve Fairtrade Town status for Blackpool. Auditing work is reaching a conclusion and a Fairtrade Picnic will be held in July/ August to raise awareness of both Fairtrade products and why it is important.

### Engagement with the Public

An open public event took place on 19<sup>th</sup> June at St John's Conference Centre, when members of the public were invited to attend and hear about the work of the Fairness Commission. There was a market place stall at the event, where 20 start-up businesses will get to showcase their work. A further newsletter was circulated at the end of May and the new Fairness Commission website, being developed by a private sector business as an Act of Kindness, is well underway and should soon be ready for use.

### **Blackpool Museum Project**

Blackpool Council has been awarded £1.24 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the development of the Blackpool Museum project.

The Blackpool Museum, planned for the Winter Gardens building, will tell the extraordinary story of the world's first working-class seaside resort, celebrating its contribution to British and Western popular culture. As well as displaying the council's own nationally significant collections in an imaginative, immersive way, there will be quality space for temporary exhibitions, co-created with communities, the V and A and others. It will be in the Pavilion Theatre space, saving it from dereliction and finding a use for other underutilised spaces in the Winter Gardens.

The museum will be a high quality, professional, self-sustaining business with the capacity to reinvest resources to support heritage-based learning and community programmes.

During the 18-month development stage, 10 jobs will be created to carry out three main objectives:

- Building a solid foundation – consisting of the development of the business case and strategic plan for the museum.
- Creating the museum – preparing for capital works by carrying out in depth surveys, public engagement and consultation, collecting stories and developing concepts.
- Raising the project's profile – talking to partners and the local community to develop communication plans.

Following the development stage, the Council will apply for £20m for the implementation of the museum and has up to two years to submit the fully developed proposals to secure a firm award.

## DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR URBAN REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR JACKSON

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### Sea Water Quality

The 2014 bathing water season is now underway with sampling taking place once a week. During the 2013 bathing season, Blackpool Council were approached by the Environment Agency to trial short term pollution warning signs to advise the public that due to the weather conditions bathing would not be advised. Due to the success of the trial and the potential to discount the results to reflect the advice to the public, Blackpool Council will now apply short-term pollution warnings throughout the 2014 bathing season.

The warning signs will only be presented when the Environment Agency advise of a potential pollution events. In addition, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have asked Blackpool Council and other North West bathing water controllers to trial their electronic warning signs, Blackpool Council have agreed to trial the electronic signage for the 2014 bathing season.

This year Blackpool Council was successfully in its application to Keep Britain Tidy for the prestigious Seaside Awards for all four bathing waters, this is recognition of the fact that all four bathing waters passed the current bathing water standards last year and for the excellent facilities provided to residents and visitors to our beaches.

### Coastal Defence Schemes

Balfour Beatty, the contractor for the coastal sea defence works, started on site on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and the first southern 300m of piling has been completed as planned at Anchorsholme. Piling resource has been demobilised from site and will return for the next phase of piling (north of the pumping station).

Princes Way between Little Bispham and Anchorsholme Lane West is now closed both ways to southbound traffic until October 2015. Traffic management is now in place and a visitor centre is open at the entrance to the site compound at Little Bispham to allow the Contractor to update the public on progress and listen to any concerns from residents and visitors.

Security is in place and is regularly being amended to suit the needs of the site. Particular attention is being given to ensuring that lighting to the site is not intrusive.

Extensive and ongoing consultation has and is being held with residents, which has been extremely successful, particularly in relation to highway management.

### Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership

Turning Tides Partnership and the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership are focusing their action plans this year on ensuring that business are engaged in the Love my Beach campaigns and in delivering an education pack to schools across the North West. There will also be a strong focus throughout the season on positive communications and ensuring that the public understand the effect of the new standards and the investment being carried out by partners such as United Utilities and the Environment Agency.

Blackpool Council has been awarded funding of £50,000 from the Environment Agency to continue to

assist in the delivery of the partnership objectives.

### **Building and Building Cleaning Services**

Building Services has recently gained the Construction Industry Standard for health and safety. The Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) award proves competence and monitoring within health and safety. Building services are forging new links with Danfo, who manage our public conveniences, working closely with them on four new schemes in Blackpool, Lancaster and Glasson Dock.

### **Capital Projects (Architects and Quantity Surveyors)**

The Capital Projects team has recently been awarded consultancy services contracts for The Grand Theatre, for Project Management, Quantity Surveying and CDM-c (Health and Safety). These contracts were awarded in competition against other consultancy companies on best value and quality of service.

### **Getting People into Work**

The Council's lead adult employment services team, Positive Steps into Work, recorded its most successful year to date in 2013/ 2014, helping 382 long-term unemployed customers into work across all of its programmes, the majority coming from its Work Programme delivery. The team secured two Public Health-funded specialist work-focused contracts providing targeted advice in South Beach, and to residents looking to move on after recovery from drug and alcohol dependency, or HIV. A further National Careers Service contract helped 221 people with information, advice and guidance on career options, including 61 Council beneficiaries at risk of redundancy. Advice to Council staff included support to create or update their CV, attend mock interviews, short training courses, as well as money advice and self-employment options.

Positive Steps set up a new Council-wide Work Experience scheme called 'Chance2shine' in late 2013 aimed at providing one-month placement opportunities for 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and older long-term unemployed (sourced from Connexions and Work Programme customers who lack relevant experience). Of 73 referrals to the end of March 2014, 25 completed their placement by the end of the year. Placements have been offered in a variety of Council departments including Office Moves, Cleaning, Recycling and Waste Management, Streetscene, Solaris Café, Grundy Art Gallery, Children's Centres, Adult Care and the Credit Union. This year, the team is hoping to achieve 15 new work placement starts per month and are currently on target to do this.

### **Energy and the Environment**

#### United Utilities Automatic Meter Reading project update:

In connection with the automatic meter readings installation, 98% of the meter replacement works are completed and 70% of the meters, 82 in total, have been handed over following final validations.

#### Gas supply Contract

Following final tender evaluations, the gas supply contract for the initial period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2017 was awarded to Corona Energy Ltd. The portfolio comprises 198 meter positions with an annual consumption of 48.5 giga-watt hours.

In 2013/ 2014 Blackpool Council introduced a proactive strategic approach to gas procurement in 2006 with the introduction of flexible contracting rather than taking the conventional fixed price-fixed term option. It has been identified through the use of flexible contracting with the ability to make multiple purchasing decisions over more economically advantageous timeframes, significant reductions could be realised.

Despite initial concerns for 2013/ 2014 over gas price direction surrounding supply margins and national and international issues, Blackpool Council was able to take advantage of the marketing softening and achieve a significant reduction from initial contract prices, particularly in the period January to March 2014 due to the milder weather. In financial terms a 12% reduction was achieved in the delivered gas price compared with the conventional fixed price-fixed term approach.

### **Planning and Land Use**

The Core Strategy has reached the next stage of its preparation and was considered by Executive on 16<sup>th</sup> June with the recommendation to approve the document, along with the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment and other supporting evidence base documentation, for publication stage consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State. It is anticipated that this next stage of consultation will take place during July and August this summer for eight weeks. Following this, representations will be considered and submitted along with the Core Strategy and supporting documents to the Secretary of State in December 2014. The Secretary of State will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to examine the Core Strategy. This is expected to be in the spring of 2015. Following the examination the Inspector will publish his report on the plan and if found sound by the Inspector, the Plan can then be adopted by Council, which is likely to be around September 2015.

A significant amount of additional work has had to be undertaken prior to preparing the Proposed Submission Core Strategy in response to new government requirements and to update certain aspects of the evidence base. This additional work has included updating the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), which informs the housing requirement in the Core Strategy along with additional economic work to link job growth to the housing requirement; undertaking a viability assessment of the policies in the Core Strategy to ensure that the policy requirements in the Core Strategy do not cause development to be unviable, updating the Employment Land Review and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. These pieces of work needed to be completed to ensure that the Inspector at Examination would find an up to date evidence underpinning key policies in the Plan.

Blackpool Council is working jointly with Fylde and Wyre Councils to update the 2007 Fylde Coast Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation Assessment. Consultants Opinion Research Services have been commissioned to undertake the update and were appointed in late October 2013. The commission involves consultation with various stakeholders and the Gypsy, Traveller and Show people communities to determine their future accommodation needs. The final report is expected late summer 2014. It is likely that a need for additional sites across the Fylde Coast will be identified and Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Councils will work together to accommodate this need. For Blackpool, the location of any new sites within the borough will be considered when we prepare Part Two of the Blackpool Local Plan, anticipated to commence in September 2015.

### **Economic Development**

The Government has introduced three schemes to support businesses affected by flooding caused by the adverse weather between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. These include Business Rates Relief for a three month period, a Business Support Scheme which allows grants of around £2,000 for unrecoverable costs from other sources (e.g. insurance) and loss of business and a Repair and Renewal Scheme providing grants up to £5,000 to pay for additional flood resilience measures. Local access to the scheme will be via the Council's Business Support Team within Economic Development who will be administering the application and grant payment process. Some 46 businesses in Blackpool have already been identified as being potentially eligible and will be invited to apply from early June. Others not identified may also be eligible to apply if the case can be proven.

A grant of up to £1m from the Government's Employer Ownership Pilot has been awarded to local employers wishing to establish a Blackpool Tourism Academy, aiming to improve skill levels in the local tourism industry. Over 5,000 training places will be supported, including over 100 new apprenticeship

opportunities. One of the key aims is to introduce WorldHost standards in customer service and eventually gain WorldHost recognition for the resort as a whole. WorldHost is an international standard and was used to train volunteers at the London Olympics. The first WorldHost trainer training programmes commenced in June involving 21 participants from the six founding Academy employers, including Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Merlin, Blackpool Zoo, Blackpool Transport Services, Sandcastle Waterpark and Cuerden Leisure. Once trained, they will start to roll out customer service training across their businesses to over 1,200 frontline staff.

### **Working with Blackpool Private Sector and Business including the Business Improvement District (BID)**

The Blackpool Business Leadership Group staged its May meeting in the new Council offices at Bickerstaffe Square. More than 100 businesses attended the meeting, which included a presentation by Muse on the Talbot Gateway regeneration scheme. It also included a presentation on how businesses can help Blackpool to become a Fair Trade town.

### **Youth Employment**

The number of 16 to 18 year olds NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) was 380 (7.3%) at the end of April 2014 compared with compared with 461 (8.8%) at the end of April 2013, a reduction of 17.5%. Key contributions include the one to one support and short learning programmes provided by the Connexions Service and Blackpool and The Fylde College moving more towards a roll on roll off model of delivery for vulnerable young people.

The Youthability Hub (one stop shop for 16 to 24 year olds unemployed) is currently being evaluated with report being available in July 2014. The Council is also developing a more coherent approach to including the recruitment of apprentices as a social value condition in appropriate contracts.

### **Phones and IT**

#### Windows 7 Upgrades and device Deployment

The IT Service is continuing with the refresh of Windows software and hardware devices. This is necessary due the withdrawal of Windows XP and the age of many hardware devices significantly exceeding their serviceable lifespan.

#### Data Centre- Migration and collaborative working

The new data centre at Bickerstaffe House is now operational. In June/ July this will become the primary data centre for all Council data as well as hosting services for schools, third sector and Fylde and Rochdale Councils. The new data centre is a highly resilient facility with back up power and cooling. The high quality facility is unrivalled on the Fylde Coast.

### **Schools IT**

#### Digital Media Awards

Digital Media Awards were held at the Odeon Cinema on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 9:00am. Entries were submitted from Primary and Special schools in five categories including Animation, Best Film and E-safety Film.

#### Social Action with Schools

In June we will be engaging with the Secondary Schools regarding the BT – Digital Champions initiative.

Each student taking part will volunteer to spend at least one hour with someone in their local community helping them to get online, for example using the internet, email, Google or YouTube. The programme aims to recruit 10,000 BT Digital Champions from schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to get involved.

## CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT – COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL

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### Private Sector Housing Licensing

The new selective and additional licensing schemes in Claremont went live in April, with all privately rented properties now required to get a licence and comply with management conditions. A comprehensive inspection programme is starting in June, covering approximately 1,600 privately rented homes in the Claremont ward. The inspections will build on the experience of South Beach, combining inspections of property with visits by a dedicated team to link vulnerable residents to support. A new officer has been recruited to help landlords in the Claremont area deal effectively with tenants' anti-social behaviour, providing a similar service to the valuable work in South Beach.

### Building Homes

#### Queens Park

Demolition work in the first phase of the re-development of Queens Park has now been completed, including the demolition of two of the five tower blocks on the estate. This marks an important milestone in the re-development, with construction of new homes on the site now underway and the first new homes due to be completed by November. The Council has recently bid for grant funding to the Homes and Communities Agency to help deliver the second and final phase of the re-development of Queens Park, with the outcome from the bid likely to be received in July. If successful, the demolition of the rest of the estate is likely to start in summer 2015.

#### Foxhall Village

The remediation contract is virtually completed, having been extended by the need to deal with unexpected utility services, and only validation reporting remains to be finished.

Visible progress is being made on the Rigby Road housing development despite a delayed start on site. Hollinwood Homes expect to be on target to deliver the first phase of 70 homes for Great Places by the end of March 2015. An additional 56 homes for private sale are being constructed concurrently and 19 of these have already been reserved off-plan. The 126 houses with full planning permission are being built on both the west and east parts of the site. Hollinwood Homes have decided to market the development as Foxhall Village.

There is still much to be put in place before the comprehensive development can be completed. Acquisition of property to complete phase three of the development on the Tyldesley Road / Blundell Street block continues at a slow but steady pace and the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) authorised by the Executive at the end of March 2014 is in the process of being served to the remaining owners and occupiers. Some relocations, of for example Blackpool Build Up, will need to be put in place to ensure business continuity. The extent of the objection to the CPO and a decision on whether an Inquiry will be required will be determined by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), probably by the end of July.

Contracts are in the process of being let to provide the required surface water drainage system (directly out to sea via the existing Promenade system and not to the combined sewer system) and to improve the appearance of the retaining wall to Seaside Way and Princess Street bridge, which are required as a part of the Development Agreement with Hollinwood Homes. Hollinwood are also preparing public realm proposals for the surrounding area to ensure that the development has the best setting possible and to help spread the full benefits of the development are trickled out to the surrounding neighbourhood.

### **Trading Standards, Food Hygiene and all Enforcement activities**

Following repeated complaints from the public about on street car sales, a new high-profile, and ultra robust campaign has begun to tackle the issue. Within the first two weeks, all 38 vehicles detected were issued notices and all 38 removed.

Following a recent conviction for counterfeiting at Preston Crown Court and the Authority successfully winning an appeal hearing over a planning enforcement issue before the Royal Court the offenders have been ordered to repay over £300,000, with over £100,000 being recovered by the Authority. These Proceeds of Crime monies will be fed back into protecting the vulnerable and elderly from crime.

Officers have finished trialling the first batch of call blocking systems with extremely positive results. These systems are designed to prevent the elderly and vulnerable being targeted in their own homes via nuisance telephone calls. More units have now been ordered to widen the scheme to more previous victims of scams, using monies recovered from Proceeds of Crime

A new working methodology between officers and the Police utilising high-visibility interventions has begun with the intention of taking control of the Bank Hey Street and Promenade areas. Among issues dealt with have been drunkenness, begging, street trading, lewd behaviour, waste from takeaways, and illegal charity collectors.

Commercial waste enforcement has recently transferred within the Public Protection Division to sit alongside other enforcement functions. In the last month, there have been four Enforcement Notices with Schedules issued, and six Fixed Penalty Notices relating to littering, obstruction, misuse of waste receptacles and waste transfer notice issues.

Undercover investigations with the Police regarding bogus armed forces charity collectors have led to the seizure of hundreds of their items and four separate collectors being reported for prosecution for alleged fraud offences. Investigations are continuing.

An individual has been reported for prosecution for Fraud offences regarding preying on elderly victims in their own homes over building works. A joint Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order (CRASBO) application has been submitted, supported by the Police.

Operations continue to tackle the problem of illegal tattooists. Three warrants have all been successfully executed in the last few weeks with seizures made in each case. The most notable relates to an individual who had tattooed a 12-year-old child.

A joint operation is underway in Blackpool with the Police to tackle the problem of "Legal Highs". Agreement has been reached with the Drugs Unit at Hutton Police HQ that our officers will submit samples of every Legal High found on sale within Blackpool. The Police have agreed to analyse these free of charge. If they are found to contain prohibited items then the Police will take action, if they do not then the Authority will take prosecutions under General Product Safety Requirements.

### **"BSafe" – Blackpool Community Safety Partnership**

#### Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Performance

All crime in Blackpool showed a 5.1% increase in 2013/ 2014 (year to date) when compared to the same period the previous year. This equates to 786 more crimes.

High impact acquisitive crime (incorporating domestic burglary and all robbery offences) showed an increase of 21.1% (n=159).



Individual breakdown of other crime categories include:

- Anti-social behaviour has increased by 1.7% (n=211)
- Vehicle crime has increased by 6.1% (n=60)
- Burglary dwelling has increased by 22.8% (n=141)
- Violence against the person has increased by 2.7% (n=103)
- Criminal Damage and arson has increased by 4.5% (n=111)

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC)**

Between June 2010 and May 2014 a total of 48 Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRAC) have been held.

A total of 293 high risk cases to date have been referred to ASBRAC since June 2010 and have had comprehensive action plans put in place to address the risk caused to victims by anti-social behaviour.

A total of 280 high-risk cases (96%) have been either completely resolved or resolved to such a level where there is no longer risk of harm to the victim.

### **Crime reduction and substance misuse initiatives**

#### Showing Domestic Violence the Red Card

A county wide campaign has been launched by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner in a bid to tackle domestic violence throughout the World Cup. During major sporting events, levels of domestic violence can increase by up to 30% particularly as a consequence of increased alcohol consumption. A series of posters and advertising materials has been created, all of which are based around football terminology. It is hoped that the campaign will encourage people to think twice about their behaviour, raise awareness about where abuse victims can get help and subsequently minimise harm. Blackpool has fully participated in this campaign and the associated materials can be seen at a number of locations across the town. The campaign also raise awareness on the dangers of drink driving and the risks associated with domestic fires whilst intoxicated with alcohol.

#### Clare's Law comes into effect

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the domestic violence disclosure scheme and domestic violence protection orders were rolled out across all police forces in England and Wales.

The domestic violence disclosure scheme, also known as "Clare's Law", allows the police to disclose to individuals details of their partners' abusive pasts where this may protect someone from further violence.

Alongside this scheme, police and magistrates in England and Wales can now issue domestic violence protection orders (DVPOs). These can be issued where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator, and can prevent the perpetrator from returning to a residence and having contact with the victim for up to 28 days, allowing the victim some time to consider their options, with the help of a support agency.

#### Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill receives Royal Assent

The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 13th March and the provisions of the bill came into force on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The Act introduces more effective powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, streamlining the old powers into six new powers. It is hoped that these new tools and powers will provide better protection for victims and communities.

The Act also includes a Community Trigger, which will allow individuals and communities to execute a review of how a specific antisocial behaviour issue has been tackled by the relevant agencies where

they feel no sufficient action has been taken. This will ensure that the public feel that their voices are heard and they have an active role in taking action if agencies are not effectively tackling antisocial behaviour. The Community Trigger is due to be introduced in autumn 2014.

#### This is Abuse Campaign

The latest phase of the 'This is Abuse' campaign, which aims to engage teenage boys and young men on what constitutes abuse and violence in their relationships, was launched in March. YouTube stars have created video blogs in which they talk about issues affecting teenage relationships. The video blogs point out that abuse isn't always physical and involves wider issues of consent. All the videos end with a yes or no question. The aim is to start an interactive conversation with viewers, challenging harmful attitudes and clearly highlighting what constitutes abuse.

The campaign aims to prevent teenagers from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships by encouraging them to re-think their views of violence, abuse, and controlling behaviour. Teenagers are also encouraged to consider what consent means within their relationships and the campaign also signposts them to help and advice.

#### **CCTV/ Security Service**

The Council's Security Manager has recently completed Police training to be accredited under the Community Safety Scheme – Traffic Control. This new accreditation means that he and colleagues in Blackpool Council are able to conduct road closures in place of the Police. Blackpool is the only authority in the North West that has the accreditation. This opportunity materialised due to the high costs and savings required to implement road closures by the Police for large events in the town, many private operators are now helping the Police with road closures to relieve Traffic Police from this duty.

The potential was seen to undertake this within the Council as a financial saving exercise. The training has already paid dividend as the service has been asked to carry out a road closure and traffic census in Preston on behalf of Lancashire Police.

#### **Licensing Service**

I am also pleased to inform the Council that a Bill has just been laid before Parliament to amend Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003 (general duties of licensing authorities), to add a fifth licensing objective regarding public health (protecting and improving public health). This is an issue the Council has been supporting for a number of years.

## CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES – COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

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### **Congratulations**

I am very proud that Michael Flynn has won the North West Adult Learner of the Year and the award was presented at a special event at Manchester Museum.

Michael Flynn has been volunteering with the adult learning service for the last two years and has used adult learning courses himself to make him better equipped to support other people taking on classes. Michael, who suffers from autism, started out volunteering but was shy and lacking in confidence. After taking the Learning Disabilities Advocacy course, Michael was able to express himself better, and has massively grown in his confidence. He continues to take the classes both as a learner and as a volunteer helper

### **Early Years.**

#### Ofsted inspections

Early years settings, four group childcare reports and one childminder inspection report have been published since my last report. Two of these were inadequate, but both settings have had an Ofsted monitoring visit since, they meet all actions and Ofsted found that they had taken swift and effective action to address the concerns. One setting has decided to close in August due to financial sustainability reasons, the other is on track to secure an improved outcome when it is next inspected which will be by early September. One setting received a judgement of Requires Improvement, this was an improvement on their previous inadequate judgement and they continue to work with the Early Years team to improve further. The fourth was inspected under the previous framework and received a satisfactory judgement. The childminder received a grading of good, again an improvement on her previous grade. Overall 79 of our Early Years Settings are Outstanding/Good, 17 are satisfactory and eight are Requires Improvement or Inadequate.

Childcare settings (age 5+) – three reports have been published, all three met the requirements of the Childcare Register.

#### Two year old funding

The extended eligibility criteria which will be introduced nationally from September has been introduced early in Blackpool, which means that even more vulnerable two year olds have access to an early years education place.

### **School Support and Advice.**

An additional Primary School Improvement Partner has been appointed and will take up post in July. Education London (who led the highly successful London Challenge) have been commissioned to support improved attainment and progress in English and are already operating within all Blackpool secondary schools. Close working is taking place with Liverpool Local Authority to share good practice in school improvement. Close working with Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) is in place and includes training sessions ('Through the lens of inspection') for head teachers, senior leaders and governors from all Blackpool schools. Revised protocols for the monitoring and challenging of schools have been shared with all head teachers. New statutory guidance has been published by the Department of Education (DfE), which states the criteria by which Local Authority's must decide to use their statutory powers of intervention in maintained schools. The guidance also clarifies the reasons for which Local Authority's should inform the Secretary of State in the case of concerns about academies.

### **Governor Services**

Following consultation, all maintained school governing bodies are now required to reconstitute by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, under the School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2012. These regulations give more freedom for the Governing Body to determine its membership based on the skills required to make it more cohesive and dynamic. Whilst the Local Authority will be able to nominate any eligible person as a Local Authority Governor, it will be for the Governing Body to decide whether their nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and meets any other eligibility criteria they have set. Guidance produced by the Department for Education recommends that Local Authorities should make every effort to understand the Governing Body's requirements and identify and nominate suitable candidates. On reconstituting, the Governing Body will only have one Local Authority representative place available.

### **School Organisation and Buildings**

Over 100 delegates attended the National Education Building Development Officers Conference. Both Blackpool school design and construction was showcased during the event. The Education Funding Agency used the event to 'cut the turf' on the new High School and Special School at the Collegiate site. Under the Priority Schools Building Programme both South Shore Academy and Hawes Side will be included in the next phase of development.

Unity Academy building works have been completed and handed back to the school. This scheme has had a significant impact on both the school and community of Warbreck Hill and has been delivered for less than £9m, which includes school and sponsor contribution. Building Schools for the Future design and remodelling within the lowest quintile of construction costs for schools nationally.

### **City Learning Centre (CLC)**

During 2013/ 2014 financial year the nearly 6000 students accessed the facilities. While nearly 31,000 delegates used the building.

The CLC will continue with its present operational remit, providing quality internal and external training facilities, community spaces, school training, education resource centre and networks. It will continue to generate income of which a high proportion will cover building costs and budgeted within Asset management.

### **Continuing Professional Development and School Workforce**

Continuing Professional Development brokerage continues to develop with partnerships with Fylde Coast Teaching Alliance, Liverpool LA, Blackburn LA, Edge Hill University, London Challenge and other national companies. Locally we are working close with the Blackpool Schools Partnership. A directory of preferred providers has been provided for the school improvement web site supported by Quality Assurance protocols.

### **Inspection and Intervention of Schools**

During the 2014 calendar year the following schools have been inspected:

- Marton Primary School - Inspected 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Overall effectiveness Good, previous judgement was Requires Improvement.
- Stanley Primary School - Inspected 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014. Overall effectiveness Good, previous judgement was Good.
- Waterloo Primary Academy - Inspected 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Overall effectiveness Good, previous judgement was Good.
- Highfurlong School - Inspected 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Overall effectiveness Good, previous judgement was Good.

## **Outdoor Learning**

The expedition season for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has begun and already some groups have been on training expeditions in the Lake District and the Trough of Bowland. Interest in the Award at all levels is growing in Blackpool and the numbers of young people in the Open Access Group run by the Local Authority has almost reached 50.

The overall number of residential visits by schools has gone down year on year during the recession, which is disappointing but understandable. Secondary schools are continuing to be adventurous and visits have taken place in the last 12 months to places such as Belgium, France, USA, Spain, China and Nepal.

## **Music Service and Music Hub**

Our Schools Music Education Plan has been written and submitted as requested by Ofsted. The drive for schools to have their own action plans is now a priority. It is essential that music remains on school timetables if we are to provide progression routes for our musicians and reap the benefits of our extensive Creative Music Making Programme.

These are just some of the Creative Music Making extra-curricular and large scale events we have provided during the last 11 weeks:

- Pop Idol. Supported by 49% of our Schools
- Three Little Pigs. A joint event between The Grand Theatre, National Ballet and our successful Tiddley- om-pom-poms programme.
- Professional Development for our conductors at the National Association of Brass Band Conference.
- Auditions for The BBC's The Voice (Series 4).
- Interaction with all Youth Music programmes in the North West
- Our LA choral performance with the outstanding Russell Watson at the Opera House
- Education, Building and Development Officers' Group (EBDOG) Conference performances at the Hilton
- Skoog flexible special needs and music therapy resource Training days for teachers of Special Needs Children
- Professional Development training for all Primary School teachers of the new music curriculum
- Charanga. Training days for ICT music
- Choir of the Year at The Tower Ballroom with capacity numbers of performers and audiences.
- A new initiative with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.
- A joint concert with the Kings Lancashire regiment and Blackpool Youth Concert Band at the Winter Garden's in support of Armed Forces Week.

Charity status for an arms-length organisation supporting the music making aspirations of our children has now been granted. The Friends of Blackpool Music Service's two main initiatives will be to provide financial support for large scaled performances and, to provide a number of small bursaries to help finance the external examinations of our talented young musicians. Donations, sponsors and benevolent funds are now being collated and have already reached more than £14,000.

New initiatives have also been confirmed with:

- Rock Hard Studio; to provide extended qualifications for 16-18 year old pop musicians
- The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra; to offer new opportunities to play different genres of music to our talented and gifted pupils in both Jazz and Improvisation
- The Aztec Theatre; will extend the theatre experiences of our children
- Our African Festival will include an opportunity for all participants to receive an Arts Award. If this pilot works this nationally accreditation will be offered to thousands of our children.
- Curious Minds and Cultural Services

- A joint event at The Tower Ballroom with Blackpool, Lancashire, Sefton and Blackburn with Darwen Music Services/Hubs

Blackpool children are now performing in six of our nationally respected orchestras. This significant outcome has never been achieved before and identifies that our teaching, support and shared aspirations are now providing new vocational opportunities for Blackpool children.

### **Youth Service**

The youth service is now working with new Practice Standards launched on April 1st to bring in clear expectations and processes about effective 1-2-1 case work with young people. This introduces monthly audits of case notes and requirements for timed intervention. The provision of issue-based group work continues to grow with a new running club, orienteering and equine therapy groups launching in the summer term. The number of young people engaging in group work is steadily growing with over 200 young people participating so far this academic year

Plans for the remainder of this term include, creation of three themed campaign projects on risky behaviour, relationships and anger management. Summer holiday provision planning is underway with four themed weeks for targeted young people including confidence and self esteem, identity and diversity, communication and social skills and emotional wellbeing and literacy. Included within the summer provision will be an extensive transition program in line with the HeadStart project supporting over 70 young people from Primary to Secondary school with activities including an in school 'sleep-in'

### **Children's Centres.**

#### UNICEF's Baby Friendly Initiative

The assessors found that all the required elements were being achieved and the reaccreditation was passed with flying colours, endorsing the quality of support and information given to mums and the welcome that children centres and other premises provide to mothers.

The Better Start bid was submitted to the Big Lottery Fund at the end of February and an interview was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. The bid was an excellent bid and the preparation for the interview was very positive. Everyone has worked exceptionally hard and we hope to have positive feedback at the beginning of June.

### **Adult, Community and Family Learning**

Adults including many vulnerable members of the community attended an awards ceremony at Central Library 24<sup>th</sup> April. Over 50 adults and families attended to receive their certificates. Awards included basic skills (maths, English, ICT), health and safety, and food hygiene. National Adult Learners Week took place between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June. To celebrate Adult Learners Week in Blackpool, a "Have a Go Day" on 16<sup>th</sup> June 16<sup>th</sup> was held at Central Library and a stakeholder workshop was held 20<sup>th</sup> June at Central Library again to help plan Adult Learning Courses delivered from September 2014.

### **14 -19 Strategy**

There were 4363 (80.9%) of 16 to 18 year olds in learning at the end of April 2014 compared with 4307 (78.3%) at the end of April 2013. To sustain this improvement the Connexions Service is launching a Virtual Early Leaver Service for young people who leave college courses or training early. The college or training provider will upload the young person's details and the Connexions Service will contact the young person within 48 hours. The Connexions Service, Educational Diversity, Blackpool and the Fylde and Training Providers are working in partnership to deliver "Project 90". All Educational Diversity school leavers will be offered an innovative summer programme alongside intensive mentoring to support their transition into further learning.

## CABINET MEMBER FOR TOURISM AND LEISURE – COUNCILLOR CAIN

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### **Illuminations**

Erection of the 2014 display is on target and no issues are foreseen. The media launch of the new features for 2014 is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> July 17 at Lightworks. The Illuminations team is also working on other lighting projects in the town centre including the signage for IlluminAsia and feature lighting in support of the summer season run of MAMMA MIA! at the Opera House.

### **Leisure Management**

#### Gateway Fitness – Official Opening

Gateway Fitness Centre, the Council's fourth Health and Fitness facility opened its doors to the public for the first time on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The new state of the art facility boasts a 60 station gym with a range of cardiovascular, resistance and free weights equipment along with an exercise class studio and high class changing facilities. The equipment has been supplied by Matrix Fitness and is the latest range, packed with advanced functionality, which combines a brilliant, high-definition display, a myriad of entertainment options and a responsive touch screen interface with internet and social media access. Designed to mirror popular tablet computers and optimised for exercisers, the intuitive app interface offers a more refined, exercise-friendly experience, with little to no typing and simple navigation. Further more, the class studio will be fitted with state of the art indoor cycling technology that projects images onto a large screen, enabling customers to fully immerse themselves in the cycling experience.

Sporting celebrity Colin Jackson officially opened the facility on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

#### Permanent Price Drop

From June 2014, Sport Blackpool is reducing their Health and Fitness membership prices for new and existing customers. The price drop sees customers direct debits and annual payments reduce by an average of 8%, with the headline membership price reducing from £33 a month to £29.99 a month. The aim of this permanent price drop is to encourage more people to be more active, more often by using our leisure facilities.

#### Worlds Largest Swimming Lesson

Sport Blackpool once again took part in the Guinness World Record attempt to break the record for the world's largest swimming lesson. The Sandcastle Waterpark is the lead organisation for the event, which is a synchronised attempt with waterparks from across the world taking part at the same day and time. Last years attempt was a success, with over 200 pupils from Blackpool Primary Schools helping to break the world record. The 2014 attempt took place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June at Palatine Leisure Centre, Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre and Woodlands pool.

### **Stanley Park and Showground**

Four new stone statues procured from Ribble Reclamation, now proudly stand within the Italian Gardens in Stanley Park. The stunning figures were lifted onto newly prepared plinths in April and have been extremely well received by park users. Each statue, as well as all other heritage statues and features within the park, have now been branded with a unique forensic security tag called Select DNA. The statues are made from granite stone and represent nature's four seasons. They are similar in size, colour and sculptural style and are hand carved from a single block of stone. Each figure is approximately five feet tall and now stands on a matching york stone stand, well elevated above eye level and surrounded by newly planted ornamental yew hedging.

The completion of one of the largest play sites in the North West is in sight on Stanley Park this month. Further to securing grant monies from SITA's Enhancing Communities Fund, a new £110,000 children playground's aimed for two to eight year olds is now under construction by specialist contractor Wicksteed. The Council and the Friends of Stanley Park have been working together since 2011 on plans to upgrade Stanley Park's playground for young toddlers and children. The project is in line with Stanley Parks five year strategic management plan and will help to boost the parks National Green Flag Award status, which has been held for six consecutive years. A public consultation exercise was undertaken for four weeks in December 2011. A tender process followed and a new playground design plan, which incorporates the community's wants and wishes, has been developed and agreed. Following the submission of a number of grant applications, funding for the project was secured in March 2014 and works started in April. It is hoped the playground will be open early June.

### **Marton Mere Nature Reserve and Ecological Areas**

Prospective volunteers looking to get involved in Blackpool's rich green environment are going to enjoy a new project led by Leisure and Catering Services and Groundwork Lancashire West and Wigan. The Council's Parks Development Manager is teaming up with Groundwork to create a new green space volunteer website, which will enable the local community to find out more about town wide environmental volunteer opportunities as well details on the benefits of volunteering, how to apply and town wide green projects.

The website will be a one-stop-shop for town wide green volunteer schemes and make it easier for people to get information, apply and get involved. It will also ensure that green volunteering in Blackpool is professionalised and coordinated in context of the big picture, to help both the environment as well as the individual. The website will outline opportunities for individuals as well as community, special interest and corporate groups. It is expected to be launched in September 2014.

### **Tourism and Marketing Services – VisitBlackpool**

VisitBlackpool has announced a three-day festival to celebrate the start of Blackpool Illuminations. The festival will open on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August with a free switch on event on the Tower Festival Headlands, staged in association with Rock FM. The Saturday and Sunday evenings will be paid-for concerts, with Saturday featuring a series of excerpts from leading West End shows, with Thriller Live as the headline show. Sunday has been programmed as a pop concert with recording star Rebecca Ferguson topping a bill that also includes Atomic Kitten and Liberty X. Tickets for the festival weekend are now on sale. Details of the Friday night line-up will be announced over coming weeks.

Blackpool's tourism season has got off to a flying start with over three million adult visits between January and April, 500,000 higher than in the same period in 2013. The independent, UK-wide Omnibus survey shows that the resort saw year-on year growth across all four months, with April (which includes Easter) recording the highest visitor figures at one million visits. Visitor satisfaction levels also improved significantly – 89% in 2014 compared to 75% in 2013.

The first destination-based TV ad for several years is now in production and will be screened in early July in Scotland and the north of England. The advertisement, which is part of a joint campaign between Merlin Entertainments and VisitBlackpool, is aimed at changing negative perceptions of Blackpool and encouraging new and lapsed visitors to take a fresh look at the resort. The television advert will be supported by extensive digital and PR activity. Pleasure Beach and Sandcastle Waterpark are already running television adverts for their individual attractions and a MAMMA MIA! Advert was broadcast during June.

### **Sport, Physical Activity and Play.**

School Sport has continued to deliver high quality results as the School Games in Blackpool has seen children and young people engage in school sport competitions for athletics, swimming, football and



rugby union to name a few.

With the Lancashire School Games rapidly approaching, schools across Blackpool are working closely with their students to attempt to claim one of the Blackpool Teams for 1<sup>st</sup> July. Blackpool will see 16 school teams taking to the sports pitches to compete against the winning schools from the other School Games Organiser areas across Lancashire at the celebration of sport, which will take place in Stanley Park.

Schools have also started their preparations for Blackpool Youth Games, which will once again coincide with National School Sports Week. There are 28 sporting competitions, which will take place across four and a half days and will engage over 2500 from Blackpool Schools.

The PE and Sport Team is currently working with schools to promote the delivery programmes available for 2014/ 2015 and to provide support and guidance to schools when considering the use of their Sports Premium for the forthcoming school year.

#### Stroke Rehabilitations Sessions in the Feel Good Factory

Active Blackpool has introduced stroke rehabilitation sessions for male clients within the Feel Good Factory at Palatine Leisure Centre on Tuesday and Thursday. Clients are being referred from the early supported stroke discharge team, stroke association and the stroke physiotherapist. The Feel Good Factory equipment is a perfect choice for anyone coming back to exercise after periods of rest or inactivity.

One of the first clients has been using the equipment for five weeks and quotes:

“I have achieved more strength in my weak arm and leg, better balance when walking and bending to lift things up. I now feel more confident when out walking and exercising, more at ease with myself and now communicate better with others. I can now move my arm a little on my own, hold it still by myself, walk a lot better and its still improving, didn't think I would get so much in 5 weeks of using the Feel Good Factory equipment”.

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## CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE – COUNCILLOR ROWSON

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### **Adult Social Care**

The Care Act 2014 was given Royal Assent in May and will be enacted from April 2015 onwards. The Act consolidates the law relating to local authority social care and creates new responsibilities on the authority. This will demand a major training and practice development programme, together with any relevant system and process redesign, to ensure we are ready to manage the new landscape post April 2015. It is anticipated with some degree of certainty that there will be an increase in the number of assessments that will have to be undertaken, for both service users and carers. The draft regulations are due to be published shortly, which should give some detailed guidance about the practice changes and what the responsibilities of the Local Authority will be. A project board has been established to oversee the wide-ranging changes, and a dedicated Project Officer starts in July for two years to coordinate the various work streams contributing to the required change. This post will also offer some dedicated project time to the Better Care Fund developments with the clinical commissioning group.

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) came into effect in April 2009. The DoLS provide a legal framework for the assessment of a person's circumstances where they are believed to lack mental capacity and may be being deprived of their liberty. They are mainly used to protect people either in residential/ nursing homes or in hospitals who are or need to be deprived of their liberty in their own best interests. Local Authorities have the Statutory Duty for implementing the MCA DoLS at a local level. Following a recent judgement in the Supreme Court known as the Cheshire West and Chester Judgement, the threshold for what constitutes a Deprivation of Liberty in a care home or supported living setting has created an 800% increase in activity in this area of work for Adult Social Care. This will have a significant impact on the service due to the requirement for Social Workers to carry out a detailed Best Interest Assessment in each case where a residential setting raises an application in this regard.

### **Adult Safeguarding and Professional Leads**

#### Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Continuing Professional development portfolio audits are ongoing. The portfolios of all the Council's registered Social Workers in the Adult Social Care Service (including Mental Health and Hospital Discharge Teams) will be audited by the end of June 2014. This will ensure that they are able to maintain their registration with the HCPC, which will begin to audit portfolios in September 2014. Details of the approach to 'progressive audit' being used by the Council have been cascaded to many colleagues across the country including (at her request) Lyn Romeo, the Chief Social Worker for Adults for England.

#### Dignity Respect and Safeguarding

Linking Care Quality Commission (CQC) outcomes to the work carried out, has recently been delivered by the Professional Leads Team to staff from more than 50 residential and nursing care homes. The preventative nature of this training, which highlights the issues of mental capacity and Deprivation of Liberty aims to build an improved culture that underpins every day duties within residential care. It ensures all staff within appropriate organisations are aware of and respond to the views of people who use services. This includes the opinions of families and carers, as well as the legal context within which social care is delivered. The team has delivered similar training to social care and health cadets from the Princes Trust scheme following networking at the careers day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Plans have been laid to meet with Age UK to develop similar training and support across the private sector.

## **Adult Provider Services**

### Shared Lives Service

In June 2014, Blackpool Shared Lives Service celebrates its 25 Year Anniversary. To mark this special occasion there are going to be a number of events over five days starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June with a Presentation Event to be held at Dahlia's Kitchen. Certificates will be presented to Carers who have given five, ten, 15 and 20 years service.

### Nibbles Café @ BCIL part of the New Langdale Learning Disability Service

The Nibbles Café, which is part of the New Langdale Service, supports adults with learning disabilities to achieve a vocational qualification in Catering and Hospitality within a live Café setting. The Nibbles Café embarked upon a development journey in early 2013 and has spent the last 12 months developing a number of new projects, which have enhanced the service offer and outcomes for the people who have been supported through their vocational training. For example, over the past year the Nibbles Cafe has been consulting with service users and carers about how best the service could meet individuals' nutritional needs during their time accessing the service. Typically, people would bring along to the service a meal to be reheated or a snack lunch and for those people accessing Langdale @ BCIL they could access the Nibbles Café. However, the Café identified that a 'Café' style approach across the Langdale Service could be achieved by developing a small menu that could be delivered to the many different Langdale locations across Blackpool, these meals would be nutritious and reflect the principles and balance of the 'Eat Well Plate' an established nutritional model used by the NHS.

### **The Langdale Community Volunteers**

The Langdale Service has a long established Community Volunteers project, which has and continues to be involved in many community projects across Blackpool and continues to achieve measured success and awards for the work that is done within those local communities. One of the key projects the Langdale Community Volunteers are involved with is a partnership venture with Waterloo Primary School and the 'Green Team' project that the School children support with the volunteers. A recent OFSTED inspection in February paid particular attention to the work being done and Waterloo School has formally acknowledged this in a letter to the Langdale Community Volunteers.

### **Coopers Way Learning Disability Respite Service:**

The Coopers Way Respite Service was nominated to take part in the pilot for the 'testing of the new approach to inspecting social care services'. The service was invited to take part in WAVE 1, which included the completion of a PIR (Provider Information Return). The PIR was the first part of the inspection process and it meant that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspector would already have some information about the service before they visit to conduct the formal inspection. The service has not received the final report but understands that a Good/ Outstanding is a possible outcome, which is very positive.

### **Hoyle@Mansfield Respite Service Inspection**

In April, Hoyle@Mansfield Respite Service received an unannounced inspection from CQC and the report was published on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The inspection focussed on four key questions, "Is the Service Safe?", "Is the Service Effective?", "Is the Service Caring?", "Is the Service Responsive?" and "Is the Service Well Led?" The inspector reported that the answer to all of these questions was a resounding "Yes" and the report is now available to view online on the CQC website.

The inspectors looked at five of the CQC outcomes, specifically:

- People should get safe and appropriate care that meets their needs and supports their rights (outcome 4)

- People should be protected from abuse and staff should respect their human rights (outcome 7)
- People should be cared for in a clean environment and protected from the risk of infection (outcome 8)
- There should be enough members of staff to keep people safe and meet their health and welfare needs (outcome 13)
- The service should have quality checking systems to manage risks and assure the health, welfare and safety of people who receive care (outcome 16)
- And the service met these outcomes in all areas and the report was positive with good samples of customer feedback.

### **Commissioned Services for Adults**

#### Generic Care at Home Providers – Carer of the Year Awards

The nine providers of domiciliary care on the Blackpool Council framework all attend a Provider Forum on a quarterly basis and at their meeting in February they discussed how to raise the profile of the qualitative care being delivered in people's homes throughout Blackpool. It was agreed to hold an awards ceremony with service users across Blackpool being asked to nominate the Carer of the Year, and each provider has agreed to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the evening.

There will be a number of categories and the nominations will be judged by an independent panel made up of Blackpool Council staff and representatives of the Carers Centre and the winners announced on the night. The ceremony will take place on Thursday 16th October 2014 at Blackpool Football Club.

#### **Social Care Purchasing System for home care providers**

A new internal online purchasing portal has recently been implemented to streamline the allocation of care at home packages of care. Following consultations with the Council's panel of external providers, a secure online system has been scoped and implemented. New requests for packages of care in a person's own home are now offered securely online in a transparent process to providers. Providers now have the opportunity to offer to accept the package of care or decline the opportunity within specified time scales.

The new process ensures that packages are commissioned in a fair and transparent manner because all approved providers now have an equal opportunity to accept or decline opportunities. There has been a significant reduction in the time taken to commission these packages of care. On average routine requests for packages of care are now being allocated to providers in less than 30 minutes. Previously this could have taken several days, because members of the council's staff needed to telephone providers individually and explain the requirements to them. The new system has been very well received by the Council's panel of providers.

#### **Housing Options Service**

A new structure and revised way of working has been established in the Housing Options service, with a new reception area at South King Street and most clients assisted by the officer that they first meet. The changes have been supported by a whole service training programme and refined procedures. Feedback from partner organisations has been positive, and clients are finding that their enquiries are dealt with more quickly than before.

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## CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY – COUNCILLOR JONES

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### **Highways Maintenance – potholes, carriageway and footway repairs**

Work is continuing to repair the town's worst roads through the Project 30 Scheme, which is due for completion in August 2014. Significant improvement to the highway network condition has already been achieved with over 55km of footway and 60km of carriageway work done to date.

A bid has been submitted to the Department for Transport's "Pothole Fund" for a share of a £143m pot, which has been made available to deal with maintenance issues. The funding will be allocated based on individual local authorities' record and performance in dealing with maintenance of highways assets. Given our good record in promoting innovation in the management of our highways assets, it is expected that Blackpool will receive a share of this funding.

### **Integrated Transport Services and Central Vehicle Maintenance Unit (CVMU)**

Rideability Community Transport is the Council's door-to-door community bus service, which allows elderly, frail and disabled residents of Blackpool to access services and days out by using the accessible bus service.

The integration of the bus service from the Charity Disability Services Ltd, in September 2013 to the Council and the continued involvement of the charity, its vehicles and volunteers have allowed for the success of the service to continue and the use of additional Council resources has given the service a new lease of life.

Rideability now has access to more vehicles and drivers, giving opportunity for the service to reach more people with a disability, elderly and mobility impaired residents. The service means the users can attend appointments both leisure and health, visit relatives and friends, make weekly shopping trips to local supermarkets, attend local day care facilities and of late the service has extended its lunch trips to meet the demand of passengers to include bi weekly pub lunch visits, Saturday day trips and evening theatre trips.

The service has increased its passenger journeys by around 50% since transferring to the Council, which equates in excess of 17,000 additional trips and the service is confident that another 10% increase will be achievable over the coming 12 months.

### **Street Lighting PFI**

The street lighting core investment period is due to complete in December of this year, which will see the installation of approximately 16,000 street lighting columns bollards signs and associated lighting. The Service provider is currently completing installations for a number of backstreets and additional areas highlighted that will assist in the reduction of crime (one of the outputs identified for this PFI).

In respect of the traffic signal installations, approximately 90 signal junctions have been replaced and the final two installations are taking place at Manchester Square and Plymouth Road /St Walburgas junctions.

Due to the amount of public interest with regards Plymouth Road/ St Walburgas roundabout, in particular questions about the requirement for traffic lights at this roundabout, the public response appears to be split with drivers suggesting the lights are removed, but pedestrians requiring the traffic

control. The junction will be monitored during the next nine months with the traffic signals altered during the off peak times. Discussions will also be held with the local schools, as demand for the pedestrian crossings will change as the schools access change in this area.

### **Parking Services**

Blackpool Council is heavily discounting parking prices every weekend throughout June and July. The deal, which is designed to boost business and provide a positive welcome to residents and visitors, will see most town centre car parks offer 10 hours parking for just £3. It includes all town centre car parks apart from Central, West Street and East Topping Street car parks, which are already very well used at their current pricing point.

### **Transport Management – including roads, cycling and pedestrians**

A report on the proposed tramway extension was submitted to the Executive. It was resolved to approve that the scheme to extend the Blackpool - Fleetwood Tramway from North Pier/ Talbot Square to Blackpool North Railway Station and to develop the major scheme business case.

Following the Council's successful bid to the Department for Transport's Local Pinch Point Fund for resources to repair Yeadon Way, work is progressing on the selection of contractors for the works. Key criteria in the selection will be how quickly works can be completed and whether the contractor can programme any elements of the works, which require the closure of Yeadon Way to be carried out during the winter period outside the holiday season. The scheme has to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to meet Department for Transport deadlines for spending the grant funding.

### **Road Safety and Sustainable Travel – including working with schools**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, a change to the Concessionary Travel Scheme resulted in concessionary pass holders from outside the authority boundaries being excluded from free travel on the trams. This is in line with every other tram network in the country. This has resulted in 86,278 fewer concessionary journeys made than in April 2013. There were however only 4,282 fewer passengers on the trams. This has resulted in an increase in revenue for Blackpool Transport and a saving to the Council's concessionary travel budget of approximately £57,000.

In a passenger survey, Blackpool Tramway came out as the best overall tramway in the country. Some highlights are that 85% of passengers believe that the fares represent value for money and 97% of all passengers were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall journey experience.

Walk to School Week has been celebrated with two events including a dance walk event at Layton Primary and the launch of a new Park and Stride area for St Nicholas' School with Gordon Marsden MP. We await a decision in July on a joint funding bid with Living Streets to the Department of Transport Local Sustainable Transport Fund for 2015/ 2016 to extend the Walk to School outreach programme for a further year and to expand remit to include workplaces and communities.

Road Safety initiatives currently being progressed are:

- Child pedestrian training is currently taking place with Year Three pupils at primary schools
- We are undertaking a Preparing for Transition event for Year Six students moving on to high school. This will focus on independent travelling and safety for this vulnerable age group.
- Smart Phone, Stupid Driver campaign will be promoted in the town centre throughout June to reinforce the message that it is not acceptable to use your phone whilst driving
- We are working with public health colleagues to engage with older drivers through pharmacists. Leaflets and posters with advice and information on driving past 60.



- Building partnerships with Early Years settings to get key messages across to parents about their responsibility for teaching children about road safety
- Refreshing the content of the Test Drive course targeting young/new drivers
- Working with police to deliver drink/drive messages with poster and banner advertising in town centre pubs and clubs linked to the World Cup

A new staff travel and parking scheme has been launched for Council staff moving to the new offices at Bickerstaffe Square. This aims to be as flexible as possible, give staff a wide range of parking, and travel choices whilst accommodating the parking needs of businesses and shoppers. A new staff car park has been provided on the site of the old Devonshire Road Hospital and new annual bus tickets made available which are valid for use on all Blackpool Transport services. Staff have the option of a five-day ticket to meet their commuting needs or can select the seven-day ticket for weekend travel also. A Park and Ride discount pass to support staff parking at the Devonshire Road car park is now available.

On a borough-wide level, the Blackpool Travel Plan Partnership, made up of organisations committed to promoting sustainable travel and led by the Council, is currently carrying out the Big Blackpool Commuter Count as a way to co-ordinate activities and measure success.

## **Equality and Diversity**

### Talbot Gateway engagement

In consultation with N-Vision and others, the concerns from the blind and partly sighted community over the operation of new pedestrian crossings in this area are being reviewed. Five possible ways to modify the infrastructure have been identified and the Council is now consulting over whether these proposals will remedy the problems. This consultation is also open to other suggestions if people think these particular options will not work.

### Faith engagement

The Anglican Diocese of Blackburn, through the Bishop of Lancaster, is committing to work closely with the Council on coordinating action to address the town's social agenda.

### Blackpool Pride 2014

This year's Pride festival took place on the weekend of 14/ 15<sup>th</sup> June. The Council liaised closely at strategic and operation levels with the Blackpool Pride committee in the months and week leading up to this event. The Council is committed to building the Pride festival as a key focus for tourism and promoting diversity and community cohesion in our town.

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## CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH – COUNCILLOR COLLETT

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### Public Health

#### Life expectancy in Blackpool: latest trends and inequalities

The population of Blackpool experiences poorer health and lower life expectancy than much of the rest of the population. This is seen across a range of health indicators. In this note, we look at life expectancy, which is commonly used to indicate the overall health of a population.

Life expectancy for Blackpool residents is lower than the England average (78.9 for men and 82.7 for women) at 74 years for men and for women 80 years. A baby boy born today in Blackpool has the lowest life expectancy of any local authority in the country and a baby girl the third lowest.

In recent years, the trend shows an improvement in life expectancy in the town. Over the past ten years, life expectancy has increased by almost 2.8 years for men and two years for women. Although this is in the right direction, it is a slower increase than elsewhere nationally the improvement over the same ten years has been almost double at 4.7 years for men and 3.4 years for women. This means that the gap in life expectancy, or inequality, between Blackpool and the rest of the country is getting wider.

We see significant inequalities within the town too. Worryingly, men in the most disadvantaged parts of the town have seen very little change in life expectancy with a gain of just 0.9 years over the past ten years. Even men in the least disadvantaged groups only experienced 3.3 years improvement, which is still lower than the national average.

Last year's Public Health Annual Report (2012) took a closer look at the conditions and lifestyles that were behind the difference in life expectancy that we see between Blackpool and the England average.

The top three major causes of early death in Blackpool were found to be:

#### Men:

1. Violence, self-harm and, overdose and poisoning
2. Digestive diseases including cirrhosis
3. Circulatory diseases (heart disease and stroke)

#### Women:

1. Digestive diseases including cirrhosis
2. Cancers, chiefly lung cancer
3. Respiratory conditions

Lifestyles are a major determinant of health and are considered to account for 30-50% of what makes us healthy or unhealthy, alongside our genetics, our environment (the social, economic and physical surroundings in which we live) and access to health care. The causes of early deaths in the town identified in the analysis are associated with the following lifestyle factors:

- harmful drinking patterns and drug misuse;
- smoking;

- unhealthy diets and excess weight; and
- physically inactive lifestyles and sedentary lifestyles.

This year's Public Health Annual Report, shortly to be released, looks at what is currently happening in the town to support healthier lifestyles and recommends areas for future action.

The establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2013 provides a new opportunity for coordinated action across key organisations in the town to improve health and reduce inequalities. The Board has already held debates on alcohol, healthy weight and smoking. Actions plans arising following the debates are monitored through the Strategic Commissioning Subgroup of the Board.

#### Health protection: sun beds enforcement project

Overexposure to UV light is the main cause of skin cancer. Sun beds, like the sun, emit UV light and are not a safe alternative to sun tanning. The risks are greater for young people and those frequently exposed to UV light before they are 25 are at increased risk of developing skin cancer later in life. Each year in Blackpool there are around 240 new cases of skin cancer each year and Blackpool has amongst the highest density of sun bed businesses of local authorities in the country.

This project carried out by Public Protection for Public Health, aimed to protect the public from the hazards associated with poor practice in sun bed operators through enforcement of the Sun bed Regulations Act 2010 and European Safety Framework. All 45 sun bed businesses in the town were subject to electrical testing. eleven premises were selected for test purchasing based on having previously failed such exercises or being located within 500m of a high school or college.

The results showed poor compliance with 73% (80/110) of sun beds exceeding the EU radiance limit of 0.3W/m<sup>2</sup>. Seven out of eleven businesses failed test purchasing. Premises, with equipment that failed electrical testing, have been given advice on action required to comply and will be revisited to check compliance. Cases for prosecution are being prepared for those premises, which failed test purchasing. This work has highlighted the importance of a robust programme of enforcement of sun bed regulations in identifying and addressing poor standards.

The work has received good coverage in the local and regional media, which presented opportunities for giving out public health messages on UV light/sun safety.

#### Cancer thematic debate at April's Health and Wellbeing Board

A joint presentation by members of Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation on cancer at the April meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Blackpool population experience higher than average cancer incidence and mortality rates than average for most of the major cancer types. Survival rates at one and five year post diagnosis are poorer for a number of cancer types too. The relatively poorer survival rates suggest that people may be presenting and being diagnosed at a more advanced stage than average.

Amongst women in Blackpool, the most common cancers are breast, lung and bowel, whereas amongst men these are lung, bowel and prostate. Men experience higher rates of bowel and lung cancer compared to women. Lung cancer rates are particularly a concern in Blackpool where both incidence and mortality rates are significantly higher than the regional and national average. Cancer survival rates are improving and this coupled with an ageing population, means that increasing numbers of people are living with and beyond cancer.

The Fylde Coast Cancer Local Implementation Team (LIT) is now developing an action plan, which will incorporate awareness and early detection, effective treatments, and survivorship. The action plan will be monitored by the Strategic Commissioning Group.

### NHS Health Checks

The Local Authority took over responsibility for the NHS Health Check Programme in April 2014. We currently have one model of provision, via GP Practices and have 100% clinical engagement.

Performance 2013/ 2014 - Offered: 25%; Received: 19%; Uptake: 76%

This puts us as one of the highest achieving Local Authority's in the Country although we do need to be cautious of the figures as we are aware of data quality issues. The NHS Health Checks Steering Group is currently looking into this with the help of local GP Practices and the CSU (Commissioning Support Unit).

A marketing and promotions campaign is planned for June/ July 2014 and a number of national resources have been produced locally in order to raise awareness of the availability of free NHS Health Checks.

An audit exercise is also planned over the coming months in order to get behind the numbers and find out who is receiving the checks, if people are receiving appropriate health promotion advice and the quality of outcomes in terms of what happens to those patients who are identified as at risk of developing long-term conditions.

### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

Although the JSNA is promoted as a process not a document, there are a number of core documents that have been published on the website that are currently being updated.

We have a governance structure in place, which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and is based on a collaborative approach with engagement from other Directorates of the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

The JSNA Strategic Group held a Commissioner Engagement Event in December 2013 whereby a number of 'new' priority areas of work were identified social isolation, dementia, residential/ nursing/ continuing healthcare.

A communications plan has also been developed in order to promote awareness and use of the JSNA including:

- Voluntary sector event (June 2014)
- Social media (Twitter)
- JSNA video

The following areas for development have been agreed for the JSNA:

- Improve intelligence about community assets as well as needs.
- Strengthen links with HealthWatch.
- The need to systematically include intelligence about the community's own perceptions of their health and wellbeing, needs and assets in order to understand the capabilities available within communities.

### Alcohol

Good progress is being made on all elements of the Alcohol Strategy with the licensing elements being revisited following the Early Morning Restriction Order (EMRO) hearing.

Alcohol specialist community treatment services have been merged with the drugs 'Horizon' services for two years. The Horizon service is currently out to tender and has passed the Pre Qualifying

Questionnaire (PQQ) stage, with new providers expected to commence during the early autumn. The structure of the service is unlikely to change greatly but the exact methodology, service providers and outcomes may vary. The young people's services available from the Council's Hub have not been put to tender, as a Prior Information Notice process established that there was insufficient alternative competent providers to tender the service.

During the spring, 'Our Life' has facilitated a 10-week programme for residents of Grange Park to carry out a Citizens Inquiry into the impact of alcohol. The 20 residents involved became highly focussed on the subject and have established a range of recommendations, which were presented to a wide audience (including the Mayor) on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. These recommendations include:

- Establishing a community centre with a range of services in Grange Park
- Greater community involvement in establishing licensing policy and granting of licenses
- Reducing the hours of supply of alcohol, including off sales.
- Banning alcohol advertising
- Constraining alcohol sales to specific areas of stores
- Increased alcohol education in schools and the community
- Improved marketing for alcohol services and eased accessibility
- Increased use of CCTV

Council officers, police, fire service, ambulance service and others present all agreed to look at the recommendations and commit to exploring those options within their gift, and to provide support to the residents to deliver their own projects or lobby others to act. Public Health has committed further training to the participants to enable them to advocate actively for change.

### **Schools Catering Services**

From September 2014, school lunches will be provided free of charge to all pupils in Foundation, Year One and Year Two throughout all schools in England and Wales. This is a government initiative aimed at ensuring a good quality, nutritional luncheon is available to all pupils and it is anticipated that this scheme will be run on an ongoing basis for the foreseeable future.

It is expected that most parents and pupils will wish to take advantage of this offer, pilot schemes carried out last year in three local authorities produced a take up figure of 85%. To make sure that the pupils enjoy the meals and that parents have total trust in what the children are being served, Blackpool Catering Services are taking the opportunity of amending their menus to provide a wider range of fresh meat products.

All the meats used are being sourced from British animals and are Red Tractor certified or have Farm Assured certification, ensuring total traceability.

Pupils will continue to have a choice of hot meals available every day, complemented by a salad bar, featuring a wide range of produce, a breadbasket and a selection of tasty desserts and quenching drinks.

Parents are being provided with details of what is available and are being asked to inform their children's school if they do not wish to partake, thereby allowing for accurate planning and reduced wastage.

Allergies are being catered for and parents are being requested to inform catering services of details of their child's allergies, supported by a Doctors confirmation. The necessary arrangements can then be made to have suitable substitute items available.

### **Child Poverty**

The Big Lottery Fund is due to decide in early June whether the Better Start Blackpool bid being led by the NSPCC in partnership with the Council has been successful. This would greatly accelerate the delivery of a range of interventions around the social and emotional development, communication and language and health and nutrition of 0-3 year olds in seven of Blackpool's most deprived wards. If unsuccessful, the Council will continue to work with the NSPCC to find alternative funding and means to deliver proven, evidence-based programmes to combat both the root causes and the immediate effects of child poverty.

We have submitted a response to the recent Government consultation on the national child poverty strategy, which we believe to be a compilation of existing actions rather than a fundamental attempt to tackle the root causes of poverty. The strategy does not create the right environment to allow local authorities to focus more on root causes whilst maintaining investment in measures, which help alleviate pressure on families. The consultation response did allow us the opportunity to showcase what works well at tackling and mitigating child poverty at a local level including the Connexions Service aimed at those not in employment, education or training, the Positive Steps into Work service, our Adult and Community Learning Service, the Youthability Hub, the free breakfasts initiative and the £10 junior savings account initiative starting in July amongst others.

In March and April, we involved 40 young people in a consultation exercise discussing some of the main issues affecting their life chances. They told us about the need for volunteer and work experience, the need for a range of apprenticeships, year-round job opportunities, more opportunities to develop as people and for help around mental health issues amongst other things. The consultation will feed into our new strategic approach to the Children and Young People's Plan.

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## CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR CROSS

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### **Cleansing, Bins and Litter Management**

As we move into the summer season, the Beach Cleaning Operations have commenced. This includes daily maintenance of amenity beach areas and revetment steps leading to the beach between South Pier and North Pier. The steps are free from algae growth through daily inspection and pressure washing and the beach is mechanically raked to clear away litter and general tidal debris.

A review of litterbins has been completed across the Town Centre and Promenade to replace those lost or damaged during the winter storms. The services are linked into tourism events in order to direct resources to manage litter generation.

### **Domestic Waste (including refuse collection and recycling)**

#### Paper/ Card Collection Service

In April 2013, the decision was taken to remove a poor performing recycling route from Veolia and the operation was tendered to a local Third Sector group. Helping Hand, who took on the challenge to increase participation rates and tonnage in a highly transient area. In maintaining this service, Helping Hand have ensured continuity of service and are now actively working to increase the amounts collected through proactive marketing and education. Those efforts have seen just over 100 tonnes of material collected from the 8,000 homes during the first 12 months of operations.

In addition, Helping Hand are now undertaking wheeled bin deliveries to residents for replacement of new or replacement bins, removal of any unwanted wheeled bins and the repairs to wheeled bins. The last year has seen a big rise in the number of bins delivered from 243 in the first quarter last year up to 575 for the same period in 2014. The reason for this increase has been the changes made to the reporting system for lost or stolen bins. The Council's website now enables residents to report a lost bin online and request an additional recycling bin free of charge.

#### ROVER

Rover was introduced in October 2013 to deliver a mobile Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC ) to all areas of the town, particularly to those residents unable to get to the HWRC on Bristol Avenue, with 36% of our residents having no access to a motor vehicle. Rover is externally funded for 18 months through the Waste PFI contract, to develop a methodology for this unique service that provides an opportunity for all our residents to recycle waste not collected by the regular refuse service, much of which was being disposed of through the grey bins or black sack service.

Since the start of the service Rover has:

- Been visited by 3,102 Blackpool residents
- Collected 59 Tonnes of recycling
- Recycled or Reused 19,000 items.

Rover has collected 2,142 small electrical items, 2,439 household batteries and 2,398 books. Increasing amounts of this waste is being channelled through the RENEW workshop and some of the material is being sold in the HWRC reuse shop.

Further work is being done to look at expanding the service to other areas of Blackpool and the

possibility of working with neighbouring authorities to expand further the service.

#### National Recycling Awards

Blackpool has been shortlisted for the prestigious National Recycling Awards in the Local Government Innovation category along with eight other authorities from across the UK. The Blackpool submission was based on the partnership working with the Third Sector that has resulted in the new collection initiatives that has seen ROVER, RENEW workshops, HWRC shop and the paper/ card collection services. The announcement on the winner will be made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

#### Fly Tipping

Levels of fly tipping continued to be monitored as part of on-going efforts to identify hotspots and take actions to reduce incidents and target those culpable for these environmental crimes. The table below details the monthly levels for the past three years. Last year did result in an increase in incidents but a reduction in the tonnage collected. Tonnages for fly tips collected over the last three years have decreased but the number of incidents has increased. .

#### Fly Tip Incidents / Tonnage Collected (in approximate figures)

Year	No. of Fly Tips	Tonnes
2011/ 2012	5386	1131
2012/ 2013	3979	837
2013/ 2014	4656	821

#### **Commercial Waste Services**

The Commercial Waste Service has continued to improve year on year and over the past two years capturing 48% of the Blackpool market. Even with high levels of businesses closing down the service has continued to grow and has seen a 58.5% increase in bin rather than sack customers from April 2011.

For the period January to March 2014, 1,408 tonnes of commercial waste was collected, this is an increase of 9% from the previous year and huge increase of 41% from 2012.

#### **Commercial Glass Recycling/ Confidential Waste Collection**

Glass bottles collected from our customers for the January to March 2014 period is also up by 14% from the previous year and a huge 68% from 2012.

In following the trend of increased customers and increased tonnages the service has achieved a sharp increase in businesses on service to the point we have the majority of the available market, with reducing expansion opportunities. Therefore, the challenge is continuing to develop new business ideas to keep generating income. One new area of service is the confidential waste collection and shredding, which the service is now undertaking for the Council, servicing all of the council office accommodation, which was previously contracted out to the private sector. By internalising this service the Council has been able to realise a cost saving, whilst also offering a new service to local businesses. Once the paper is shredded it is sold to a paper-recycling merchant.

#### **Household Waste Recycling Centre**

For the period January to March of this financial year we have experienced a decrease of over 20 tonnes when compared with the same period for last financial year. Performance in terms of percentage of waste recycled and composted at the HWRC's has also increased slightly up by 1.33% to 69.26%.

The latest development of the HWRC was completed in May 2014, with the construction of a new much larger reuse shop, 'Second Time Around'. This new facility was undertaken on the back of the very successful first year of retail sales with the shop contributing to the site operating costs and a £10,000 donation to the Mayor's charity. The shop will also contribute to the running costs of the ROVER service once the external start-up funding has ceased in 2015.

The new shop will see the retailing of electrical items including washing machines, ovens, fridges and small domestic appliances such as radios and TVs.

#### **Bulky Matters Furniture Service**

The RENEW Warehouse project was launched on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 and will refurbish electrical equipment for reuse, whilst training 75 local people in Blackpool each year in the skills required to carry out the work over a 10 week programme, building their skill base and increasing their opportunities for employment. The refurbished equipment will then be used to support residents who apply to the discretionary support fund, those on low income who cannot afford new items. Any surplus equipment not sold through these outlets will be on sale in the HWRC reuse shop to all residents. Work is underway to identify effective delivery methods for those residents unable to collect the equipment themselves and discussions are underway with interested third party groups willing to undertake this work with the intention of the service commencing in the autumn.

#### **Bulky Waste Service**

The table below details the performance level for the Bulky Waste Service that is contracted to local Third Sector group, Furniture Matters, for the period October to April for the last two years. The service has seen an increase in the amount of jobs completed and is currently achieving a recycling rate of 57% of the waste collected up from the 50% for the corresponding period in 2013. Work with the service is being targeted at increased marketing to raise the levels of activity for the service. One new area of work is delivering suitable materials collected through the bulky waste service back into the local community as part of the Discretionary Funding Scheme with 500 deliveries anticipated during this year. As well as being a welcome contribution to funding this statutory service, it is resulting in increasing amounts of material going back into the community and not being broken up for recycling or going to landfill.

	2013 October – April	2014 October - April
<b>Number of Jobs</b>	1326	1444
<b>Collected Items</b>	3618	4122
<b>Overall weight (tonnes)</b>	110.77	130.18
<b>Weight to landfill (tonnes)</b>	53.76	55.37
<b>Weight recycled/reused (tonnes)</b>	57.01	74.81

#### **Grounds Maintenance – grass verges, sea wall and Promenade maintenance**

Grass verge maintenance commenced in mid-March, May and June sees the grass verges at their optimum growing rate. Frequency for cutting grass verges is every two weeks and every effort is being taken to manage the frequency of cutting during May and June to present acceptable standards throughout the borough.

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## CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE – COUNCILLOR WRIGHT

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### Grundy Art Gallery

The Grundy has been successful with its application to the John Ellerman Foundation's Regional Museums and Galleries Fund. A grant of £135,000 has been offered over a period of three years to support a new specialist post working with the Grundy and the Heritage Service.

The role of Collections Manager will be responsible for researching and managing Blackpool's historic collections, overseeing cataloguing of the Collections and reaching new audiences through exhibitions.

The Collections include those of the Tower Company, the Winter Gardens and the Illuminations, together with the Grundy Art Gallery's Collection of Victorian, Modern and Contemporary Art.

Together, these collections give an unparalleled view of the development of Blackpool as the first working-class seaside resort in the world. There is also an amount of £5,000 a year to be used for the purchase of new works for the Collections.

This work will also be invaluable to and support the development of the planned new Blackpool Museum. The Foundation receives applications from all over the country and Blackpool Council has been successful in a highly competitive process.

### Libraries

Blackpool Arts and Libraries eighth annual Wordpool Festival takes place from Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 July. This year's festival includes internationally acclaimed authors Ann Cleeves, Peter Robinson, Sophie Hannah and Lindsay Davies, plus exciting new authors Emma Healey, Stephen May and Jon Wallace.

A fund-raising launch party will be staged at 7pm on Wednesday 2 July. This will be a themed evening entitled Murder, Mystery and Martinis and will take place in Stanley Park's Art Deco Café.

Arts and Libraries is also launching its first National Poetry Competition at a special festival event on 4 July hosted by award-winning poet Polly Atkin.

On July 6, the popular Family Day will take place in Stanley Park. This year, the theme is "The Giants Are Coming" and will feature 12 Giant Lands, created by the Wordpool team.

For further information go to [www.blackpoolwordpool.wordpress.com](http://www.blackpoolwordpool.wordpress.com)

### Grand Theatre

The Grand Theatre has just published its new brochure introducing audiences to a vibrant high-quality programme, the first season to be planned by the new Chief Executive, Ruth Eastwood, since coming into post six months ago.

In 2013/ 2014, the Grand welcomed over 135,800 customers with 57,758 people attending an event or show within their children and young people programmes, a 7.9% increase on the previous year. The average ticket price paid in 2013/ 2014 was £15.96, in 2011 customers paid on average £18.16.

In 2013/ 2014, the Grand became one of five national venues in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning and Performance Network. The Royal Shakespeare Company's First Encounter Taming of the

Shrew performance in February this year was experienced by over 2,500 children and young people. As part of this key initiative, the Grand will be assisting Blackpool teachers in taking the PG Certificate in Teaching of Shakespeare.

The Grand has just hosted Breakin' Convention, an international festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre being one of only ten UK venues taking part. In association with Left Coast, Blackpool and Wyre's Creative People and Places Programme, the Grand will be presenting the only UK performances in 2014 of the smash-hit comedy BLAM! as part of its summer season from Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

The Grand presently receives National Portfolio funding for the presentation of a contemporary dance programme and in 2013/ 2014 its total dance attendance increased by 188% and over 1,500 children and young people took part in dance workshops and master-classes.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2014

## REVENUE BUDGET SAVINGS 2014/ 2015

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive relating to a replacement option for savings identified in the Revenue Budget for 2014/ 2015.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that the £1.6 million savings identified in the approved Revenue Budget for an increment freeze for staff for 2014/ 2015, be replaced by the proposals set out at paragraphs 5.1 and 5.4 of the Executive Report and that the proposed pay freeze referred to in paragraph 5.1 of that report apply for 24 months.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Staffing savings were identified in the budget for 2014/2015 which must be achieved in year. The recommendations in this report are designed to ensure that these savings targets are achieved and that services are protected as far as possible by being ordered in sensible groupings to achieve outcomes and targets.

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? No - this report (with the recommendations from the Executive) offers an alternative to how the £1.6m staffing savings will be funded).

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The proposals to achieve budget savings with regards to changing staff terms and conditions have been the subject of extensive consultation throughout the budget cycle process and a number of alternatives have been put forward and considered. The Chief Executive was given delegated powers at the Budget Council meeting to deliver the staffing savings and has been doing that through ongoing consultation. As part of the consultation process, it is proposed that the method of achieving the savings is amended to take account of the latest consultation process and legal advice and so the paper is in itself presenting an alternative to the original proposals.

With regards to the restructure of managerial arrangements, the proposals within this report have been the subject of consultation at senior levels of the organisation and will be subject to further and more detailed consultation with those affected. It is proposed therefore, that the principles outlined are agreed by the Executive, subject to more detailed dialogue with staff affected by the changes and their Trade Union representatives.

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

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Executive at its meeting on 19th May considered a report which outlined proposals to review staff terms and conditions and the senior management structure of the Council to ensure staffing savings identified in the budget for 2014/2015 are achieved. The decision notice from the Executive meeting is attached at Appendix 8(a). The Executive report refers to consultation aimed at implementing a pay freeze across all employee groups in its stead; this is now being considered over 24 months. A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive. Further copies can be obtained from the Democratic Services department on 01253 477034.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 8(a) attached sets out the decision of the Executive

#### **6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Consultation on changes to terms and conditions has taken place with Trades Unions



and employees since November 2013 and is still ongoing. Such matters are complex and all legal due process has been followed as part of the consultation process to date and will be followed based on firm legal advice through the implementation phase.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Due process has been applied and the Council's Human Resources policies have been adhered to with regards to these issues.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 The impact of changes to terms and conditions has been considered from an equalities perspective and it is this detailed consideration in consultation with the Trades Unions that led to the proposals considered by the Executive.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 These proposals are an important part of the delivery of the budget for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The risk area associated with these new proposals is the loss of talented staff to organisations that are not impacting on staff terms and conditions and the impact of reduced management capacity on the achievement of objectives.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

11.1 Consultation with the Trades Unions and the staff on the terms and conditions matters has been ongoing since November 2013 and continues as part of normal business.

**12.0 Background papers:**

12.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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<b>Decision of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision number</b>	<b>EX33/2014</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2014

## STAFFING AND ESTABLISHMENT REVIEW

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the staffing arrangements of the authority to take account of changes brought about by consultation on the proposed staffing savings for 2014/15 and 2015/2016 budget cycles. This includes issues relating to general changes to terms and conditions of employment and proposals for a revised senior management structure for the Council designed to deliver savings in year.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that consultation continues regarding staff terms and conditions changes to mitigate the number of redundancies in the Council during 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 and to ensure that the required staffing savings are achieved by appropriate means.

2.2 To agree the principles of the management review and agree the anticipated consequential savings identified be achieved.

2.3 To recommend Council that the £1.6 million savings identified in the approved Revenue Budget for an increment freeze for staff for 2014/15, be replaced by the proposals set out in the report at paragraphs 5.1 and 5.4.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Staffing savings were identified in the budget for 2014/2015 which must be achieved in year. The recommendations in this report are designed to ensure that these savings targets are achieved and that services are protected as far as possible by being ordered in sensible groupings to achieve outcomes and targets.

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? **No**  
However, this report seeks the necessary approval for changes to the budget.

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The proposals to achieve budget savings with regards to changing staff terms and conditions have been the subject of extensive consultation throughout the budget cycle process and a number of alternatives have been put forward and considered. The Chief Executive was given delegated powers at the Budget Council meeting to deliver the staffing savings and has been doing that through ongoing consultation. As part of the consultation process, it is proposed that the method of achieving the savings is amended to take account of the latest consultation process and legal advice and so the paper is in itself presenting an alternative to the original proposals.

With regards to the restructure of managerial arrangements, the proposals within this report have been the subject of consultation at senior levels of the organisation and will be subject to further and more detailed consultation with those affected. It is proposed therefore that the principles outlined are agreed by the Executive, subject to more detailed dialogue with staff affected by the changes and their Trade Union representatives.

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

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

#### **5.0 Background Information**

##### **5.1 Terms and Conditions Matters**

The Chief Executive, as the Council's Head of Paid Service, was mandated to reduce the numbers of redundancies across the Council by taking necessary steps to ensure that savings were made through staff terms and conditions changes as part of the budget process. It was assumed at that time that staff terms and conditions were to be amended for a period of 24 months. The proposals were that staff would take 5 days' unpaid leave per year and would be subject to an increment freeze. In order to achieve these budget savings it was recommended that delegated authority was given to the Chief Executive, working with the Council's Chief Officers to take all

necessary steps to ensure that such savings can be realised.

As part of the consultation on unpaid leave it was agreed that in partnership with the Trades Unions, the Council would encourage all staff to voluntarily accept unpaid leave at varying levels to achieve the same overall saving over the two year period. Through this method the required levels of saving have now been achieved and this matter is resolved.

As part of the consultation on the increment freeze however, it has been made clear that the Trades Unions will not enter into a collective agreement on this matter as they had in a previous year and that challenges will be made to such a decision on the basis of equality, as the increment freeze by its nature does not affect all staff universally.

To move away from this proposal presents a significant challenge as the budget savings that would be delivered by an increment freeze are substantial at £1.6 million each year. To re-open redundancy consultation to achieve a saving of £1.6 million at this stage would be very difficult for services and for staff and therefore consultation has moved to discussions aimed at implementing a pay freeze across all employee groups in its stead. This will leave £600,000 which will be met based on the proposals set out at paragraph 5.4 of this report.

### **Establishment Review**

5.2 An opportunity has arisen to review the senior management structure of the Council following the secondment of a Chief Officer of the Council to Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd. The objectives of this review were to:

- Reduce further the overall costs of the leadership structure to the organisation to achieve significant further savings.
- Ensure that the leadership structure will meet the current and medium term needs of the organisation and remains focused on the priorities of the elected administration.
- Ensure that the structure includes sensible groupings of activities which supports cross departmental working and avoids duplication of effort.

Initial consultation at a strategic level has taken place and the report provides a position statement with regard to the principles that will inform the proposed changes and the costs and savings associated with it, as well as the alignment of services with Chief Officers.

A separate report is to be considered by the Chief Officers' Employment Committee, in connection with the Council's Chief Officer posts and the designations of those posts.

### **Context for the Review**

5.3

Blackpool Council, like much of the public sector, continues to face huge financial challenges and the Council recognises that its organisational structure needs to be fit for purpose and reviewed regularly.

The Council is committed to ensuring that front line services are protected as far as possible throughout these difficult times and that includes looking for senior management to lead the way in terms of responding to increased budget pressures. The Chief Executive has reviewed the departmental arrangements to achieve further savings whilst maintaining a structure that will be able to deliver effective services.

#### **Proposed Changes to the Council's Structure**

The Built Environment Department is proposed to be deleted from the establishment and the post of Assistant Chief Executive for that area will be deleted.

The Assistant Chief Executive responsible for Leisure and Operational Services will become the Chief Officer with primary responsibility for delivering universal services to residents of Blackpool. As well as existing services the post holder will be responsible for delivery of the following additional services: Highways and Transportation, Public Protection, Environmental Protection, Environmental Waste, Street Cleansing, Community Parks and Grounds Maintenance and Illuminations delivery.

The Assistant Chief Executive responsible for Regeneration, Tourism and Culture will become the Primary Chief Officer with responsibility for providing strategic direction for Blackpool in terms of 'place'. The post holder will take responsibility for providing direction and plans that will continue the revitalisation of Blackpool as a great place to live, work and visit. As well as current responsibilities the post holder will also become responsible for Strategic Housing, highways and transport policy, car parking, community safety and beach patrol.

The Library Service will transfer to the Assistant Chief Executive responsible for Treasurer Services as this will reinforce the work already underway with the customer service centre to ensure the library service continues to develop as a community access points that deal with a wide range of services to the public.

The Deputy Chief Executive, who is responsible for Community Engagement, will become responsible for the community engagement work that is currently

undertaken by a small number of officers that were in the Built Environment Department.

The Head of Democratic Services will become responsible for Licensing services and the administration of the cemeteries and crematorium to support the current services already delivered by that department.

It is proposed that management arrangements within the Children's and Adults Services departments remain unchanged.

There will be ongoing consultation with the Trades Unions and the staff affected by these proposals as the nature of the re-organisation does affect all levels of the Council. Some minor amendments may be made as a result of these consultations but the principles outlined above about making a clear distinction between delivery, strategy, customer contact and community engagement will be maintained.

**5.4 Budget Implications**

It is anticipated that this proposal will save an additional £150,000 in the year 2014/2015. This will go some way to meet the shortfall identified by not progressing the increment freeze proposal and instead implementing a pay freeze.

Further procurement savings have been identified by the Corporate Leadership Team to meet the remaining £450,000. However, these contracts are not yet finalised. When they have reached that stage, a report will be submitted to the Executive.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? **No**

**5.5 List of Appendices:**

None

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Consultation on changes to terms and conditions has taken place with Trades Unions and employees since November 2013 and is still ongoing. Such matters are complex and all legal due process has been followed as part of the consultation process to date and will be followed based on firm legal advice through the implementation phase.

6.2 As part of the restructuring arrangements legal due process for consultation on such matters will be followed.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Due process has been applied and the Council's Human Resources policies have been adhered to with regards to these issues.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 The impact of changes to terms and conditions has been considered from an equalities perspective and it is this detailed consideration in consultation with the Trades Unions that has led to the proposals before the Executive.

8.2 The changes to the structure of the organisation do not have an impact on the composition of the workforce or in any other way impact upon equality considerations.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 These proposals are an important part of the delivery of the budget for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The risk area associated with these new proposals is the loss of talented staff to organisations that are not impacting on staff terms and conditions and the impact of reduced management capacity on the achievement of objectives. The Chief Executive is satisfied that careful consideration of aligning priorities and resources will mitigate capacity concerns.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

11.1 Consultation with the Trades Unions and the staff on the terms and conditions matters has been ongoing since November 2013 and continues as part of normal business.

11.2 Consultation on the revised structure has commenced and will continue throughout May.

**12.0 Background papers:**

12.1 None



**ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE/ CABINET MEMBER**

**13.0 Key decision information:**

- 13.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 13.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 9/2014
- 13.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 13.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**14.0 Call-in information:**

- 14.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No
- 14.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**15.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014 Date approved: N/A

**16.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

16.1 None

**17.0 Executive decision:**

17.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To agree that consultation continues regarding staff terms and conditions changes to mitigate the number of redundancies in the Council during 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 and to ensure that the required staffing savings are achieved by

appropriate means.

2. To agree the principles of the management review and agree the anticipated consequential savings identified be achieved.

3. To recommend Council that the £1.6 million savings identified in the approved Revenue Budget for an increment freeze for staff for 2014/15, be replaced by the proposals set out in the report at paragraphs 5.1 and 5.4.

17.2 **Date of Decision:** 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**18.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

Staffing savings were identified in the budget for 2014/2015 which must be achieved in year. The recommendations in this report are designed to ensure that these savings targets are achieved and that services are protected as far as possible by being ordered in sensible groupings to achieve outcomes and targets.

18.1 **Date Decision published:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**19.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

19.1 Councillors Blackburn, Cain, Campbell, Collett, Cross, Jackson, Jones, Taylor and Wright

Apologies were noted from Councillor Rowson who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

**20.0 Call-in:**

20.1

**21.0 Notes:**

21.1

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Matthews, Head of Planning and Strategic Housing
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Fred Jackson, Urban Regeneration
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2014

## **BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 1: CORE STRATEGY - PROPOSED SUBMISSION VERSION JUNE 2014**

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

1.1 This report relates to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy - Proposed Submission version (Proposed Submission Core Strategy) together with the necessary supporting documents, including amendments to the Policies Map, Statement of Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and the Draft Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate.

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

2.1 That Council agrees:

(1) To approve the Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Appendix 2a Part to the Executive report) including the evidence base listed in the plan; amendments to the Policies Map (Appendix 2a Part 1 of the Executive report); Statement of Consultation (Appendix 2c Part 1 of the Executive report) including the responses to the representations received to the Revised Preferred Option (May 2012); Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2d Part 1 of the Executive report) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appendix 2e of the Executive report) for publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State;

(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 sound, pursuant to section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Act;

(3) That the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration, 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 Statement of Compliance (Appendix 2j to the Executive report) for consultation alongside publication of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy; that the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration, be given delegated authority to make any amendments to the Statement of Compliance where necessary in response to representations received; and to publish the final version as an evidence base document to the Core Strategy;

(5) To agree that the Proposed Submission Core Strategy housing requirement figure (set out in Policy CS2) be used to calculate the five-year housing land supply pending adoption of the Core Strategy.

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

3.1 To progress the preparation of the statutory planning framework to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? Yes, this will form the new Core Strategy

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? No

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

As part of the requirements of plan preparation a range of alternative strategic development options have been considered in detail at various preparation stages of the Core Strategy. The Proposed Submission Core Strategy represents the preferred option arising from this process.

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- Attract sustainable investment and create quality jobs
- Encourage responsible entrepreneurship for the benefit of our communities
- Improve housing standards and the environment we live in by using housing

investment to create stable communities

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Core Strategy is a key planning document for Blackpool. It sets out where new development including housing and employment, retail and leisure should be located to meet Blackpool's future needs to 2027; identifies areas which will be regenerated, protected or enhanced; and sets out key development principles such as design and affordable housing. The Core Strategy when formalised will be used to determine planning applications within the Borough.

5.2 If approved, representations will be invited on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy during an 8 week consultation period, after which the Core Strategy and supporting documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination.

5.3 The Executive considered this report at its meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June and recommended Council accordingly. A copy of the decision notice from that meeting is attached at Appendix 9(a). A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive. Further copies can be obtained from the Democratic Services department on 01253 477034.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.13 **List of Appendices:**  
Executive decision notice at Appendix 9(a)

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Core Strategy when adopted will be the key strategic spatial document forming part of the Council's statutory Local Plan.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 The Core Strategy is being resourced by staff within the Development Plans and Projects Team.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 An Equality Analysis has been prepared to ensure the Council meets the legal

obligation of the Equality Act 2010, taking into account all relevant and appropriate equality considerations. This document was included in the report to the Executive.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The work is being undertaken within existing budgetary provisions, including the independent Core Strategy examination by the Secretary of State during 2015.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The Core Strategy is the key document which will provide the statutory planning framework to enable and assist the delivery of Blackpool's future development requirements. Without its progress, acquisition, land assembly and planning approval for key regeneration and development projects will be undermined and delayed. In addition with the publication of the National Planning Framework in March 2012 there is an imperative to progress the Core Strategy through to adoption as quickly as possible to ensure the Council has a planning framework that is directing development within the borough which reflects the community and elected members priorities and needs and to avoid national policy being the principle basis for making decisions. The latter could lead to an increase in appeals if applications are received proposing development which is not in line with the priorities and needs of Blackpool.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

11.1 Extensive consultation has taken place on the progression of the Core Strategy to date. Previous key consultations have involved the Issues and Options (2008); Preferred Option (2010) and Revised Preferred Option (2012) stages.

**12.0 Background papers:**

12.1 None

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision number</b>	<b>EX37/2014</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Matthews, Head of Planning and Strategic Housing
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Fred Jackson, Urban Regeneration
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2014

## **BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 1: CORE STRATEGY - PROPOSED SUBMISSION VERSION JUNE 2014**

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

- 1.1 This report relates to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy - Proposed Submission version (Proposed Submission Core Strategy) together with the necessary supporting documents, including amendments to the Policies Map, Statement of Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and the Draft Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate.

The Core Strategy is a key planning document for Blackpool. It sets out where new development including housing and employment, retail and leisure should be located to meet Blackpool's future needs to 2027; identifies areas which will be regenerated, protected or enhanced; and sets out key development principles such as design and affordable housing. The Core Strategy will be used to determine planning applications within the Borough.

If approved, representations will be invited on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy during an 8 week consultation period, after which the Core Strategy and supporting documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination.

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

- 2.1 That the Executive recommends to Full Council:

(1) to approve the Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Appendix 2a Part to this report) including the evidence base listed in the plan; amendments to the Policies Map (Appendix 2a Part 1); Statement of Consultation (Appendix 2c Part 1) including the responses to the representations received to the Revised Preferred Option (May 2012); Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2d Part 1) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appendix 2e) for publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State;

(2); 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 sound, pursuant to section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Act;

(3) that the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration, 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 Statement of Compliance (Appendix 2j to this report) for consultation alongside publication of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy; that the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration, be given delegated authority to make any amendments to the Statement of Compliance where necessary in response to representations received; and to publish the final version as an evidence base document to the Core Strategy;

(5) to agree that the Proposed Submission Core Strategy housing requirement figure (set out in Policy CS2) be used to calculate the five-year housing land supply pending adoption of the Core Strategy.

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

3.1 To progress the preparation of the statutory planning framework to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

3.2a	Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?	Yes, this will form the new Core Strategy
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3.2b	Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?	No
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3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

As part of the requirements of plan preparation a range of alternative strategic development options have been considered in detail at various preparation stages of the Core Strategy. The Proposed Submission Core Strategy represents the preferred option arising from this process.



**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- Attract sustainable investment and create quality jobs
- Encourage responsible entrepreneurship for the benefit of our communities
- Improve housing standards and the environment we live in by using housing investment to create stable communities

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Council as Planning Authority is in the process of preparing a new Blackpool Local Plan that will plan for the needs of the Borough to 2027. The Local Plan will comprise two parts: Part 1 is the Core Strategy (currently being prepared), while Part 2 is the Site Allocations and Development Management document (preparation to commence 2015). The new Local Plan will provide the statutory planning framework for decisions on future development proposals, which will facilitate the physical, economic and social change which is seen by the Council and its partners as essential to Blackpool's future.

5.2 In developing a Core Strategy there are a number of stages that the Council is required to go through, each stage providing an opportunity for the community and other stakeholders to be involved in choosing the right planning policies for Blackpool. The Proposed Submission Core Strategy (at **Appendix 2a** to this report) is the culmination of considerable public consultation, evidence gathering and consideration of options over a number of years to inform the planning policy framework for Blackpool.

5.3 The earlier stages of the Core Strategy preparation have included:

- an Issues and Options document consulted on during Autumn 2008;
- a Preferred Option document consulted on during Spring 2010;
- the Need for New Homes in Blackpool to 2027 report consulted on in November/December 2010; and
- a Revised Preferred Option document consulted on in June/July 2012.

5.4 Following the 2012 consultation further work had to be undertaken to ensure compliance of Core Strategy policy with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was published in March 2012; and bring up to date certain aspects of the Core Strategy evidence base.

5.5 This further work included:

## Appendix 9(a)

- A Viability Study to assess the policy requirements in the emerging Core Strategy including the level of affordable housing; and to assess the potential for introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule in Blackpool. URS Consultants were appointed to undertake this assessment.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires planning authorities to ensure consideration is given to the cumulative impact of plan policies on development and to strike a balance between the requirements necessary to provide for sustainable development and the realities of economic viability. The NPPF states *“the sites and the scale of development identified in the plan should not be subject to such a scale of obligations and policy burdens that their ability to be developed viably is threatened”* (Para 173).

- A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). Turley Associates were jointly commissioned by Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Councils to conduct a new SHMA for the Fylde Coast, in partnership with specialist demographic consultancy Edge Analytics. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment S forms a key part of the emerging Local Plan evidence base, providing an assessment of housing needs and demand across the Fylde Coast to inform an understanding of how many new homes may be needed to 2030. It also includes analysis indicating the mix of tenures and sizes of housing required to address the future needs of the changing population, including future requirements for affordable housing. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment is based on up-to-date information and data, as of October 2013. It is an update of the 2008 Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment identified a range of assessed need and recommended that further consideration was given to Blackpool’s economic and housing need forecasts in identifying an appropriate housing figure within the assessed range, as aligning future housing growth to economic prosperity is important to the situation in Blackpool. If a decision about the housing requirement is based on the most realistic and appropriate economic based scenario, this must be supported by sufficiently robust economic evidence, and so further work has been undertaken by AMION Consultants, which examines the local economy, including the labour market. This evidence, along with other factors including the supply of land for new development, past delivery rates, market capacity and deliverability, development viability or infrastructure / environmental constraints, has been taken into account in the development of policy within the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

- A Blackpool Employment Land Review. This was undertaken in-house by officers, and provides an updated assessment of employment land supply and future requirements in the Borough to 2027. It supersedes the previous full review undertaken in 2007 along with updates in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

- A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). Opinion Research Services has been commissioned to update the 2007 Fylde Coast GTAA. At Examination plans are being found 'unsound' where Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments pre date 2008. The study will determine the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the Fylde Coast identifying the need for each of the three Fylde Coast Authorities for their plan periods, which for Blackpool is 2012 to 2027.

### 5.6 Proposed Submission Core Strategy

The Proposed Submission Core Strategy reflects the representations received to the Revised Preferred Option document, the updated evidence referred to above and changes to government guidance.

An overview of the representations received and the proposed changes to policy and the supporting text compared to the Revised Preferred Option document is set out in **Appendix 2b** to this report. The detailed response to the representations received is set out in the Statement of Consultation at **Appendix 2c Part Two**.

In addition to the above, a number of supporting documents to the Proposed Submission have informed its preparation. These include:

- An updated Sustainability Appraisal (**Appendix 2d** to this report) which is a legal requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) evaluates the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the spatial vision, objectives and policies, including the cumulative effects. The latest Sustainability Appraisal, produced for the Proposed Submission by Hyder Consultants, has reported that the policies '*tend to be complementary and to contribute positively overall to sustainability objectives when viewed together*'. Mitigation measures are proposed to improve the sustainability performance of the policies and their implementation. The Council's proposed response to these measures is set out in **Appendix 2d Part 2** to this report. This Sustainability Appraisal will be subject to the same consultation period as the Proposed Submission document.
- An updated Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening (**Appendix 2e**) which is required by Law to protect European Sites of Biological Importance in the region. Bowland Ecology Consultants were commissioned to undertake an update of the Habitat Regulations Assessment. The previous Habitat Regulations Assessment (2012) recommended a strengthening of part 3 of Policy CS6: Green Infrastructure which is concerned with biodiversity, to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects likely to occur as a result of

implementing the revised preferred policies. This recommendation was taken on board. The changes that have been proposed to policy in the Proposed Submission document do not require any further modification as a result of the updated 2014 Habitat Regulations Assessment.

- An updated Housing Requirement Technical Paper (**Appendix 2f**) and updated Employment Land Requirement Technical Paper (**Appendix 2g**), which inform and justify the preferred strategy and policies relating to housing and employment.
- The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (**Appendix 2h**) which identifies the infrastructure required to support the delivery of the Core Strategy.
- An updated Equality Analysis (**Appendix I**) to ensure the Council meets the legal obligations of the Equality Act 2010, taking into account all relevant and appropriate equality considerations.

### 5.7 Core Strategy Proposed Submission– Key Changes

Highlighted above are those documents which have informed the content of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and have led to changes to policy compared to the Revised Preferred Option (2012) consultation document. As previously stated, an overview of the changes in the Proposed Submission is set out in **Appendix 2b** but the key changes can be summarised as follows:

- **a reduction in the housing requirement** from 300 to 280 new dwellings on average per year. Paragraphs 4.3 to 4.10 in Appendix B to this report provides further explanation of the reduced requirement as does the Housing Technical Paper at Appendix 2f.
- **an updated baseline employment land supply** of 21.6ha (previously 23.5ha) with a realistic supply of 17.8ha identified; meaning a shortfall in supply of 13.7ha against the assessed requirement of 31.5ha (previously 35-40ha); and explicit recognition in the supporting text to Policy CS3 that Fylde Borough Council through the Duty to Co-operate is accommodating around 14ha of employment land to meet Blackpool's shortfall.
- **the merger of Policy CS21: Access and Connectivity into Policy CS5: Connectivity** to improve clarity and address the overlap in policy coverage;
- **Policy CS9: Energy Efficiency and Climate Change has been split into 2 policies** - new policy CS9: Water Management and new policy CS10: Sustainable Design and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy'. These changes take into account the

concerns raised by the Environment Agency and more wider comments made by United Utilities on the important issue of water management. New policy CS10 reflects the emphasis of the policy more accurately, the recent evidence provided in the Viability Study and the proposed changes by government to limit the application of local standards of house building;

- **Policy CS13 Affordable Housing** has been amended so that developments in the inner area are exempt from the affordable housing requirements to reflect the findings of the Viability Study; to provide more flexibility over affordable housing dwelling size and tenure mix requirements across the Borough; and to acknowledge that an alternative level of provision may be negotiated where this has been robustly justified with the submission of a viability appraisal;
- **Policies CS23: Promenade Holiday Accommodation and CS24: Off Promenade Holiday Accommodation have been merged** and simplified to form new policy CS23: Managing Holiday Bed Spaces. Individual areas are no longer defined in the redrafted policy to provide more flexibility for a future SPD review with more clarity provided over what the policy does/does not allow in terms of change of use. The supporting text has been rewritten to explain the policy approach to managing a reduction in holiday bed spaces and clarifies that the policy applies to some parts of the resort that are outside the defined Resort Core. The amendments are in response to the key issues raised in the consultation which show there is a misunderstanding by some about the policy approach to managing a reduction in holiday accommodation.

### **Core Strategy Proposed Submission– Consultation**

5.8

The Planning Authority is now in a position to submit the Core Strategy and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, for the purposes of public examination before an independent Planning Inspector. However, prior to that submission, the Council must publish the Core Strategy document for inspection and invite formal representations over a minimum consultation period of 6 weeks in line with the Government Regulations (19 and 20)<sup>1</sup> For the Blackpool Core Strategy, the intention is to consult for an extended period of 8 weeks during July/August this summer.

At this stage of consultation representations are invited on the ‘soundness’ or otherwise of the plan. A summary of any representations made at this stage, together with copies of any representations, will be forwarded to the Secretary of State on submission of the Core Strategy. The representations will be considered by an independently appointed planning inspector (appointed by Government) who undertakes the Examination into the Core Strategy and supporting documents.

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<sup>1</sup> Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Comments on 'soundness' must relate to whether a plan is:

- **Positively prepared** – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- **Justified** – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- **Effective** – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- **Consistent** with national policy – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.

Once the Proposed Submission has been published, unless new matters of significance are raised through the representations received, it is not anticipated that there will be a need to make further changes (other than minor amendments to improve clarity) as the document will represent the Plan which the Council is willing to adopt.

### Duty to Co-operate

5.9

Paragraph 181 of the NPPF states that “Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination”. The Duty to Co-operate (the Duty) is set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011.

This Duty applies to all local planning authorities (LPAs), county councils in England and to a number of other “prescribed” bodies requiring them to co-operate with each other to address strategic matters relevant to their areas in the preparation of a development plan document (DPD). The Duty requires ongoing constructive and active engagement on the preparation of DPDs and other activities relating to the sustainable development and use of land.

A Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate has been drafted setting out how Blackpool has met this legal requirement (**Appendix 2j** to this report). The draft Statement will be consulted upon at the same time as the Proposed Submission document. Letters will be sent out, to those bodies and local planning authorities

that have been involved with co-operating over cross boundary issues, inviting comments. The Statement will accompany the Core Strategy at Submission.

**Five Year Housing Land Supply**

5.10

It is considered that the new evidence of Blackpool’s objectively assessed housing need provided by the 2013 Fylde Coast SHMA (Feb 2014); further analysis of economic and housing forecasts (May 2014) and the updated Housing Requirement Technical Paper (June 2014), which underpin the Housing Requirement Policy in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy provides the most up-to-date assessment of housing needs in the Borough. Therefore, in line with the NPPF, this updated housing requirement figure should form the basis for calculating the Borough’s housing land supply pending the adoption of the Blackpool Core Strategy.

**Next steps**

5.11

For members information, set out below are the remaining key stages of the preparation of the Core Strategy through to adoption, along with estimated timescales:

TASK	TIMESCALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Executive and Council approval of the Core Strategy - Proposed Submission Version June 2014 including the amendments to the Policies Map; updated SA and HRA for Publication consultation</li> </ul>	June 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 8 weeks consultation (Regulation 19 and 20)<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	July/August 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of representation received to Publication stage consultation; prepare responses to representations and prepare for submission</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	September/November 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submission of Core Strategy and supporting evidence to the Secretary of State (Regulation 21 and 22)</li> </ul>	December 2014

<sup>2</sup> Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Examination of the Core Strategy by the Planning Inspectorate (Regulation 23 and 24)</b></li> </ul>	<b>April/May 2015</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Inspector's Report (Regulation 25 )</b></li> </ul>	<b>July 2015</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Adoption by Full Council (Regulation 26)</b></li> </ul>	<b>September 2015</b>

5.12 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

5.13 **List of Appendices:**

**Appendix 2a Part1** - Proposed Submission Core Strategy (June 2014)

**Appendix 2a Part 2** – Proposed Submission Policies Map (June 2014)

**Appendix 2b** – Overview of Changes to the Proposals and Policies in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy (June 2014) compared to the Revised Preferred Option document

**Appendix 2c** – Statement of Consultation (June 2014) - including the Response to Representations received to the Revised Preferred Option

**Appendix 2c Part Two**- Response to Representations received to the Revised Preferred Option

**Appendix 2d Part 1** – Proposed Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal: (May 2014); including Appendices

**Appendix 2d Part 2** - Blackpool Council Response to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (June 2014)

**Appendix 2e** – Proposed Submission Habitats Regulation Assessment (May 2014)

**Appendix 2f** - Housing Requirement Technical Paper (June 2014);

**Appendix 2g** - Employment Land Technical Paper (June 2014);

**Appendix 2h** – Infrastructure Delivery Plan (June 2014);

**Appendix 2i**– Equality Analysis (June 2014)

**Appendix 2j** – Draft Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate (May 2014)

All circulated under separate cover.



**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Core Strategy when adopted will be the key strategic spatial document forming part of the Council's statutory Local Plan.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 The Core Strategy is being resourced by staff within the Development Plans and Projects Team.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 An Equality Analysis has been prepared to ensure the Council meets the legal obligation of the Equality Act 2010, taking into account all relevant and appropriate equality considerations. This document is attached at Appendix 2i.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The work is being undertaken within existing budgetary provisions, including the independent Core Strategy examination by the Secretary of State during 2015.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The Core Strategy is the key document which will provide the statutory planning framework to enable and assist the delivery of Blackpool's future development requirements. Without its progress, acquisition, land assembly and planning approval for key regeneration and development projects will be undermined and delayed. In addition with the publication of the National Planning Framework in March 2012 there is an imperative to progress the Core Strategy through to adoption as quickly as possible to ensure the Council has a planning framework that is directing development within the borough which reflects the community and elected members priorities and needs and to avoid national policy being the principle basis for making decisions. The latter could lead to an increase in appeals if applications are received proposing development which is not in line with the priorities and needs of Blackpool.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

11.1 Extensive consultation has taken place on the progression of the Core Strategy to

date. Previous key consultations have involved the Issues and Options (2008); Preferred Option (2010) and Revised Preferred Option (2012) stages.

**12.0 Background papers:**

12.1 None

**ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE/ CABINET MEMBER**

**13.0 Key decision information:**

13.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

13.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 8/2014

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

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

**14.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**15.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Date approved: N/A

**16.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

16.1 None

**17.0 Executive decision:**

**17.1 The Executive agreed as follows:**

That the Executive recommends to Full Council:

(1) To approve the Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Appendix 2a Part to this report) including the evidence base listed in the plan; amendments to the Policies Map (Appendix 2a Part 1); Statement of Consultation (Appendix 2c Part 1) including the responses to the representations received to the Revised Preferred Option (May 2012); Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2d Part 1) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appendix 2e) for publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State;

(2); 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 sound, pursuant to section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Act;

(3) That the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration, 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 Statement of Compliance (Appendix 2j to this report) for consultation alongside publication of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy; that the

## Appendix 9(a)

Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration, be given delegated authority to make any amendments to the Statement of Compliance where necessary in response to representations received; and to publish the final version as an evidence base document to the Core Strategy;

(5) To agree that the Proposed Submission Core Strategy housing requirement figure (set out in Policy CS2) be used to calculate the five-year housing land supply pending adoption of the Core Strategy.

### 17.2 **Date of Decision:**

16<sup>th</sup> June 2014

### 18.0 **Reason(s) for decision:**

To progress the preparation of the statutory planning framework to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

### 18.1 **Date Decision published:**

17<sup>th</sup> June 2014

### 19.0 **Executive Members in attendance:**

19.1 Councillors Blackburn, Collett, Cross, Jackson, Jones, Rowson and Wright

### 20.0 **Call-in:**

20.1

### 21.0 **Notes:**

21.1

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2014

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council will be asked to consider a review of the political balance calculations following the election of 3 councillors at the recent by elections held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To re-appoint the following Committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix X(a). These are:

- Scrutiny Committee (membership of fourteen and with a composition of nine Labour and five Conservative)
- Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Planning Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Appeals Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative)
- Finance and Audit Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
- Standards Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).
- Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).

2.2 Subject to the appointment of the Committees as set out in 2.1 above, to agree that the powers and duties of those Committees remain as set out in the Constitution.

2.3 That the Licensing Committee also be re-appointed with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fifteen and a composition of ten Labour, four Conservative and one Liberal Democrat).

- 2.4 Subject to (2.3) above, the Licensing Committee be requested to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the Powers and Duties, as set out in the Constitution (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
- 2.5 Subject to (2.1) above, that the Scrutiny Committee be requested to appoint a 'Call In' Sub Committee, (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative), to meet as and when required, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.6 That the Licensing Committee also be re-appointed with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fifteen and a composition of ten Labour, four Conservative and one Liberal Democrat).
- 2.7 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to note the appointment of members to Committees as set out in Appendix X(b).
- 2.8 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to confirm the re-appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those Committees and the six Scrutiny Lead Members identified at Appendix X(b) based on the above recommendations.
- 2.9 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly and report back to Council on revised political balance calculations at the September meeting following the Clifton By Election.

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

- 3.1 To reflect the current political balance of the political groups on the Council. This will also meet statutory requirements.
- 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:

There are no other options as the Council has to abide by the political balance calculations unless it comes to a decision to applying different calculations, however in this instance then no member must vote against it.

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

4.1 The appointment of Council Committees will help the Council deliver all its priorities.

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 At the Annual Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014, it was agreed that a further report be submitted to the June Council meeting to review the political balance calculations and their effect on Committees following the election of three councillors at the by elections on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

5.2 The by elections were held and 3 Labour councillors were elected. This means that there will be some changes to the political balance calculations agreed at the Annual Meeting. However, since the last meeting Councillor Greenhalgh has sadly passed away creating a vacancy on the Council, which has an effect on the political balance calculations. The calculations are set out at Appendix X (b) to reflect this. A further review will be required at the September meeting following the Clifton ward by election which has just been called.

5.3 The Licensing Committee is not subject to political balance rules, however the Council has sought to apply proportionality, with the addition of the Liberal Democrat member. This Committee would also revert back to its membership of 15 members.

5.4 The Licensing Committee would also need to appoint one permanent Sub Committee (Public Protection), which is subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations. To accommodate the revised calculations then the Public Protection Sub-Committee would also revert back to its membership of seven members.

5.5 With regards to the scrutiny process, then at the Annual Council meeting the Council agreed to the appointment of six 'lead' members on a political balance basis (reversed) to four Conservative and two Labour. The revised calculations would not change these appointments.

5.6 The Scrutiny Committee has previously agreed to appoint a Sub Committee to deal with the 'call in' of Executive decisions function. This is also subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations. The revised political balance calculations would see this Sub Committee revert back in size to nine members.

5.7 **Appointment of Chairmen** - with changes to the sizes and composition of committees, the appointment of chairmen and vice chairmen also needs to be

reconfirmed. Appendix X (b) lists the notified names of committee members and proposed Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship positions. (The appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for the Call In Sub-Committee and the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for their Parent Committees to deal with).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix X (a) sets out the political balance calculations

Appendix X (b) sets out the proposed members to be appointed to Committees.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review periodically the political composition of the Authority, and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies. The rules for securing political balance on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990. See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1990/1553/regulation/17/made>

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 There are no Human Resources considerations.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 There are no additional financial considerations.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Failure to take account of the political balance changes will mean that the Council is not following the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990.



**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation has previously been undertaken with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group regarding their representatives to serve on the recommended Committees.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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## Provisional Political Balance Allocations 2014/ 2015

**STAGE 1 - Percentage representation on the Council:**

Party	Membership	Percentage %
Labour	27	64.29
Conservative	13	30.95
Liberal Democrat	1	2.38
	<u>41</u>	<u>98</u>

(1 current vacancy on the Council)

**STAGE 2 - Total number of seats on committees to be allocated:**

Committee Name	Membership
Scrutiny Committee	15
Call In Sub-Committee	9
Health Scrutiny Committee	9
Finance and Audit Committee	7
Planning Committee	10
Appeals Committee	6
Public Protection Sub-Committee	7
Chief Officers Employment Committee	7
Standards Committee	6
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>76</b></u>

**STAGE 3 - Total allocation of seats to each party:**

(This stage is to ensure as far as possible that the number of seats allocated to a group in total, is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the Council as a whole)

Party	Number of seats	Seats (rounded up)
Labour	48.86	49
Conservative	23.52	<u>24</u>
		<u>73</u>

**NOTE:** There are 3 less seats than Stage 2, as the Liberal Democrat Group representation does not constitute a Group and there is a vacancy on the Council.

**STAGE 4 - Working calculations for individual committees**

(This stage is to ensure that as far as possible, the number of seats allocated to a group on each committee, is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the Council as a whole)

See next page

## Provisional Political Balance Allocations 2014/ 2015 (cont.)

### STAGE 4 (cont.) - Working calculations for individual committees

**Note 1:** Stage 3 (previous page) overrides Stage 4

**Note 2:** The majority political group must have the majority of seats on every committee

Committee	Party	Seats on each committee	Seat entitlement	Total for each committee	
Scrutiny	Labour	15	9.64	10	(see Note 3b)
	Conservative		4.64	5	
Call In Sub-Committee	Labour	9	5.79	6	
	Conservative		2.79	3	
Health Scrutiny	Labour	9	5.79	6	
	Conservative		2.79	3	
Finance and Audit	Labour	7	4.50	5	
	Conservative		2.17	2	
Planning	Labour	10	6.43	6	(1 seat remains unallocated) (see Note 3a)
	Conservative		3.10	3	
Appeals	Labour	6	3.86	4	
	Conservative		1.86	2	
Public Protection Sub-Committee	Labour	7	4.50	5	
	Conservative		2.17	2	
Chief Officers Employment	Labour	7	4.50	5	(see Note 3b)
	Conservative		2.17	2	
Standards	Labour	6	3.86	4	
	Conservative		1.86	2	
<b>Total Seats</b>				<b>75</b>	

	Stage 4	Stage 3	
Labour	51	49	Labour to forgoe 2 seats from Cttees above to balance
Conservative	24	24	
	<u>75</u>	<u>73</u>	

**Reminder:** Stage 3 calculations (Council based representation) override Stage 4 calculations (Committee based calculations)

**Note 3a**

Due to the current vacancy on the Council, the Planning Committee will need to reduce in size by one member, until that vacancy is filled.

**Note 3b**

For stages 3 and 4 to balance, Labour would need to forgoe 2 seats. The Labour Group Leader has indicated that the Group will as in 2012 and 2013, continue to forgoe its seat on the Chief Officers Employment Committee, thereby reducing its membership on that Committee to 4. He has also indicated that the Group will forgoe a seat on the Scrutiny Committee, reducing the Labour membership to 9.

If the Council wishes to allocate seats other than described above, this would require a resolution of Council, which no member votes against.

**Note 4**

The Licensing Committee does not fall under these statutory rules and has therefore not been included in the political balance calculations. It is recommended that the composition of the Committee be 10 Labour, 4 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat.

**Note 5**

The Public Protection Sub-Committee does not derive its responsibility from the Licensing Act 2003 and is therefore part of the aggregate political balance calculations.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES – 2014/ 2015

CHIEF OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT	PLANNING	APPEALS	LICENSING	PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB	FINANCE AND AUDIT	STANDARDS
<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>
<b>Blackburn, Simon (LAB) Chairman</b>	Elmes, Jim (LAB)	<b>Coleman, Gary (LAB) Chairman</b>	Coleman, Gary (LAB)	Coleman, Gary (LAB)	Benson, Kath (LAB)	<b>Cain, Graham (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>
Cain, Graham (LAB)	Hutton, Adrian (LAB)	<b>Elmes, Jim (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	Doherty, Brian (LAB)	Doherty, Brian (LAB)	Coleman, Ian (LAB)	Coleman, Ian (LAB)
Campbell, Gillian (LAB)	Matthews, Allan (LAB)	Matthews, Allan (LAB)	Hunter, Peter (LAB)	Hutton, Adrian (LAB)	Hunter, Peter (LAB)	Hunter, Peter (LAB)
<b>Jackson, Fred (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Owen, David (LAB) Chairman</b>	Ryan, Chris (LAB)	<b>Hutton, Adrian (LAB) Chairman</b>	O'Hara, David (LAB)	O'Hara, David (LAB)	<b>Jackson, Fred (LAB) Chairman</b>
Callow, Peter (CON)	Smith, Mark (LAB)	Callow, Maxine (CON)	Jackson, Pam (LAB)	Taylor, Sylvia (LAB)	<b>Smith, Mark (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	Clapham, Don (CON)
Williams, Tony (CON)	<b>Jackson, Pam (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	Galley, Paul (CON)	Mitchell, Martin (LAB)	Delves, Joyce (CON)	<b>Callow, Peter (CON) Chairman</b>	Delves, Joyce (CON)
	Brown, Tony (CON)		<b>O'Hara, David (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	Cox, Christian (CON)	Galley, Paul (CON)	
	Lee, Tony (CON)		Ryan, Chris (LAB)			
	Stansfield, Andrew (CON)		Smith, Mark (LAB)			
			Taylor, Sylvia (LAB)			
			Brown, Tony (CON)			
			Evans, Peter (CON)			
			Lee, Tony (CON)			
			Cox, Christian (CON)			
			Green, Doug (LD)			
Membership: 6	Membership: 9 *	Membership: 6	Membership: 15	Membership: 7	Membership: 7	Membership: 6
Labour 4	Labour 6	Labour 4	Labour 10	Labour 5	Labour 5	Labour 4
Conservative 2	Conservative 3	Conservative 2	Conservative 4	Conservative 2	Conservative 2	Conservative 2
			Liberal Democrat 1			

The Public Protection Sub Committee and its Chairman and Vice Chairman will be appointed at the first meeting of the Licensing Committee and the Call In Sub Committee and its Chairman and Vice Chairman will be appointed at the first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – 2014/2015

SCRUTINY	HEALTH SCRUTINY	CALL IN SUB	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	Clr Blackburn, Simon Chairman
Benson, Kath (LAB) (Lead)	Benson, Kath (LAB)	Benson, Kath (LAB)	
<b>Coleman, Debbie (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	Coleman, Debbie (LAB)	Coleman, Debbie (LAB)	Clr Taylor, Ivan
Coleman, Ian (LAB)	Elmes, Jim (LAB)	Elmes, Jim (LAB)	Clr Collett, Eddie
Doherty, Brian (LAB) (Lead)	<b>Hunter, Peter (LAB) Vice Chairman</b>	Jackson, Pam (LAB)	Clr Clapham, Don
Elmes, Jim (LAB)	<b>Mitchell, Martin (LAB) Chairman</b>	Mitchell, Martin (LAB)	Dr Rajpura, Arif
Jackson, Pam (LAB)	Owen, David (LAB)	Taylor, Sylvia (LAB)	Curtis, Delyth
Mitchell, Martin (LAB)	Henderson MBE, Lily (CON)	Callow, Maxine (CON)	Harrison, Sue
O'Hara, David (LAB)	Mitchell, Henry (CON)	Clapham, Don (CON)	Fisher, Roy
<b>Taylor, Sylvia (LAB) Chairman</b>	Stansfield, Andrew (CON)	Williams, Tony (CON)	Dr Rudnick, Leanne
Callow, Maxine (CON) (Lead)			<b>Doyle, Amanda Vice-Chairman</b>
Stansfield, Andrew, (CON) (Lead)			Bonson, David
Henderson MBE, Lily (CON) (Lead)			Doherty, Gary
Lee, Tony (CON) (Lead)			Johnson, Ian
Evans, Peter (CON)			Tierney-Moore, Heather
Kershaw, Fred (Church Representative)			Higgs, Jane
Vacancy (Church Representative)			Rodgers, Norma
			Rose, Joan
			Bayley, Richard
			Bone, Simon
			Emmess, Richard
Membership: 14 #	Membership: 9	Membership: 9	Membership: 20
Labour 9	Labour 6	Labour 6	
Conservative 5	Conservative 3	Conservative 3	

# = Four co-opted members comprising two Parent Governors and two Church Representatives, Mr Kershaw, one vacancy and two Parent Governor vacancies

\* Recommended that Vice Chairman is appointed by the Planning Committee, itself

Scrutiny Panel Lead Members: Scrutiny Lead/ Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care - **Councillor Mrs Henderson MBE**

Scrutiny Lead/ Shadow Cabinet Member for Tourism and Leisure and Highways, Transport and Equality and Diversity - **Councillor Mrs Callow**

Scrutiny Lead/ Shadow Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Safety and Enforcement and Street Scene and the Environment - **Councillor Lee**

Scrutiny Lead/ Shadow Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Culture and Heritage - **Councillor Stansfield**

Scrutiny Lead member for Corporate Management and Resources (i.e. Leader of the Council's area) - Labour Scrutiny member - **Councillor Benson**

Scrutiny Lead member for Urban Regeneration (i.e. Deputy Leader of the Council's area) - **Councillor Doherty**