

Public Document Pack



BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 18 November 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, 26 November 2014 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

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 Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2014 (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 September 2014 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

(Pages 9 - 58)

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 I 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

5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

(Pages 59 - 66)

To consider a review of the political balance calculations following the election of Councillor Derek Robertson at the recent by election for Waterloo ward.

6 MOTIONS AT COUNCIL

(Pages 67 - 68)

To consider the following motions which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1 :-

- a) CLASSIFICATION OF HOLIDAY FLATS. Councillor Smith to propose.

“Blackpool Council is concerned that holiday flats and permanent flats fall within the same use class in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). Both currently fall within use Class C3 - 'dwellinghouses' and hence there is no material change of use involved if a holiday flat changes to a permanent flat (unless there is a condition or conditions attached to the planning permission which preclude the change).

This is a problem in Blackpool for a number of reasons. Many holiday flats were approved in the 1960's, 1970's and early 1980's when it was never envisaged that there would be a reduced demand for this type of accommodation and hence no conditions were applied to the planning permissions to restrict them solely to holiday flats.

The Council considers that holiday flats would be more appropriately classed as C1 which comprises the following 'hotel, boarding house or guesthouse'. This would allow holiday flats to be converted to hotels and guesthouses without requiring planning permission whilst retaining the holiday character of streets in the town whilst preventing the creation of further one bed flats in the town of which there is already a

substantial stock.

The Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to seek a change in the legislation so that holiday flats fall within use Class C1, rather than C3, for the reasons outlined”

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

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council’s website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

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Present:

Councillor Haynes (in the Chair)

Councillors

Benson	Cox	Jackson	Ryan
Brown	Cross	Mrs Jackson	Smith
Cain	Doherty	Jones	Stansfield
Callow	Elmes	Lee	I Taylor
Mrs Callow JP	Evans	Matthews	Mrs Taylor
Campbell	Galley	H Mitchell	Williams
D Coleman	Green	M Mitchell	Wright
G Coleman	Mrs Henderson MBE	O'Hara	
I Coleman	Hunter	Owen	
Collett	Hutton	Rowson	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive
John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Alan Cavill, Director of Place
Delyth Curtis, Director of People
Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health
Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services
Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services / Monitoring Officer
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Chris Williams, Democratic Services Adviser
Joe Robinson, Communications Officer

Apologies:

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

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made under the item.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council held on 25th June 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Luke Taylor to the meeting, following the recent by-election in Clifton ward.

Members were informed that Mayor had received a letter from Councillor Stanley Cain JP, Mayor of Douglas Borough Council, who had extended his wishes and had offered a plaque to be displayed in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Mayor expressed her thanks to Visit Blackpool staff and to Councillor Graham Cain for the work undertaken in relation to the recent Switch-On of the Illuminations evening.

4 MINUTE'S SILENCE

Councillors observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to former Councillor Tony Lee who sadly died on 20 July 2014.

5 COUNCILLOR TONY LEE

Following the sad loss of Councillor Lee, the Council was invited to pay tribute to his life and work and consider a resolution of condolence.

Motion: Councillor Williams proposed (and Councillor Evans seconded):

'This Council and the people of Blackpool were deeply saddened to learn of the death on Sunday 20th July 2014 of Councillor Tony Lee, former Deputy Mayor in 2010/ 2011 and member for Waterloo Ward.

Tony was a proud 'sandgrown 'un', - born and bred in Blackpool. He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church and attended Hawes Side Primary School and Highfield Secondary School.

Tony, together with his wife Eileen, owned a care home for 25 years. He maintained a particular interest around the welfare of old people and when he became a Councillor in 2007, he was designated the Council's 'Older People's Champion'. He was also involved in visiting residential homes on behalf of the Council, to help ensure that the needs of older people are being met.

He was widely regarded as a 'people person' and was very committed to his ward. He served on a number of Council Committees over the years. Latterly he served on the Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee and the Licensing Committee and became an experienced and valued member of those committees. He was the Scrutiny Lead/ Shadow Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Safety and Enforcement and Street Scene and the Environment.

Tony suddenly was diagnosed with cancer shortly before he passed away whilst on holiday in France and this came as a great shock to all who knew him.

Tony leaves his widow Eileen, children Damian, Anthony, Gemma and Philip and four grandchildren.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Eileen and her family in their great loss.'

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

(Note: Councillor H Mitchell left the meeting following consideration of the item).

6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

Cabinet Members and Combined Fire Authority representatives presented reports to the Council on work undertaken within their portfolio areas. Councillor Jackson presented the report on behalf of the Leader of the Council. All the reports covered decisions taken, work in progress and work to be undertaken in the near future. Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

Notes:

(1) On behalf of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackson agreed to provide Councillor Mrs Callow with a written response as to how the remaining loss from the 2013 Switch On event would be recovered and whether there would be any staff redundancies as a consequence. In reference to a recent Executive decision to write off debt in excess of £12,000, he also agreed to provide clarification for Councillor Mrs Callow as to the reason why the debt was not pursued and prosecutions made.

Councillor Jackson also agreed for a response on behalf of the Leader to be provided to Councillor Galley, with details of the amount that had been borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board and whether the amount had increased.

(2) In relation to Councillor Green's reference to the Flood and Waste Management Act 2010, Councillor Jackson agreed to provide a written answer as to whether applications had been made to the Planning Department from residents wishing to pave over grassed garden areas. He also agreed to clarify the proportion of the £575,000 of unsecured loans obtained through the Government Start Up scheme, that had been lost to bad debt when businesses failed.

Councillor Jackson agreed to clarify for Councillor Williams the application and decision making process regarding the capital grant to the Tangerine Confectionary company. He also agreed to provide a response as to the reason for the occupancy numbers of the Enterprise Centre, Lytham Road, and plans to fully utilise the space were being progressed.

(3) Councillor Jones agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Williams on the occupancy rates for all of the Council owned car parks. He also agreed to confirm the number of cycles from the Cycle Blackpool scheme that had been stolen, repaired or sold and for details of the plans to replace cycles.

(4) Councillor Cox left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

(5) Councillor Jackson declared a personal interest in agenda item 6a, Executive Report from the Leader of the Council as a member of Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Credit Union.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

7 REVENUE BUDGET 2014/ 2015

Members considered the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 8th September 2014, in relation to proposed amendments to the Revenue Budget for 2014/2015. The amendments related to proposals for meeting the imbalance of £1,016,000 from the current Revenue Budget through the transfer of £852,000 from the earmarked reserve for Potential Pay Liabilities as an alternative to the pay freeze that had originally been proposed. It was also recommended that the remaining balance of £164,000 would be met from Contingencies.

Motion: Councillor Jackson proposed (and Councillor Rowson seconded):

‘1. To agree that the in-year budget gap identified in paragraph 5.1 of the Council report, be met by transferring £852,000 from the Earmarked Reserve for Potential Pay Liabilities and the balance of £164,000 from Contingencies.

2. To agree the budget commitments regarding the Better Start fund, as set out in the Executive decision notice at Appendix 7(b) to the Council report and amend the Council’s Revenue budget to include these sums.’

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

(Note: Councillors Mrs Callow and P Callow left the meeting during consideration of the above item).

8 OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 8th September 2014 regarding a proposed Officer Code of Conduct to be included in the Council’s Constitution. It was reported that in drafting the revised Code, consultation had taken place with recognised trade unions and key Council services.

Motion: Councillor Jackson proposed (and Councillor Williams seconded):

‘To approve the Officer Code of conduct as submitted and agree that it be added to the Council’s Constitution.’

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

9 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Members were aware that at the June Council meeting, it had been agreed that a review of the political balance calculations and their effect on committees would be required following the Clifton by-election in July 2014.

The Council considered proposals for political balance calculations which took into account the election of Councillor Luke Taylor and the sad death of Councillor Tony Lee.

Motion: Councillor Jackson proposed (and Councillor Williams seconded):

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'1. To re-appoint the following Committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 9(a) to the Council report. These are:

- Scrutiny Committee (membership of fourteen and with a composition of ten Labour and four Conservative)
- Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Planning Committee (membership of ten and with a composition of seven 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 five and with a composition of four Labour and one Conservative).

2. To agree that the powers and duties of those Committees remain as set out in the Constitution.

3. 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.

4. To note that the Licensing Committee and the Public Protection Sub Committee do not need to be re-appointed as the political balance calculations do not change.

5. To note the appointment of members to Committees as set out in Appendix 9(b) to the Council report.

6. To confirm the re-appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those Committees and the six Scrutiny Lead Members identified at Appendix 9(b) to the Council report based on the above recommendations.

7. To agree that the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly and report back to Council on revised political balance calculations at the November meeting following the Waterloo By Election.'

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

10 STATUTORY POSITIONS

Members noted that at the Chief Officer's Employment Committee on 4th July 2014, it had been agreed for the Chief Executive to make interim designations to the positions of statutory Director of Children's Services and statutory Director of Adult services, both of which required Council approval.

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Members were also aware that the current Head of Legal Services was due to leave the Council from 18th September 2014 and that duties within the Constitution would therefore needed to be allocated.

Motion: Councillor Jackson proposed (and Councillor I Taylor seconded):

- '1. To confirm that on an interim basis for a period up to 30th September 2015, Delyth Curtis be designated as the statutory Director of Children's Services.
2. To confirm that on an interim basis for a period up to 30th September 2015, Karen Smith be designated as the statutory Director of Adult Services.
3. To confirm that the current duties in the Constitution designated to the Head of Legal Services be assigned to Carmel White, the Chief Corporate Solicitor and that the deputy role be assigned to Gemma Duxbury, the Senior Solicitor (Corporate).
4. To agree that the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to update the Constitution accordingly.'

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

11 TOWN PLANNING

Motion: Pursuant to notice, Councillor Owen proposed (and Councillor Mrs Jackson seconded):

'That this Council urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to set up an inquiry in association with the Local Government Association and the Town and Country Planning Association to ascertain the effect that recent amendments to the country's system for managing town planning have had on local communities, and to recommend further change appropriate to the outcome of that inquiry.'

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

12 WORKFARE SCHEME

Motion: Pursuant to notice, Councillor M Mitchell proposed (and Councillor Benson seconded):

'Blackpool Council believes that work should be a paid activity and therefore opposes the introduction of schemes, which force job seekers to carry out unpaid work or face losing benefits - schemes known popularly as 'workfare'. The Council is concerned that there is no evidence 'workfare' assists job seekers in finding real jobs and that in fact working for thirty hours a week unpaid, makes that more difficult. It believes that 'workfare' is replacing paid work and that 'workfare' stigmatises benefit claimants and locks them further into poverty. This Council therefore pledges not to use any 'workfare' placements and also encourages contractors not to use these schemes.'

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Recorded vote: Immediately prior to voting on the motion, five members of the Council requested that the vote be recorded. The voting was as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Benson, Cain, Campbell, D Coleman, G Coleman, I Coleman, Collett, Cross, Doherty, Elmes, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Mrs Jackson, Jones, Matthews, M Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Rowson, Ryan, Smith, I Taylor, L Taylor, Mrs Taylor, Wright - **total 26.**

Against the motion: Councillors Brown, Evans, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Stansfield, Williams - **total 6.**

Abstentions: Councillors Green, Mrs Haynes - **total 2.**

Motion carried: The motion was therefore carried.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 8.41 pm)

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

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR BLACKBURN

Financial Management

The latest financial performance report for 2014/ 2015 was reported to the Executive on 10 November 2014. As at month six, in-year pressures in Children's Services, Adult Services, Parking Services and Community and Environmental Services have been mitigated in part by the performance of Treasury Management, Area Forum and Ward Budgets. The 2013/ 2014 under spends have been redirected to bolster working balances, which are by now forecast at a level of £4.0m. Services are working to recover their deficits whilst at the same time financial planning for the 2015/ 2016 financial year.

Asset Management

The lease has now been signed for the largest unit underneath the Talbot Road multi-storey car park to create a 300-seat 'World Buffet' restaurant which is due to commence fit out early next year.

Legal Services

The service continues to defend public liability claims and to prosecute and secure convictions for a variety of offences including breaches of planning control, housing legislation and consumer protection legislation. It has successfully defended an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the proper construction of standard leases granted by the Council to its tenants and, in particular, whether it was entitled to charge certain management/ administration charges as part of the service charge recoverable under those leases.

Four Academy conversions were concluded in September and the service completed the purchase of a large property required in connection with the Tyldesley Road Housing Scheme.

Electoral Services

At the Waterloo By Election on Thursday 9 October, Councillor Derek Robertson (Conservative) was elected to the position which became vacant following the very sad death of Councillor Tony Lee. The turnout was low at 22.5%. I welcome Councillor Robertson to his first Council meeting. The Returning Officer is now planning in earnest for next year's local and general elections and more information on key dates and publicity will be made available over the coming weeks/ months.

Revenues, Benefits, Invoices and Payments

Council Tax collection at the end of September was 54.0%, which is 0.7% more than at the same time last year. The figure remains 1.3% lower than in years prior to the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which continues to have an impact on collection. The Business Rate collection figure at the end of September was 51.0%, which is 3.0% less than the same period in the previous financial year. However, more customers are choosing to pay over 12 monthly instalments rather than 10 for both Council Tax and Business Rates and so a direct comparison with the previous year is not possible.

The average time to process new benefit claims and changes has remained static at 32 days over the last quarter. The Benefit phone line is still operating a reduced service, but it is anticipated that this situation will be reviewed in the near future. The phone line closure has allowed the service to concentrate on processing the backlog of claims and using the opportunity to promote online services to customers.

The service has been preparing for the introduction of Universal Credit and the processes we shall be carrying out on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. These include delivering Personal Budgeting Support, dealing with Housing Cost enquiries and supporting customers to claim Universal Credit.

The Blackpool Council Advice team secured a total of £18,400 additional benefits for customers during the second quarter of 2014 whilst the Social Care Benefits team is promoting the Winter Warmth campaign when corresponding with customers.

The project to change banking provider will begin shortly, but accounts will be in place for the February main billing exercise for Council Tax and Business Rates.

Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Credit Union

Over the summer the Credit Union successfully completed its refit and move to new branch premises on Birley Street with financial support to £60,000 committed in the Council's 2013/ 2014 Budget. The new premises opened its doors to the public on 11 October. The Credit Union is now open six days a week giving much greater visibility and easier access to all residents of Blackpool. This is reflected in early figures which indicate a large increase in take up of membership, savings and loans.

Risk Services

The Civil Contingencies Team responded to the incidents of 21 October as caused by severe weather. There were a number of issues, which required dealing with, predominately related to the strength of the wind which crossed Blackpool. Staff from a wide range of Council services were on hand to help address these issues.

The Civil Contingencies Team will be completing the National Capability Survey on behalf of Blackpool Council in November. This is a central government survey where a submission is required every two years and assesses the Council's ability to respond to a major incident.

The Strategic Risk Register has been reviewed by the Corporate Risk Management Group. The revised document is now with the Corporate Leadership Team which is going to devote a session to undertake a full review of the document on 8 December 2014.

Data for the National Fraud Initiative 2014/ 2015 has now been submitted to the Audit Commission. Results of the data matching exercise are expected in January 2015.

Contracts and Purchasing

Consultation documents have been released by the Cabinet Office in respect of the UK Transposition of new EU Procurement Directives into the Public Sector Contract Regulations and Lord Young's Proposals regarding Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) access to public sector contracts. These legislative reforms will become statute early in 2015 and there will be a requirement to review Council Contract Procedure Rules prior to their introduction.

The outcome of the consultation is eagerly anticipated as whilst there is general support from National and Regional Procurement Bodies to implement the new directives early, there is a concern that the Lord Young Reforms, which are presented as a deregulatory measure to make procurements faster, more transparent and less bureaucratic will in fact have an opposite effect for SMEs and lead to increased administrative burden on local authorities who are already struggling with a diminished capacity base following public spending cuts. There is also a strong body of opinion that the proposal conflicts with the principles of localism as outlined in the Localism Act 2011 which provides freedom in how local authorities organise themselves and their ability to fund arrangements in a way that suits local circumstances.

CONTRACT	PROVIDER
Tax Advisor	Ernst and Young
Adult Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (including Criminal Justice) Lot 1	Addiction Dependency Services
Drug and Alcohol Clinical Intervention Service for Adults and Young People - Lot 2	Delphi Medical
Drug and Alcohol Adult Harm Reduction, Assertive Outreach together with Non Clinical Sexual Health Harm Reduction Services - Lot 3	Renaissance at Drugline Lancashire Ltd (LOCAL)
Minor Works Framework	Warden Construction(LOCAL) Blackpool Services (LOCAL) F. Parkinson Ltd (LOCAL) Harry Fairclough SPIE (Garside and Laycock)
Business Travel	Click Travel
External Mail	TNT
Accommodation Based Services framework	The Ashley Foundation (Lots 1, 3 and 5) – (LOCAL) Bay Housing (Lots 4 and 5) – (LOCAL) Caritas Care (Lots 2 and 3) Great Places Housing Association (Lot 3) Home Group (Lot 6) Places for People (Lot 7)
Pest control chemical supply	Killgerm
Ad Hoc Waste	Smart Environmental Services Ltd (LOCAL) Fylde Coast Metals Waste Recycling (LOCAL)
Demolition of Progress House	Walter Forshaw
Passenger Transport Contracts - BTS	BTS (LOCAL)
Homeless Applications IT module	Abritas
Educational Diversity	Furniture Matters (LOCAL) Volunteer Centre (LOCAL) MENCAP (LOCAL)
Yeadon Way Refurbishment	Galliford Try

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) received confirmation recently that the revised Better Care Fund plan had been 'approved with support'. We will shortly be allocated a relationship manager from the local area team and are awaiting the publication of the 2015/ 2016 mandate.

The Health and Wellbeing Board met in October and endorsed the Tobacco Free Lancashire Strategy, considered the Pan-Lancashire Smoking in Pregnancy Action Plan and supported the adoption of a Blackpool Tobacco Control Strategy and Action Plan 2014/ 2016 as a local tool for taking forward work to reduce the harms of tobacco use.

An update on the Social Isolation Task and Finish Group was discussed and it was agreed that Neil Jack would take the work forward with the Fairness Commission.

The Public Health Annual Report was endorsed, the report focuses on lifestyles and considers the role of smoking, drinking alcohol, lack of exercise and unhealthy diets on the health and looks at what can be done to promote and enable people in the town to make healthier lifestyle choices.

The Director of Public Health delivered a presentation on the recently published Due North report on health inequalities and actions have been developed to address the reports' recommendations.

Staff and Public Communications

The next issue of 'Your Blackpool' will be distributed before Christmas. This issue will contain information on Christmas opening times and bin collections as well as information on how to keep warm and well this winter.

A communications plan has been implemented for the closure of Yeadon Way including a double page feature in 'Your Blackpool', dedicated webpage and social media. Throughout the five month closure there will be regular updates on progress.

Positive coverage has continued in the tourism sector with stories generated on the Illuminations, proposed Promenade beach huts, half term visitor figures and the most recent bathing water results.

"Customer First"

As a result of a health and safety review, a number of changes have now been implemented in the Customer First area. The Customer Reception point has been extended to provide an additional reception desk for Benefit enquiries. Customer First and Benefits are working together to encourage and support Channel Shift to online services and improve the face-to-face services for those making enquiries at the centre.

Improved CCTV coverage has now been installed in the Customer First Centre and Town Hall reception area to help prevent inappropriate behaviour and to provide additional protection to staff and customers working in and using the enquiry and payment areas.

All customer facing staff are in the process of receiving refresher training on dealing with difficult customers.

Council Efficiency Programme

The Budget for 2014/ 2015 required total savings to be found of £15.8 million. As at the half-year 66% of this savings target had been delivered. The current full-year forecast predicts that 84% will be achieved by the year-end, taking into account new in-year pressures and savings and work is underway to close this gap further with alternative savings plans.

Fairness Commission

The Fairness Commission has been very busy during the last quarter, with a number of activities taking place as detailed below.

Fairtrade

A Fairtrade event took place at St John's Conference Centre during September hosting an international expert on Fairtrade who inspired attendees to work together to make Blackpool a Fairtrade Town. A working group has been formed and will meet at the end of November. Work has already been completed to identify establishments already committed to Fairtrade.

Dementia Alliance

An event was held at the end of September jointly hosted by Blackpool Fairness Commission and the Alzheimer's Society to bring together Dementia Friends to create a Dementia Alliance for Blackpool. This group will be driven forward by Reverend Steve Haskett, Curate at All Saints Anchorsholme who is a member of the Fairness Commission Steering Group and has a particular interest in creating Dementia Friendly Communities.

Review of the Fairness Commission

A review of the structure of the Fairness Commission has taken place supported by Edge Hill University, who are specialists in the field. The results will be presented to the Fairness Commission Steering Group at the end of November. Overall the Fairness Commission was recognised as an efficient delivery vehicle for a wide range of innovative projects which directly impact on the quality of life and opportunities for people in our communities.

Teenagers Summit

This event will take place on 9 December building on the success of the Children's Summit held in the summer. A total of 80 teenagers will have the opportunity to share their views with members of the Steering Group including Blackpool Council, Lancashire Police, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and Lancashire Fire and Rescue.

Community Engagement

The Council Couch has been out on a tour of the town for the last eight weeks and has covered 18 locations and engaged with over 500 members of the public. The programme was extremely successful with many people attending to share their ideas.

The 'Give a Little' Campaign has been launched with donation points as per last year. It is hoped the campaign will help to brighten up Christmas for a large number of children and young people. Over 1000 children and young people benefitted from the campaign last year.

An Armed Forces Event took place recently to develop an action plan that will underpin the community covenant for Blackpool. Over 50 attendees from the Armed Forces, Council, Police, Health and Voluntary and Community groups came together to identify actions which can help to support veterans in Blackpool.

Blackpool Museum Project

Progress continues to be made on the Museum for Blackpool Project. As part of the development phase of the project, eight new posts have been created to support the scheme including a project director. The new jobs have caused significant interest with in excess 400 applications being received from across the UK and internationally. It is anticipated that the full team will be in place by the New Year.

There are three major contracts to award in the development phase, Project management, Architect Design Team and Interpretive Design Team. It is anticipated that the project managers and the architect design team will be procured by Christmas with the interpretive design team being appointed early in the New Year. Smaller commissions to award include business plan support and fundraising advice which will be issued in the next few weeks.

£1.5 million has been earmarked for the Museum for Blackpool project from the Growth Deal, which was announced in July. Blackpool is one of a handful of projects nationally to secure funding for this kind of project. We are also working with Lancashire County Council colleagues to clarify those areas of the Museum for Blackpool project, which may be eligible for European funding and assess the realistic success rate. A number of trusts and foundations are being targeted and the project will be engaging a fundraising and income generation experts to provide advice and support.

Corporate Development

Our Welfare Board has spent the last year ensuring that the Council's response considering how it can make it easier for residents to access services on line. In order to support this work I have appointed Councillor Fred Jackson as Digital Champion to drive our commitment to implementing the pledges of the Go On Digital Inclusion Charter, which will see us improve online service delivery, get more of our residents online and confident in using digital services and assist more of our staff in making better use of technology, both at work and in their home lives.

We have adopted revised arrangements for the Business Planning process undertaken by our Departments next year, strengthening the link between our actions and priorities.

Employee Development and Training

Recruitment and Training in Social Care

Campaign

A successful recruitment campaign has concluded which involved:

- Benchmarking salaries and job profiles.
- Creation of a bespoke recruitment brochure which highlights the Council's comprehensive benefits package, supervision, training and Continued Professional Development (CPD) programmes.
- Use of alternative advertising media, for example through Google Ads and Facebook which has widened the field of applicants.

We have now recruited 10 permanent Social Workers and three temporary Social Workers and therefore have no Qualified Social Workers vacancies at this time. All Advanced Practitioner vacancies are also filled.

There is ongoing work with regard to recruiting and/ or developing Team Managers to reduce existing Agency placements and prepare for new vacancies

Step up to Social Work

Blackpool in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire were successful in a bid to deliver the Step Up to Social Work programme from January 2014.

This is a 14-month training programme designed to enable high-achieving graduates or career changers with experience of working with children and young people to become qualified social workers at the same time as gaining intensive hands-on experience.

We have 3 Step up to Social Work students all of whom have undergone a rigorous selection process and all of whom are progressing well. We are looking forward to seeing them Graduate in the summer of 2015.

Training matrix

The Children's social care workforce development group has created a training matrix, for use by all staff within Children's services. For every role within children's services, at every level, courses have been identified as mandatory and a suggested timescale for completion given. This will ensure that all staff are working to a base line of knowledge. In addition to this there is a course menu, which identifies courses which may be of interest to staff within children's services, but which are not mandatory. The matrix has been launched and all staff are working to map their training records to it. It remains the responsibility of the workforce development group to ensure the matrix is kept up to date and reviewed regularly.

Flu vaccines

The Occupational Health team has carried out flu vaccination sessions throughout the month of October and November for all employees. We have encouraged those employees who work with vulnerable clients in particular to participate in the campaign to protect them and our service users.

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DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR URBAN REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR JACKSON

Beach Patrol

The Beach Patrol team supported all the major events during the summer including the Air Show, Ride the Lights, 'Switch On' Festival Weekend and World Fireworks, as well as the filming of an episode of Coronation Street.

Working in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary, the team provided the lost children centres on the promenade, which has been a tremendous help during the summer. So far this year, Beach Patrol has successfully re-united over 112 lost children/ vulnerable adults safely back with their parents or carers after being found in distress on the beach or on the promenade. The Beach Patrol team has also provided over 800 safety interventions. The team has also visited local schools, delivering key safety messages aimed at pre-arrival beach safety awareness.

Sea Water Quality

The 2014 bathing water results have now been published and all four bathing waters in Blackpool have passed the current bathing waters standards. This is excellent news and a reflection of the hard work of everyone involved in the partnership approach that has been adopted, which is being promoted as best practice by the Environment Agency. Applications for the Seaside Awards will be made in March 2015 for each bathing water.

Flood and Water Management Statutory Services

Following the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act, Blackpool Council has fulfilled its duty in the delivery of the Flood Risk Management Strategy. An action plan has now been prepared and Blackpool Council, in conjunction with its Partners, has put together a dashboard for recording the actions. The dashboard also records and provides evidence that Blackpool Council is complying with all the other statutory duties as required by the Act.

Coastal Defence Schemes

Progress continues on the Anchorsholme sea defence project. All the sheet piles and toe beams are constructed (with the exception of the area around the United Utilities facilities) and the concrete revetment units are being installed so the wall is beginning to take shape.

As part of their commitment to improve bathing waters, United Utilities are looking to start their works in Anchorsholme Park and a Board has been established so that the two projects can run smoothly and more importantly the reinstatement of the park is considered in consultation with all parties.

United Utilities hosted a fun day event in Anchorsholme on 27 October so the community are involved and kept updated on the works in the park and can take an active part and consult in the future of the park.

Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership

The Fylde Peninsula Partnership's main focus in the last few months has been the introduction of the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB). Blackpool and its partners have been focusing on the training and delivery of this role. However, Defra held a consultation on the SAB role suggesting it

could now be integrated with the planning role. The Partnership is awaiting the results and proposals from Defra on the Consultation.

The ten point action plan delivered in 2012 in respect of bathing is currently being updated as many of the early actions have now been completed or superseded.

Work continues with Fylde Beach Care to work with volunteers and the community in respect of beach cleans and the Love My Beach campaign.

To date, Blackpool has had 200 children visiting our new seawall, Blackpool Tower and the surrounding coast as part of their curriculum studies on "Coast" delivered by the Fylde Peninsula Partnership.

Work continues with the Turning Tides and Fylde Peninsula Partnerships to ensure that all organisations are working collectively to reduce any impact of the introduction of the revised Bathing Waters Directive in 2015.

In particular, Blackpool Council and United Utilities are working together to establish innovative solutions for the separation of surface water and consequential reduction of water in the sewer network (that could attribute to spills). United Utilities are awaiting the decision by its regulator Ofwat regarding the investment projects to help bathing water quality, a decision is expected in December 2014.

Getting People into Work

Blackpool Council has achieved a national award for the quality of work placements it has provided over the last year, many leading to paid employment. The success of the programme has been recognised following an in-depth assessment by national charity Fair Train, which has awarded the Council its 'gold standard'.

The Chance2Shine work placement scheme, set up in November 2013, aims to help adult unemployed residents, including young NEET's, on their journey into paid work, by organising bespoke placements in a variety of Council departments. If successful participants gain a useful reference to add to their CV and continue to receive support in searching and preparing for job opportunities. Some 111 placements have been organised in the last 12 months, with 43 people going onto achieve paid employment with various public, private and third sector employers. The Council has had support from some private and third sector employers in the form of additional placements to extend the range of opportunities available.

Across all employment programmes delivered by Positive Steps into Work, the Council's lead employment services team, some 235 people have secured employment in the six months to September 2014. The team continues to offer a range of support outside its standard Work Programme contract, including health-related projects, and coordinated redundancy response packages to Council staff and local employers.

Energy and the Environment

United Utilities Automatic Meter Reading project update

In connection with the automatic meter readings installation (AMR), 100% of the meter replacement works are completed and 82% of the meters, 11 in total, have been handed over following final validations.

Of the 111 AMR units installed and analysed, problems have been identified at over half, 55%, with water running to waste at times of non-operation.

The total annualised cost of these problems is approximately £140,000 and works have been carried out and investigations to find and resolve.

Blackpool Council consumes approximately 240,000 cubic metres of water per annum, across corporate buildings, schools, Leisure Assets and the Sandcastle, costing £678,000 in 2014/ 2015. The portfolio comprises 240 meter positions. It has been previously identified from an analysis of the Blackpool portfolio that monitoring of 99% of the annual volume could be achieved through the monitoring of 136 meter positions.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Phase 1 update

The Council's annual reporting and allowance purchasing for the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme Phase One 2013/ 2014 submission is now complete, with reported emissions of 20,910 tonnes of carbon dioxide, a 2% reduction on 2012/ 2013, costing £250,920. Please see table below for year-on-year reported emissions:

Year	Reported emissions, Tonnes of CO2	Diff	% Change	Allowances Cost
2010/11	23,864	-	-	£286,368
2011/12	18,968	-4,896	-21%	£227,616
2012/13	21,297	+2,329	+12%	£255,564
2013/14	20,910	-387	-2%	£250,920

Phase One compliance is now complete and Phase Two came into effect from 1 April 2014 and runs to the financial year 2018/ 2019. There is a fundamental change in scheme compliance, in Phase 2, placing emphasis on organisations' ability to forecast and manage their energy use in year to encourage energy reduction with two allowance purchasing rounds, the initial forecasting round and then a "buy to comply" round at the end of year which is at a 5% higher rate.

Miscellaneous Savings

An appraisal has been undertaken of the Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited water costs and consumption to identify cost saving opportunities.

Following the review, a challenge was submitted to United Utilities for unmetered water charges being applied to the garage portfolio element, which has led to the recovery of £14,150. This has also removed £2,750 of charges going forward as these accounts have now been closed.

As a result of the water automatic meter reading rollout across all Blackpool and Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited (BCH) to identify waste, inefficiencies and potential leakage, a £4,300 water baseline has been identified at the main Sheltered Housing site, Dunsop Court. This is currently being investigated by the BCH Limited maintenance team who have now located the problems and in a position to repair.

Electricity Cost Saving Opportunity: Tower Festival Headland

Following a review of the electricity use and costs on the Tower Festival Headland, a cost saving opportunity has been identified to reduce the annual running costs by 40% from £38,000 to £22,500 by reducing the reserved electricity requirement for the area.

Car Park LED Lighting Scheme update

The lighting efficiency project undertaken at West Street Car Park to replace the existing lighting with energy efficient LED lighting is complete and a 40% reduction has been achieved in the energy consumption since handover in July 2014. The project has also significantly improved the lighting levels and internal colour rendering. There will also be a reduction in the maintenance costs.

Following the success of the West Street Car Park project, programming is now underway to undertake a similar project at Chapel Street Car Park.

Planning and Land Use

The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy

The latest consultation on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission document took place over an eight-week period from 4 July to 29 August 2014. Around 1340 bodies, groups and individuals were consulted. A total of 28 representations have been received raising 139 issues on different aspects of the Core Strategy and supporting documents. A summary document of the representations made and the Council's response to the issues is being produced. Following my approval of this document, it will accompany the submission of the Core Strategy with all the necessary supporting documents and evidence base to the Secretary of State. The provisional date for submission is 19 December 2014. Following submission, the Core Strategy will be independently examined by a Planning Inspector. The Examination is expected to take place in spring of 2015, but this is dependent on the Planning Inspectorate's timetable.

Fylde Coast Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show People Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

This assessment was undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS) consultants on behalf of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Councils. It was completed in October 2013 and identifies a need for additional sites across the Fylde Coast for the period up to 2031 as follows:

- Blackpool 38 pitches for Gypsy and Travellers
- Fylde 26
- Wyre 17

With two additional yards in Blackpool for Travelling Show People (none in Fylde and 12 in Wyre). Blackpool Council will need to work with Fylde and Wyre Councils in meeting these requirements.

Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Blackpool as a minerals and waste authority works jointly with Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council on the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The joint authorities have agreed to review the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to extend the plan period to 2032 (15 years from the anticipated date of adoption). The current plan only covers the period to 2021. The first stage in the review is the scoping consultation, which commenced on 7 November and runs to 19 December 2014, inviting comments on what the review of the local plan should contain. Following this, a second consultation will take place in the summer of 2015 on the draft Local Plan.

Onshore Oil and Gas Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Lancashire County Council is working jointly with Blackpool Council and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council in preparing a Supplementary Planning Document on Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution, and will be consulting on the draft shortly. The SPD will provide clarity as to the information required accompanying planning applications, how to present the application so that those consulted can have confidence in the process and the main issues and considerations necessary to satisfy the policy tests contained in the local plan.

Economic Development

The Get Started service continues to provide effective support to Blackpool residents wishing to start a business. In the six month period from April to September 2014, some 177 residents sought advice from the team, with 42 new businesses commencing trading, remaining on target to assist 90 new business starts in 2014/ 2015. The team is adept at unlocking start-up loan finance for its clients, with approvals totalling £219,000 in the same period. Since 2012/ 2013 the team has unlocked £617,000 in approved funds for Blackpool's new-start businesses. The universal service that Blackpool provides is envied by many local authorities in the region, with numerous case studies of successful businesses. We are now investigating ways in which the Get Started alumni can give something back to other new starts in the form of bespoke mentoring, and plan to engage their support in a new young enterprise initiative to be launched in early 2015.

Blackpool Council is working closely with the newly-formed private skills partnership, Blackpool Tourism Academy, in its mission to uplift the skills of tourism workers in the resort. It has recently launched a new skills initiative called WorldHost, aiming to transform the quality of customer service training. Worldhost is an internationally acclaimed programme that was used to good effect in training 10,000 London Olympic volunteers and has since been adopted by a wide range of hospitality and leisure companies. If Blackpool businesses achieve a target of 2,500 front-line staff trained then the resort will become the first seaside town in the UK to gain WorldHost destination status. Some 30 trainers have already met the standard to train fellow staff and are rolling out training within the founding BTA employers, as well as assisting in a broader campaign for other businesses in the visitor economy to adopt the same approach. The Sandcastle Waterpark is the first employer to achieve WorldHost business recognition status in Blackpool.

Youth Employment

The proportion of 16 – 18yr olds NEET at the end of September 2014 was 5.7%, compared with 7.4% in September 2013. This represents 282 young people who were NEET, the lowest it has been at this time of year. The independent evaluation of the Connexions Youthability Hub (a one stop shop for 16 – 24yr olds unemployed) has just been completed by REASON. There will be a full dissemination of the report but headlines include:

- 94% of young people rated the service as good or very good
- 72% of young people rated the support better than other employment support they had received elsewhere
- 91% of young people said they would recommend the service to friends

Overall comments “The evidence collected for this evaluation suggests that the Youthability Hub is meeting its original aims. The holistic model involving a range of agencies enables young people to receive support to address the barriers to employment, education and training as well as practical advice and support to secure opportunities. Strong commitment from partners and good collaborative working practices between agencies underpin the effective functioning of the Youthability Hub”

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 to the withdrawal of Windows XP and the age of many hardware devices significantly exceeding their serviceable lifespan.

The following services have received new devices since September:

- Waste Management
- Bispham Road Children's Home

- Revenues and Benefits – replacement of Thin Client Devices
- Planning and Building Control

The following services are due to receive new devices in the next quarter:

- Highways at Layton Depot to support the Accommodation Strategy and realisation of Council efficiency savings
- Democratic Services and Registrars

At the end of October the total number of devices upgraded to Windows 7 as part of this programme was 1630 devices. The new devices will enable faster access times, improved productivity and more efficient working practices.

Telephone Upgrades

Approximately 1,000 employees have now migrated to extension mobility. This means that employees can now login into a landline phone at any desk at Bickerstaffe House. This has been a key enabler to support flexible desk space.

Printing Upgrades

Approximately 1,000 employees have now migrated to new secure 'follow me' printing facilities. This enables employees to pick up their prints securely from any printer by using their door entry proximity cards

School ICT SLA

The ICT service has been successfully developing a Google portal system to support learning and teaching inside schools. This environment has been developed across Education Diversity to support learning opportunities and access to resources across multiple sites. Teachers are able to work more flexibly and collaborate effectively from any location. We will now be looking to providing this service across the other schools we support.

The service has also been supporting schools with the development of the 'new' ICT curriculum, which was launched in September 2014. It provides support with the understanding and development of the new curriculum, tailoring it to particular school needs and providing INSET and training for school staff on the new Programme of Study and the software and hardware to support and deliver the learning outcomes, particularly the new programming elements.

The ICT service has been providing continued support with E-safety development in schools and will be providing E-safety workshops to staff, pupils and also parents in the run up to Christmas and immediately after, with the advent of new devices being bought and used over Christmas. This is part of an ongoing programme of support and advice given to schools throughout the year, including support and development of school e-safety policies.

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

Private Sector Housing

The Foxhall Village development is progressing well with the first residents due to move in before Christmas. The developers, Hollinwood Homes, are on target for 70 homes to be complete by the end of March next year, these properties will be for affordable rent and will be let to working families. The response for private sales to home owners has been strong and the show homes are now starting to be built on the eastern part of the site off Rigby Road. As part of the development, the high retaining wall to Seaside Way on the western site is being replaced by new fencing and repairs are also underway to Princess Street Bridge. This work will be completed before Christmas and will add to the sense of improvement that is taking place in this area.

Building Homes

Phase 1 construction at Queens Park is progressing well with all 92 homes at various stages of construction from foundations to final finishes, snagging and external works installations. Infrastructure construction is also advanced with deep sewer connections completed and highway and site boundary construction continuing. At the end of September there were 10 apprentices on site, including bricklayers, joiners, plasterers, painter and decorators and ground work apprentices. Local labour accounted for 34% of the total workforce.

Preparations for the delivery of Phase 2 are underway with site assembly progressing in line with programme and further design and investigative works planned in the coming weeks.

Trading Standards, Food Hygiene and All Enforcement activities

Enforcement Statistics

The national statistics regarding enforcement have recently been circulated in draft form. The Council's Public Protection Division has again emerged as the top performing service nationally in all meaningful categories. Each team has finished either top or second in every category relating to each of their activities.

Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act

The new Act is now enforced and officers are currently processing cases to obtain Community Protection Notices regarding the six most problematic traders in the town. Closure Powers are also in the process of being utilised where appropriate. Each of these issues is obviously subject to hearing by the Courts.

Claremont Selective Licensing

The inspection programme of the scheme is now underway. A total of 659 properties have been inspected. There are 1410 private rented properties in the area, 559 are now licensed or are in the process of being licensed, with 851 still to licence.

Takeaway Enforcement

There is a programme of repeat inspections to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour occurring around takeaway food premises, including those after the licence hour of 05.00. Officers target along with Police colleagues, on a risk and intelligence basis at the relevant premises and looking at issues around food hygiene, health and safety and commercial waste. Multiple offences have been uncovered, including drugs related issues.

Proceeds of Crime Recovery

This initiative is starting to bear fruit in recovering assets from criminal lifestyles. There are 13 separate cases ongoing. Payment has been received recently in one case of £142,000, of which £54,000 comes to the Authority, with another case in Crown Court on 28 November, with a forfeiture order agreed for £100, of which £38,000 will come to the Authority.

Problematic Beggars

Mr David Massey has been convicted of multiple offences and the Court agreed to impose a CRASBO effectively banning him from begging in Blackpool. Three other repeat offenders were in Court on 12 November 2014 to be prosecuted, with CRASBO applications.

Vulnerable Persons on Court Representation Service

A total of 20 cases have been taken on board in the last month, in an area where Legal Aid is not available. Recent experience shows that traders who are dealt with through this service generally capitulate before the Court hearing. Two notable recoveries within the last month were for two amounts in excess of £5000 each.

Tattooing/ Body Piercing

Proactive enforcement against malpractice in this area is ongoing with a conviction being secured at Preston Crown Court against James Woods. A prosecution is now underway against a person for tattooing a 15 year old girl.

Sex Industry

Ongoing weekend night time operations along with Police colleagues are occurring regarding health and safety, appearance and condition of premises and to ensure that no exploitation is occurring in massage parlours etc.

Licensing Services

The Night Time Economy Working Group created following the EMRO hearing has been meeting over the last few months to hear from a wide variety of businesses and organisations involved in that area of the economy. Further evidence is being gathered by a survey which can be completed by members of the public who want to express their views. The Working Group will be taking an interim report to the Licensing Committee in December 2014 with its final report to be published in the New Year.

“BSafe” – Blackpool Community Safety Partnership

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Performance

All crime in Blackpool showed a 4% decrease in July to September 2014 when compared to the same period the previous year. This equates to 152 fewer crimes.

Individual breakdown of other crime categories include:

- Anti-social behaviour has decreased by 6% (231 fewer crimes)
- Vehicle crime has decreased by 11% (34 fewer crimes)
- Domestic Burglary has decreased by 3% (5 fewer crimes)
- Domestic Abuse has remained at the same level
- Sexual Offences (not including rape) have decreased by 7% (5 fewer crimes)
- Assaults have increased by 3% (24 additional crimes)

Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC)

Between June 2010 and September 2014 a total of 53 Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRAC) have been held.

A total of 320 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 296 high risk cases (93%) have either been completely resolved or resolved to such a level where there is no longer risk of harm to the victim.

A total of 211 low/ medium risk cases to date have been referred to ASBRAC since June 2010 and medium risk cases are now also being heard at the ASBRAC meeting. A total of 202 low/ medium risk cases (96%) have either been 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

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

On October 20, the new Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act came into effect, bringing with it a series of new tools and powers to be used by local authorities, Police and other delegated bodies.

The Community Safety Team has been working alongside partners to successfully implement the new legislation and training sessions for internal staff and partner agencies have been carried out in order to ensure that the transition to the new legislation will be as seamless as possible. Arrangements to facilitate the Community Trigger have been put in place between the Council, Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited (the four organisations identified by the Act as required to facilitate the Trigger).

This provision will give victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour and to have a say in the way their complaints are dealt with. Work is also ongoing with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in relation to the Community Remedy provision, which will require the PCC to consult victims and the public on the menu of sanctions available for those committing low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

The injunction part of the new tools and powers has now been postponed until January 2015 due to issues around the provision of Legal Aid. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, requires amendment in order to ensure that applications for legal aid can be accessed by those involved in civil hearings. Until the injunction tool is implemented in 2015, the Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) will remain in use.

Transforming Rehabilitation

The Secretary of State for Justice announced the list of preferred bidders on 29 October 2014, for each of the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) in England and Wales. The preferred bidder for Cumbria and Lancashire is Sodexo Justice Services, a private organisation, in partnership with NACRO, a charity.

The Ministry of Justice will now be holding a series of meetings in the next few months with the Preferred Bidders in preparation for awarding of contracts and remain on track to sign contracts with the new providers in the next few months. The transition from the current CRC, in public ownership, to the new providers should take place in early 2015

Psychological abuse: new criminal offence

A new criminal offence of domestic abuse may be introduced to include emotional and psychological harm inflicted by a partner within a relationship. The Government has launched a consultation to look at strengthening the law by explicitly stating that domestic abuse cover coercive and controlling behaviour, as well as physical harm.

The move comes after the way that Police respond to domestic abuse in England and Wales was described as 'alarming and unacceptable' in a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in March 2014.

Measures to improve standards of police integrity

On July 22, it was announced that ongoing work to ensure the highest standards of integrity in the police will include:

- a fundamental review of Police leadership
- a review of the Police complaints system
- an external review of the Police disciplinary system
- the introduction of a national policy for police forces on whistleblowing

The Government will consult on the outcomes of the review later this year.

New psychoactive substances campaign

A national advertising campaign to raise awareness among teenagers and young adults of the dangers of new psychoactive substances (also called 'legal' highs) was launched by the Home Office on the 16 August. The radio, digital and mobile phone adverts are aimed at people aged 15 to 21 and warn them about the risks of taking these drugs. The campaign also directs young people to the "talk to Frank" confidential website for help, information or advice about drugs.

A second phase of the campaign later this year will target social workers and other professionals to challenge drug-taking behaviour amongst young people.

Domestic abuse

Early intervention

There continues to be a Domestic Abuse (DA) specialist post in the early assessment team at the front door and there are ongoing developments regarding the interaction with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to provide de-escalation for families to reduce the referrals to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

The four year research study and pilot of Standard Risk Domestic incidents began on the 1 October 2014 with the collation of data and identification process being developed with key stakeholders and UCLAN. A new Team Manager for the Interpersonal Violence and Domestic Abuse team has commenced in post on the 15 September 2014 and will lead the delivery of the operational element of the Pilot in addition to driving the team and the Domestic Abuse agenda locally. A commissioning review is currently taking place of all Domestic Abuse services delivering in Blackpool and a local strategic commissioning group is in operation to provide a report for consideration and agreement at the Blackpool BSafe Strategic Board in October for BSafe to be the governance structure for DA commission

Work with Perpetrators

As Part of the commissioning group we have considered the gaps around effective Perpetrator Programmes and as part of the HMIC National Action Plan we are working with the Constabulary and partners Pan Lancashire to provide solutions collaboratively.

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES – COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

Looked After Children

The week beginning 27 October was care leavers week and we celebrated this with a number of activities both educational and social. We had activities ranging from attending university for the day, looking at the university experience and demystifying the process of application and show young people the benefits of a university education, to a celebration meal and the final day on 31 October a trip to the pleasure beach for Halloween.

One of the most successful events involved five care leavers attending an Apprenticeship shadowing event, where they were able to take part in various work placements within the Council, ranging from ICT to business admin roles. As a result of this workshop, three of this cohort have been taken on by Training 2000 for plumbing, IT and business admin apprenticeships.

The attendance at the events has been very high, with attendance averaging at around 25 young people per workshop/ event. Feedback from young people has been very good and all are looking forward to next year's care leaver's week.

We are now in National Adoption Fortnight and have a range of events and publications available, notably an open forum at the Hilton on the 6 November.

Safeguarding (Local Safeguarding Children's Board)

We have now recruited David Sanders as Independent Safeguarding Board Chairman, as the existing Chairman stepped down from this position at the end of September 2014. The Chairman is beginning to familiarise himself with Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board and will start to chair meetings later this year. The Chairman has a vast amount of experience that he will be able to draw from as he has an important role to play in driving forward future developments and improvements and ensuing safeguarding arrangements are robust across the partnership. In July 2014 Ofsted undertook a review of the effectiveness of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board and the progress made was acknowledged, Board partners are now working together to develop an improvement plan.

Children's Centres.

The transition year has started for Children's Centres and we are currently working on a new outcomes focused monitoring tool with the Centres. Blackpool has teamed up with researchers at University College London for a Nuffield Foundation funded research project to compare the effectiveness of a parent-delivered language enrichment programme and a parent-delivered movement skills programme for preschool children. This project will work in partnership with Blackpool's Children's Centres to recruit, train and support parents to deliver intervention to their children. This will link with the Better Start work.

Children who live in socially disadvantaged areas are at risk of delays in development from an early age. Two primary areas of learning and development in the early years that play a significant role in later educational outcomes and are central targets in Early Years education settings are language and communication and physical development. Parents are well-placed to support their child's development, but may not always feel able to do so. This project will develop and evaluate two intervention programmes for parents to support their child's "school readiness". Parents will be trained and supported to deliver either an oral language skills programme targeting vocabulary and wider language skills, or a movement skills programme to support fine and gross motor development. This work started on 4 November.

The Family Policy Division in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

The Policy Division has been working on strategies to turn around the lives of the most deprived people in England and have created a strategy for this. A key element and measurement of this strategy is family breakdown and they have seen a correlation between family breakdown and poverty. They set out to find out why this was the case and have been looking at the evidence base and came up with a number of levers. They have decided to ask the Early Intervention Local Authorities if they would like to be involved and Blackpool has one of the highest incidents of family breakdown. They want to look at what is happening already in each Local Authority and map the services and provision in place. Support will then be offered to each Local Authority to develop a local strategy and strengthen and build on current practice. This work started in Blackpool in November.

Baby Buddy

Blackpool is one of two pilot sites which have been working on a new free phone app for pregnant and new mums. Baby Buddy, developed by the Best Beginnings charity, provides a virtual friend and companion to share the journey to parenthood for young (or any age) mums <http://www.bestbeginnings.org.uk/babybuddy>.

The information has been quality assured by eminent health professionals and organisations and aims to impact positively on bonding and attachment, parenting and child and maternal mental health. It focuses on support for mothers and mothers-to be to help them:

- Improve their health choices and wellbeing
- Increase their confidence and knowledge
- Navigate the emotional transition to parenthood
- Have realistic expectations about life as a new mum
- Maintain strong couple relationships or cope with life as a single mum
- Tune in to the needs of their new baby
- Communicate with their baby from birth
- Breastfeed successfully or bottle feed safely
- Parent with warmth and love
- Understand the importance of accessing health services

It will provide an avatar (the buddy) which can be customised and who will offer the mum personalised daily tips, reminders and trackers. It includes lots of video clips and is very interactive so parents can include their own photos, diary, goals and thoughts and feelings. The app will allow the mum to give her unborn baby a name and to include her partner so their role is supported too. The app was launched in Blackpool on the 25 November.

Better Start Blackpool will be supporting the roll-out of the app with local health and Children's Centre staff, parents and people working with pregnant mums. If you want to have a look at the app it is available in the Google Play store and the App Store or the links below.

- Android phone <http://bit.ly/1sBrquz>
- iPhone <http://bit.ly/1nwkc4J>

Early Years.

Blackpool Better Start

The aim is to give every new baby in Blackpool a better start in life, helping them enjoy the early care and nurture they need for healthy development and to be ready for school. To support and progress this work a learning exchange between Blackpool Better Start and Alberta Family Wellness Initiative (AFWI) has taken place. An on-site presentation on framing and early child development from leading experts from the FrameWorks Institute in Washington DC took place in November with them

undertaking research on the streets of Blackpool over the weekend of 7 to 9 November. This will also include an introduction to framing, a description of the work we have planned and examples / cases of what it will deliver and how it can be used.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

National data has now been published, 60% of children nationally who were in the Reception year (age 5) in July 2014 attained the good level of development measure. In Blackpool this figure was 54.3%, and in the North West 58%. Boys nationally performed less well than girls, with a percentage point gap of 16%. This gap between boys and girls was wider in Blackpool, at 21 percentage points, so boys are doing significantly less well than girls. There was an increase in the average total point score both nationally, from 32.8 to 33.8 and in Blackpool, from 32.1 to 32.4. This is out of a possible total score of 51, with a score of 34 being a child who has reached the expected level in all 17 Early Learning Goals.

Ofsted inspections

Early years settings – six group childcare and three child minder inspection reports have been published since my last report. Five of the Early Years setting received a judgement of Good, one of which had previously been judged Inadequate and four of these settings had been receiving a high level of support from the Early Years and Childcare Team. The sixth did not receive a grading as there were no children present at the time of the inspection, but they were found to be meeting EYFS Statutory Requirements. Of the three child minder reports published, two received a judgement of Good and one had no children present so was judged to be meeting requirements of the Early Years register. Based on published reports, the overall percentage of settings and child minders with Ofsted gradings of good or outstanding is 87%, with 88% of child minders and 85% of group childcare settings. This compares to national figures (as at 31 March 2014 which is the most recent data available) of 78% overall, 76% of child minders, and 82% of group settings.

Early Years Pupil Premium

An Early Years Pupil Premium is to be introduced nationally in April 2015, for eligible three and four year olds. The eligibility criteria for this will be the same as the Pupil Premium for schools, but it will be payable to any early years setting where an eligible child takes up their early education entitlement. The payment will be around £300 annually per eligible child. Blackpool has been invited by the DfE to become an Early Implementer from January 2015.

Family Information Service Award

Blackpool Family Information Service is one of a few to achieve a distinguished national award, highlighting the excellent quality of information and service provided to parents and carers of children aged 0 to 19. The National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS) Quality Award; 'Families First', is an award to emphasis expertise in ensuring that all families are able to easily access information and advice, as well celebrating diversity and empowering families to make decisions themselves. Parents, carers and professionals use the service as a first port of call when they need information and support. The qualified team has proven that they can skilfully deal with and review each case in a planned and monitored way. The prestigious award will be presented to the Family Information Service on 4 December by the Mayor at the City Learning Centre.

School Support and Advice.

Ofsted are currently re-writing the Framework for Inspection of Local Authority Arrangements for Supporting School Improvement. It is anticipated this will be available later this month. Blackpool's arrangements were last inspected in late November 2013. We are anticipating re-inspection in the near future. Colleagues from Education London, our strategic partner for secondary school improvement, are continuing to work with our secondary head teachers and academy sponsors. A comprehensive data analysis, based on the 2014 provisional Key Stage 4 results, has been undertaken for each school and an accelerated action plan has been provided for each establishment. Primary School Improvement Partners are updating their schools on key changes. Continuing Professional

Development sessions are being made available on the new primary curriculum, new assessment arrangements, the updated inspection framework for schools and leadership development.

Governor Services

As part of our commitment to improving the professionalism of Local Authority Clerks, Members of the Local Authority Clerking Team are taking part in the National Training Programme for Clerks to Governors. This programme is an important step towards improving the effectiveness of Governing Bodies by developing the skills needed for high quality clerking. Recent research has identified that having a highly effective clerk within the Governing Body is a key to contributing to the overall success and effectiveness of the Governing Body in driving school improvement.

The national programme has been designed for new and experienced clerks in all school settings and is unique in that it is seeking to professionalise the role of the clerk and is a certified programme from the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

The programme consists of:

- 360 degree self-evaluation tool
- Face to face essential units
- Online elective units on Clerking Governing Body Panels, Clerking Church Schools, academies and multi school settings.

Through networking with other Clerks across the region, Clerks will be able to deliver a more holistic and effective service to schools which will increase the confidence of schools subscribing to the Clerking SLA and may develop new business opportunities both within Blackpool and more widely.

School Organisation and Buildings

The final phase of construction on the St Mary's campus was completed during the summer holidays with Christ the King RC Primary pupils commencing the new school year in the new facility. The Authority is due to take possession of Christ the King Primary School (Old School) imminently. This will allow The Oxford Centre PRU to move to Christ the King (Old School) following alteration work after the February half term break. This will enable the Speedwell Centre to move from Whitegate Manor to The Oxford Centre thereby releasing Whitegate Manor back to the Corporate Portfolio.

Work at the former Collegiate site, as part of the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP), has commenced. The site will accommodate Aspire Academy and Highfurlong. Building works are due to be completed in autumn 2015, with external works due to be completed by January 2016. This scheme will be constructed under the Design and Build Procurement route

Hawes Side Academy and South Shore Academy are in the final design stages for their proposed new builds. The EFA selected Morgan Sindall as their preferred bidder for this phase of the Priority School Building Programme with programme delivery between 2015 and 2017. Both these schemes will be delivered under the Private Finance Initiative.

The kitchen works that have commenced at various schools over the summer holidays as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative are now complete.

Academy conversions due to take place on the 1st January

- Baines Endowed Church Of England School
- Marton Primary School

Pupil Welfare and Attendance.

Pupil Absence figures autumn 2013 – spring 2014

These figures were published on Statistical First Release 15 October 2014.

	National Overall absence	Blackpool Overall absence	National Persistent absence	Blackpool Persistent absence
Primary	3.9	4.2	2.8	3.1
Secondary	5.1	6.3	5.8	8.1
Primary and Secondary	4.4	5.1	4.1	5.2

The above official data shows improvement for England and Blackpool. Blackpool's results show a significant closing of the gap between Blackpool and England in all areas when compared with the previous year. The national average rise leaves Blackpool below the national average. Continued hard work and investment in this area will be required to maintain the improvements. Blackpool schools have a strong commitment for this academic year to this area of work. The core offer through the Local Authority is robust and in place to support Blackpool schools and keep Blackpool young people safe and in school. The Department for Education has released School attendance departmental advice for in October 2014 it will be reviewed again in December 2014 this advice is non-statutory advice on pupil registers and attendance codes and the school day and year it summarises the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance.

Inspection and Intervention of Schools

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

School	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness
Baines Endowed Primary School	30/09/14	3 (2)
Bispham Endowed Primary School	24/06/14	3 (2)
Marton Primary School	25/03/14	2 (4)
Roseacre Primary Academy	15/07/14	2 (2)
Stanley Primary School	22/01/14	2 (2)
St John Vianney RC Primary	25/03/14	2 (3)
St Kentigern RC Primary School	14/10/14	Not yet published
Thames Primary Academy	17/09/14	2 (2)
Waterloo Primary Academy	26/02/14	2 (2)
Highfield Humanities College	08/10/14	Not yet published

School	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness
Montgomery Academy	07/05/14	4 (2)
Highfurlong School	01/14/14	1 (1)

Continuing Professional Development, School Workforce and the City Learning Centre

Schools and other Local Authority settings are continuing to take children and young people offsite, but the number of residential visits has fallen slightly over the last twelve months. Work is being done with primary schools to try and encourage greater use of the school's immediate environment to help deliver the new curriculum out of the classroom.

The Local Authority holds the licence to manage the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the town. Participation has increased in recent times and there are now approximately 500 participants, 200 of whom have completed various awards within the past 18 months. Significantly, 30 young people have achieved the cherished Gold Award, much valued by employers and have or are about to, receive their awards at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh Manager is supporting schools and youth groups, up skilling the leaders and training the young people to undertake the necessary electronic recording of competencies etc. Two groups, Educational Diversity and Blackpool and the Fylde College, have very recently started to utilise the Local Authority's Duke of Edinburgh services.

City Learning Centre (CLC)

The City Learning Centre Media Academy is now starting to flourish as part of the traded services model with schools. It incorporates student sessions ranging from use of Software application to Minecraft activities to staff training. All linked with Blackpool LITES and the needs of schools to satisfy the schools new computing curriculum. Numbers for this programme are reported each quarter and to date this amounts to 1761 children for the first two quarters.

The CLC media team was also commissioned by Blackpool Schools Partnership to complete a powerful video that was shown at their recent conference. To view the video please link to the BSP web site <http://www.blackpoolschoolspartnership.co.uk/news/latest/2014-10-30-blackpool-schools-partnership-inspiring-film>

The CLC has also been successful with partners on securing substantial training contracts hosted at the CLC with National organisations to support schools. These include Teaching Leading, a significant middle leader programme, Oxford University press, a Numicon event for Maths development, Edge Hill University, the National SENCO qualification and the National Maths Partnership and a Maths subject leader programme.

Children's Services Adult Community and Family Learning are now accommodated and initial discussion have taken place to establish joint working plans associated with family working and ICT for adults in schools and the link to pre and post 16 aspirations.

The CLC role in the community has expanded to incorporate area forums, Grange park community partnership and Community activity programmes.

Continuing Professional Development and School Workforce

Developments plans this quarter have involved visits by some high class speakers. Sir John Dunford has shared a Pupil premium workshop and now a legacy group has been formed to take this forward.

Gervase Phinn and Mike Waters both National figures have delivered motivational speeches for our family of schools through the Blackpool Schools Partnership. The Partnership has submitted a proposal to Schools Forum for further development of their Continued Professional Development and

school improvement programme.

The Quality Assurance protocols have been developed further with a toolkit which is being trialled with preferred providers to ensure quality exist, is led well, is tracked, has impact and that there are legacy plans built in. Much of this development continues to support the present School Improvement Plan.

A new group has been formed that is looking at the wider school support workforce and a Teaching Assistant skills enhancement course is being trialled as part of our partnership with the Fylde Coast Teaching School Alliance.

Special Education Needs, Assessment and Support and Psychological.

The DfE asked Blackpool to submit a case study of good practice about the engagement of children/ young people and parents in the significant SEN reforms. This has been submitted and will be published nationally. A powerful and positive quote from parent's forum, discussing the positive co-production work was included. The Council for Disabled Children has asked for a copy of the joint Local Authority/ CCG SEND commissioning strategy as a good example of practice, which has been forwarded.

Music Service

Schools Music Education Plans have been improved having provided several Professional Development courses and numerous school-based one-to-one sessions. Set Department for Education targets remain realistic. Talented and gifted musicians can now apply for Bursary Awards funding from Blackpool Music School (BMS) in order to help young musicians pay for external graded examinations with various accredited examination boards. This new initiative will support those musicians who are limited by finance, but who have exceptional musical talent.

Sponsorship opportunities have now been enhanced by offering audiences the opportunity to become Patrons for £50. This new initiative will support the Bursary Awards, bands and large scale performances.

Our NW Youth Brass Band with Leyland Band and sponsored by the National Association of Brass Band Conductors and YAMAHA continues to flourish.

Demands for our music service are now apparent in parts of Lancashire. All options are being considered.

Extra-curricular and large scaled music events since the last report have included:

- Our African Muzik Festival has been delivered in eight primary schools. Almost 3,000 pupils have learned new South African songs, dances and djembe drumming patterns and performed them in public with a live band.
- Delivery partners Travelling by Tuba have started their tour and will be performing a full day of musical workshops at six Blackpool schools. More than 600 pupils will get direct support from this fabulous duo and each day will conclude with a live assembly.
- Six local choirs and the BMS choir have been rehearsing for the BBC's Children in Need at the Tower Ballroom. To our knowledge, we will be the only Music Service participating in this televised event.
- International pianist is now providing recitals and workshops in our schools. This programme is being privately sponsored.

We are performing at eight prestigious events over the Christmas period. Any member wishing to support the music service by attending either the Winter Gardens on Tuesday 9 or The Tower Ballroom on Monday 15 December 2014 should contact Music Adviser Andrew White by email.

Access and Inclusion

The recent Ofsted report acknowledges the strength and rigour of the Blackpool Education Registers and Admission (BERA) Panel as a significant monitoring and audit tool to ensure that all children are in receipt of a suitable education at school or otherwise. Figures reflecting academic year 2013/ 2014 demonstrate that in spite of 15% increase in numbers of children arriving/ moving around the town with complex issues, the number of cases reaching high level three/ four in terms of being out of an education provision has been kept significantly low. There were less than 3% reaching that level which would involve a period of more than 29 days out of provision.

Month	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Total Referrals 2012/ 2013	67	129	190	209	260	293	347	404	468	547	629	712
Total Referrals 2013/ 2014	123	193	249	285	347	393	453	519	560	629	715	821

CABINET MEMBER FOR TOURISM AND LEISURE – COUNCILLOR CAIN

Illuminations

The Illuminations season ended on 9 November, with promenade collections ahead of previous year. This year, the collections have been aided by the distribution of free illumination maps incorporating discounted parking and admission to attractions. Business collections are spread across a wider period than just the illuminations season and the final tally will not be known until early in the New Year.

The Illuminations team has undertaken displays for a number of other areas of the country. Christmas displays have been produced for neighbouring towns including Chorley. These contracts provide income for the Illuminations team and help support the development of the Blackpool show.

A £2m bid to develop the Illuminations has been submitted to the Coastal Communities Fund. The “LightPool” project seeks to deliver a radical transformation of the show and help create a sustainable commercial business model. If successful, the funding bid will provide new digital technology to project on to Blackpool Tower, new digital festooning and performance events on the promenade and town centre. It will also fund an improved marketing strategy to expand the current visitor base, encouraging overnight stays and return visits. The outcome of the bid should be known in early 2015.

Leisure Management

Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre and Palatine Leisure Centre Refurbishments

Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre are undergoing a £414,000 redevelopment to greatly improve the already popular health and fitness facilities. The fitness suite will be extended to become a state of the art 60 station gym with a large dedicated free weights area. There will also be a brand new exercise class and dedicated spinning studios located on the ground floor. In addition, a meeting room will be developed located next to the large activity room. Following the huge success of the Feel Good Factory (toning suite) at Palatine Leisure Centre a similar facility will be built at Moor Park on the first floor. The work started on the 6 October and will be complete with all new facilities expected to open to the public on the 19 January 2015.

A refurbishment of Palatine Leisure Centre’s fitness suite will also commence through the Christmas period. The facility will undergo a face lift and have new, state of the art fitness equipment installed in the gym.

Free Swimming is a splashing success!

Sport Blackpool continues to offer free swimming during the school holidays to children and young people aged sixteen years and under at Palatine Leisure Centre and Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre. From family fun sessions through to large inflatable sessions at Palatine Leisure Centre, there is something for everyone. The summer holidays saw an increase in free swimming participation, especially at Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre, with 6,410 children swimming for free, an increase of 42% compared to 2013 and 6,771 free swims at Palatine Leisure Centre, bringing the total participation to over 13,000 young people.

Blackpool Aquatics

Blackpool Aquatics Swimming Club, in partnership with Sport Blackpool has seen some fantastic successes in recent months;

- Blackpool Aquatics swimmer Shauntelle Austin captained Lancashire county swimming team against the rest of counties. The Lancashire team achieved a monumental consecutive 13th win at inter counties championship held at Ponds Forge International in October.
- Blackpool Aquatics swimmer Anthony Wood has been selected on to the ASA England Talent Swimming program for 2014/ 2015 season. Anthony's selection was based on performances at National competitions from the previous season and national ranking for his age.

Swimtag

- 65 swimmers at Palatine Leisure Centre entered a Swimtag centre challenge to swim the distance from Blackpool Tower Headland to Douglas Isle of Man 103km. The challenge started 1 August and 18 swimmers have completed the swim so far. Mandy Ferguson raised £500 for charity in the process.

Mandy's testimony

"In August just when I came back from holiday, there was an email from Palatine Leisure Centre and Swimtag about a new challenge to swim the distance between Blackpool and the Isle of Man, which is 103km, so I thought that sounded quite good and I decided to start on the 8th August, after the first session of 104 lengths I had only swam 2.4 km, it then dawned on me that I had taken on quite a big challenge. But being a person who doesn't quit easily I persevered and decided to dedicate my swim to charity, so far I have raised £500, not only have I done some good, but I've made friends and lost weight in the process, with special thanks to the reception staff, Paul and Elaine, coaching staff, Grace and all staff at palatine who encouraged me to finish, I'm especially proud that I finished in 10th position. I'm now looking forward to another challenge next year."

Active Blackpool / Feel Good Factory / Steps to Health

Active Blackpool is a supported physical activity programme designed to help encourage and motivate the participants into a more active way of life, thereby helping improve general health and wellbeing, below is one example how the Active Blackpool programme has helped a client achieve this.

'I joined Moor Park Leisure centre through Active Blackpool after finishing a Pulmonary Rehab course that the hospital referred me onto in March 2013. I have a lot of health issues and was waiting to have major abdominal surgery. I was 22 stone with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and just told I had type 2 diabetes. My surgeon wouldn't operate as I was too high risk.

With the help of Geoff and the Active Blackpool scheme and James and Dax in the gym we developed a program to help achieve my goal of having my operation and improving my health. So 18 months later I have lost almost 9 stone. I improved my lung function from only 15% to 45% which meant I could finally have my surgery a few months ago which was successful.

I still have my health problems and some large hurdles to overcome. But having the wonderful facilities and staff at Moor Park has made a huge difference in my life. I am still enjoying Geoff's class and working with the gym staff to improve my abdominal area and lung capacity more.

The benefits have definitely made a huge physical difference in my life, but also a psychological one too. I've made some good friends. I get out of the house and socialise with people at Moor Park, where I used to be a prisoner in my own home previously. I can't praise the staff enough and I am really looking forward to the new developments underway at Moor Park!"

Thanks for everything, Neil".

The Active Blackpool programme has received 643 referrals in the last six months, with 6669 visits on to the programme in the same period. Some new Active Blackpool circuit sessions have now started at Gateway Fitness Centre and are increasing in numbers.

Steps to Health have had 41 new walkers in the last six months and 3975 visits. The walking programme took 55 walkers to the Lake District in September for their annual day trip out, with a long walk available in the morning or a short walk in the afternoon.

On 20th October, Steps to Health walked in aid of the Poppython Appeal along South Promenade in the pouring rain and raised £61.70.

Feel Good Factory

The Feel Good Factory at Palatine Leisure Centre organised a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan cancer appeal on the 3rd October and raised a fantastic £772.31.

School and Community

With the first half term of the new school year over, Blackpool children and young people have continued to engage in high quality sport within and beyond the school day. Blackpool School and Community Team are once again working closely with schools to ensure that the provision of PE is delivered in a manner that allows for engagement, development and inclusivity for all participants. Sports Coaches have been delivering extracurricular sports clubs to provide an opportunity for greater levels physical activity with areas of focus including Change 4 Life, Indoor Athletics, Wheels 4 All Cycling and Multi-Skills.

Blackpool hosted the Lancashire Projectability Awareness Event which saw schools from across Lancashire attend a training workshop delivered by Highfurlong School and Blackpool School and Community Team. The event was delivered as part of the Inclusive Sport Programme within the School Games and provided practical based ideas to be taken back into schools in order to increase the sporting offer for children with Special Educational Needs. The workshop delegates were treated to an inspirational insight into how sport can have a positive impact on people's lives as Justine Moore described her journey from a Blackpool school pupil through to becoming a Paralympic Athlete.

Community Sport has continued to offer young people a range of activities to engage in at the Healthy Play Programme and the Community Tennis Programme both based within the local communities. Participants at the Healthy Play Programme have been taking part in a range of activities such as Cricket, Dodgeball, Football and Basketball. The Community Tennis Programme has now moved to South Shore Tennis Club for the winter months as we continue to search for the next Wimbledon Champion.

Cycling

A total of 977 school children in Year 5 and 6 received the national standard Bikeability cycle training in the academic year 2013/ 2014. Of those 788 achieved the Level 2 award of cycling proficiently on quiet/ single lane roads.

New cycle training sessions are set to start in the New Year called Urban Biking and will take place at the Palatine Cycle Track. The group sessions will last two hours and cover Bikeability Levels 1 and 2. The aim is to give cyclists the skills and confidence to cycle safely on the roads.

In partnership with the Police a working group was set up in the summer called Safer Cycling. Its first objective was to tackling cycling on the footway. As a result, 1000 referral cards will be printed promoting the Urban Biking course and issued by PCSO's to people they witness cycling on the footway.

Marton Mere Nature Reserve and Ecological Areas

Marton Mere Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Project

The project is now fully underway as a Marton Mere Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Steering Group has been developed with key stakeholders from Natural England, Environment Agency, local and regional natural history groups and Blackpool Council. Designs for the Year 1 major works elements of the project have now been agreed. The visitor centre construction started in November and will be ready to receive staff and visitors by February 2015. Marton Mere's lake island will be remodelled to include wetland, lagoon and pond areas to attract internationally and nationally protected bird and invertebrate species. A new elevated bird hide will be constructed to provide excellent views across the site and beyond. We shall also be constructing Lancashire's largest artificial Sand Martin Nesting Bank into the island periphery.

A Project Officer will be appointed to oversee the delivery of capital works, conservation management and community engagement programmes. They will be expected to develop and build effective relationships with key partners, community organisations and local people as well as design and deliver programmes of community events, activities and volunteer projects. An Environmental Volunteer Coordinator will be appointed to assist with a three year programme of volunteer and community involvement projects, coordinating volunteers in practical conservation and estate management projects in line with the project timetable.

Tourism and Marketing Services – VisitBlackpool

New entry-level scheme

A new entry level scheme for visitor accommodation is to be introduced in Blackpool in 2015. The Blackpool Approved scheme, which is accredited by VisitEngland, ensures that a property is "legal, safe and clean", meets all requirements with regard to health and safety and also demonstrates good customer practice.

Although it does not give an indication of a property's quality or facilities, it allows potential visitors to be assured that the accommodation they are considering is a correctly registered and properly-run business. The scheme allows accommodation providers to become part of a recognised accreditation standard at much less cost and with little intrusion and requires only a short visit from a trained assessor.

The introduction of the scheme means that accommodation providers who achieve the accreditation will be able to appear in a designated "entry level" section on the VisitBlackpool website, participate in a wide variety of marketing campaigns and feature in the annual Destination Guide. Until now, VisitBlackpool has only traded with star-rated accommodation approved by VisitEngland and/ or the AA.

In Blackpool, there will be three ways in which accommodation can get the Blackpool Approved entry-level accreditation:

1. Via Stay Blackpool, the hotel association which represents only nationally accredited accommodation businesses in Blackpool, which will have its own VisitEngland approved assessors.
2. Via Yes Hotels, an independent association, which will also have VisitEngland approved assessors
3. By applying directly to Quality In Tourism for a local assessment to be carried out.

Assessments/ visits will be carried out annually and assessors will check websites on a regular basis to ensure guests are not being misled. Accreditation in the Blackpool Approved scheme will cost about a third of the full national schemes.

Destination Management Plan

The first draft of a new three-year Destination Management Plan (DMP) for Blackpool is nearing completion. The DMP seeks to build on the substantial investment that has already been made in Blackpool over the past few years. The plan is underpinned by an aspirational re-positioning aimed at changing any negative perceptions of Blackpool by creating a high-quality, year-round family destination that is capable of supporting a wider economic regeneration.

Showzam!

The annual Showzam! festival will have a circus theme when it is staged in Blackpool during next year's February half term. For the first time, the festival will be a partnership between VisitBlackpool and LeftCoast. "Circus Town" will be held between 14 and 18 February with circus companies and performers from across the UK presenting shows in various event spaces. There will also be a new "fringe" programme of evening performances, as well as the annual Carnival Ball which will be held on the first night of the festival.

BBC television

Strictly Come Dancing returned to the Tower Ballroom on November 15 and 16, generating a huge amount of publicity for the resort. There was extensive coverage on TV in the lead up to the two shows, culminating in almost three hours of prime time coverage on the Saturday and Sunday nights. The BBC brought a 200-strong crew to Blackpool to stage the shows and a number of businesses benefited directly from the cast and crew staying over. The Strictly show usually commands a television audience of over seven million people. The resort was also featured extensively on the BBC on the eve of the Strictly weekend when the North West regional broadcast for Children In Need was staged at the Tower Circus, this was in addition to the coverage the previous week for the Rickshaw Challenge .

Registrars and Coroner's Support

Festival House (i.e. 'the wedding chapel') was shortlisted for an Award in the recently held Lancashire Tourism Awards for the best Wedding Venue. Unfortunately it was unsuccessful on this occasion, but it is proof of its growing reputation and popularity.

Grounds Maintenance – community parks.

Green Space Volunteer website

A green volunteer website has been designed by the Parks Service and Groundwork and a public launch is imminent. The new website will be a one-stop-shop for prospective volunteers, students and job seekers looking to get involved in Blackpool's green spaces to learn new skills, help care for the local environment, participate in outdoor activities and meet new people. The website will make it easier for local people to discover more green volunteering opportunities, apply to become a volunteer and learn about ongoing green projects. The website will help to bring in investment to

green causes by providing a portal for personal, charitable or corporate donations and gifts. The website will ensure that green volunteering in Blackpool is professionalised and coordinated in context of the big picture, helping both the environment as well as the individual. Park Friends Groups and Allotment Associations will find the website a useful mechanism for boosting membership.

Relationships with the Winter Gardens Company

Negotiations are underway for the 2015 show season at the Winter Gardens following the box office success of MAMMA MIA! this year. A number of shows are being considered for the Opera House during the summer and autumn seasons. It is hoped that the line-up will be confirmed before the end of this year to enable marketing and promotion to get underway. In the meantime, the Winter Gardens has secured a number of high profile one-off concerts including comedians Peter Kay and Lee Mack, as well as a Christmas film season.

The Winter Gardens won two awards at the Lancashire Tourism Awards, being named as Cultural Venue of the Year and Meeting and Conference Venue Of The Year. The awards were judged by an independent panel and awarded in front of more than 500 industry professionals at the Tower Ballroom. The awards follow a record breaking year for the Winter Gardens which has seen the venue celebrate over one million visits and the summer season run of MAMMA MIA! break all box office records.

CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE – COUNCILLOR ROWSON

Care and Support Services

The Council's In-House Provider Services are starting to work up the Operational Resilience Planning in preparation for the anticipated winter pressures which is well rehearsed now as the services have formed an integral part of the Operational Resilience response over recent years along with other stakeholders including the different Health Partners.

In particular the Operational Resilience planning is targeted in key areas:

ARC – Intermediate Care

The service is paying close attention and working collaboratively with Health partners to understand the care pathway for someone receiving intermediate care at the ARC, this includes efficient and effective care management from referral to the end of the intermediate care placement ensuring that the placements achieve the desired outcomes within the agreed timeframe thus enabling the service a level of movement to support continuous throughput of placements and therefore creating capacity to respond to anticipatory demand going forward.

Homecare Reablement/Rapid Response Service

The service has made available some additional carer capacity to enable the service to flex and contract in response to the anticipated demand over the winter period to ensure that where appropriate reablement services are considered as an alternative for particular people and ensures that people are more able to be safely supported in their own home as opposed to other alternative residential provision and/ or Hospital.

Vitaline Service

The service has taken steps to procure additional Assistive Technology Units to respond to the anticipated demand over the winter period. The service is now considering the contingency arrangements to enable a quick response to the installation of the equipment so that this reduces the time the person may need to spend in Hospital/ Residential placement and again ensures that the person is able to remain at home for longer with appropriate care and support in place if required in addition to any Vitaline support.

Hoyle @ Mansfield Respite Service

Although this service is not part of the formal response to Operational Resilience, it is a service that can respond if required dependent upon the availability of beds at the time, this approach has been successful over recent years and if called upon the Hoyle @ Mansfield Service will endeavour to respond in the same way as previous years.

The service's identified above all feed into a formal reporting process in respect to the capacity available each week, this is shared with Health partners and Commissioners, which then feeds into the wider reporting mechanism ensuring that both Health and Social Care agencies are better able to target resources to where they are required and utilise available capacity within existing services to manage the Operational Resilience across the whole Health and Social Care System.

Hate Crime Reporting

The Disability Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Project of the independent Blackpool charity Disability First was launched on the 14 October 2011 with funding secured from the Ministry of Justice, Victims

and Witness Fund. This was in order to develop a third party reporting service based at the Council's Blackpool Centre for Independent Living, which enables victims and witnesses of disability hate crime/ incidents to report in a safe environment.

Disability Hate Crime has historically gone under reported compared to other forms of hate crime. The projects aim is to help increase disabled people's confidence to report and the numbers of incidents recorded in order to provide a clearer picture of the issue in Blackpool and to be a victim focused service.

Since the launch, the total number of incidents reported to Disability First stands at 81, supporting around 190 people. The type of incidents can include harassment, verbal abuse, physical abuse, hate crime and cyber bullying. A lot of the incidents can occur in and around the person's home and local neighbourhood and also for people when using public transport.

The project has proven itself to be successful, with year on year more incidents reported and more people supported through the service and through advocacy, mediation etc.

Funding from the Ministry of Justice came to an end at the end of September 2014, with the Victims and Witnesses Fund being developed to the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, who currently funds the project until March 2015.

Business Support and Resources

Personal Health Budgets

Blackpool Council has been operating a Personal Health Budget (PHB) pilot in Blackpool, since January 2014. Individuals who are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) have a right to ask for a personal health budget and this became a 'right to have' from October 2014.

Since January 2014, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has funded a full time Project Officer to work within the Direct Payments team at Blackpool Council, to be guided by the experience and knowledge of the team. Direct payments have been successfully funded in social care for the last fifteen years, this experience is something the CCG was keen to benefit from. The pilot ended in October 2014 and the Project Officer post is currently funded until January 2015.

The Project Officer's role was to develop a framework and structure in order to make Personal Health Budgets available, as well as working with service users and the CCG to put Personal Health Budgets in place. The Blackpool pilot has resulted in a robust process that is working well.

There are currently nine CHC individuals at various stages of the PHB process in Blackpool, with others in the pipeline. This is likely to increase as individual awareness increases over the next year. Personal Health Budgets are also going to be rolled out in Mental Health, Complex Cases for Children and Learning Disability Teams from 1 April 2015, creating potential for more individuals to take up the flexibility of a personal health budget.

After a successful pilot in Blackpool, the CCG is keen to continue the framework and network that the PHB work to date has created. This will bring revenue to the Council for providing this service to Blackpool CCG and enhance the support provided by the Direct Payments Team through a wider understanding of health and well-being issues.

Adult Social Care

The services continue to be very busy with the high increase in requests for Deprivation of Liberty assessments and the increase in referrals to adult services. The teams are continuing to manage new work request coming in and ensuring safeguarding alerts are being dealt with. There are no waiting lists in these areas.

The Care Act 2014 Regulations and Guidance were published this week. They will impact across all adult social care teams, the whole of the Local Authority and many of our partners, including the NHS, housing and the voluntary and independent sector. There will be a high level of activity between now and the implementation start date of these in April 2015. We will need to make changes to systems and processes in adult social care as the new legal framework is implemented. Oversight will be via the Care Act Project Board and the work streams will be looking at the details. There is an active programme of publicity, training and change management in place.

Peer Reviews in Adult Social Care

Blackpool Council is part of the North West Region of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) which oversees the sector led improvement peer challenge process.

The Department wanted to test the extent to which the Residential Care system in Blackpool was functioning well, whether there were identifiable reasons for historically low performance on the rate of admissions (meaning the rate of admissions is high), the strength of relationships within the system and the experience of people and their relatives throughout the journey into residential care. This was also an opportunity to test out Blackpool's arrangements in preparation for an external peer challenge later in the year.

The headline themes of enquiry were Vision, Strategy and Leadership, Resource and Workforce Management, Service Delivery and Effective Practice, Commissioning and Managing the Market, People's Experience of Safeguarding and by way of experience and learning for the Department, Effectiveness of Organisational Arrangements.

Broadly, the findings were as follows:

- The overall direction of travel is positive, although admissions remain high relative to other areas
- Commitment to improvement is evident throughout the system and ideas, energy and enthusiasm are widespread
- There is clarity of vision and purpose in many key areas
- Prevention needs to start earlier in people's life journeys – to facilitate individual and community resilience and advance planning, and broader perspectives on alternatives to residential care

The Department intends to use the findings of this Peer Challenge as a marker on its improvement journey and a focus for action with all the relevant stakeholders.

An external Peer Review of the Adult Safeguarding arrangements will take place in January 2015, the arrangements for which are currently being finalised.

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

Highways Maintenance – potholes, carriageway and footway repairs.

Highway Consultative Forum

The work of the Forum is helping to tackle some of the key highway issues that are important to the town's residents and businesses. Already, a number of alterations have been made to junctions in the town to assist drivers. Other proposals, which have been tabled at the group, include the Coronation Street two-way scheme and the plan to improve crossing facilities in a number of areas.

Highways Asset Management Plan

Due to Project 30, approximately 20% of Blackpool's highways are more resilient to damage from wear and tear, ageing, increasing traffic and severe weather. This does, however, mean that if our highways are going to continue to provide the service for which they were built, there must be a sustainable approach to highway maintenance to make the best possible use of available funding. If not then the highways condition will decline, with a return to defects like potholes and increased liability due to tripping claims. Approximately £1m savings have been made over the last four years in tripping claims due to the combined approach of Project 30 and sustaining a viable Section 58 defence of highway safety inspections and repairs.

The current tough economic climate poses big challenges to Blackpool Council to make the best use of limited resources in providing an acceptable highway service to the public, yet critically to maintain the integrity of our highways for future generations. A recent national public opinion survey (NHT) 2014, reported that Blackpool was the only local authority with increased public satisfaction in road condition in the UK. Blackpool Council was given an award in this respect.

However, there are some decisions to be made on the levels of funding required to sustain the good work of Project 30. To assist the Members with these choices, the Highways Asset Management Plan is currently being reviewed and will be released later this year. A Highway Asset Management Board is being established to meet regularly to agree on highway investment decisions. In particular, using the savings made on highway liability tripping claims to re-invest into the highway network.

Project 30 has allowed the Council to understand the current state of its entire carriageway and footways and the rate of deterioration and the best treatment options that can be planned at the right time to have the most beneficial effect with regard to prolonging life at a point when the treatment is most cost effective (i.e. maximum value for money).

Highway Asset Management will assist the Council in prolonging the positive effect of Project 30 and maximise future highway maintenance investment. Strong leadership and commitment from Elected Members and Chief Officers is vital in maintaining this approach, therefore the various stakeholders (including risk management, finance, communications, legal and highways projects) of the Project 30 Board will now transform into a Highways Asset Management Board.

Yeadon Way Refurbishment Scheme 2014

The work commenced on Monday 10 November 2014 and is planned to be completed by end of March 2015. Galliford Try has been appointed as the construction contractor for the major repair works. Presentation boards have been taken to all the Area Forums explaining the reason for the need to carry out this work and alternative arrangements for travel and a dedicated webpage has been set up to keep everyone up to date on progress.

Growth Deal Announcement

The Strategic Outline Business Cases are currently in preparation for the schemes given programme entry in July this year, which will help to secure the next stage of funding approval. The transport schemes in Blackpool included were:

- Integrated Traffic Management, providing an intelligent transport system to better manage traffic and parking in the town (starting 2015/ 2016)
- Maintenance of bridges, to repair a number of defective structures on key corridors (starting 2015/ 2016)
- Green Corridors, improving gateway and arrival points to the town centre (starting 2016/ 2017)
- Blackpool-Fleetwood Tramway Extension, to North Station (Business Case being developed by 2015/ 2016 and statutory powers sought by 2016/ 2017)

Street Lighting PFI

December 2014 will see the completion of the five year core investment period with over 16,000 new lighting columns and associated apparatus installed in the town and 90 signal junctions.

Following residents and Member requests and by negotiating with the Service Provider, street lighting will be provided in a number of vulnerable areas, these include Claremont Park, Moor Park and Acre Gate allotments.

Plymouth Road roundabout and Watson Road traffic signal junctions continue to be monitored, with the results and any changes being presented to the Highway Consultative Forum meeting.

Parking Services.

Blackpool Council and the Blackpool Town Centre BID have joined forces to launch two festive car parking offers ahead of the Christmas shopping period. The first offer, aimed at helping local firms and encouraging visitors and residents to discover Blackpool's wide variety of small shops on national "Small Business Saturday", will see free parking offered at all Council car parks on Saturday 6 December. The offer is available throughout the day and evening.

The second offer will see shoppers offered parking for a pound in four town centre car parks West Street, Central, Talbot multi-storey and East Topping Street. This offer will run on the four Thursday late night shopping events on 27 November and 4, 11 and 18 December from 5pm until midnight and on four Sundays 30 November 30, 7, 14 and 21 December. The Houndshell Shopping Centre car park will also be a pound to park from 5pm-midnight on the four Thursdays.

Equality and Diversity

Faith Engagement and Interfaith cohesion

The Council Leader has met with the Bishops of Blackburn and Lancaster with the aim of deepening strategic engagement between the Council and Churches and other faith groups active in Blackpool's social regeneration agenda. In consequence a series of initiatives are now being explored based on the recent "Good Neighbours" research of the Church Urban Fund into highly deprived communities. I have hosted a meeting of Blackpool Faith leaders in order to initiate local interfaith dialogue.

Hate Crime/ Incidents

The Council is working together with a locally based social enterprise, the Lancashire Hate Crime Hub, to run a series of pilot training workshops in Blackpool High schools to challenge the attitudes that can lead to Hate based incidents and Crime. This work will also provide important qualitative data on the extent and type of discrimination issues prevalent among young people in Blackpool.

Equality Objectives - strategic performance review

Under the Equality Act 2010, Blackpool Council along with all public bodies was required to publish one or more objectives to proactively further the aims of the statutory equality duty. An extensive consultation process was held during late 2011/ early 2012 focused on workshops with our key equality stakeholder groups. Four objectives were agreed by the Council in April 2012, in line with the statutory timetable.

Since these objectives have now been in place for two and a half years it is timely to reflect on how we are progressing. Consequently we are preparing a report that will examine both what we've achieved and what more needs to be done. The review report will be published and will inform the future development of our policy in Equality and Diversity.

Manager e-learning course

We are currently piloting a new advanced training course aimed at Managers and other Officers who require a detailed knowledge of equality law and practice.

Consultation

Consultation was concluded in October on a number of Highway schemes. These included resident parking in Layton and Park Wards, 20 mph zone in Waterloo ward and the introduction of traffic calming measures in Marton ward. Consultation included increased use of social media, publicity with local community groups and individuals as well as local businesses, schools, libraries, key community locations such as pubs and at the Area Forums. Relevant partners including the Police and Fire Service have also been consulted to ensure schemes are promoted as widely as possible.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH – COUNCILLOR COLLETT

Public Health

Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP)

Community Pharmacies play an important role and are vital to the health of the local population. Community pharmacists and their team work at the heart of communities and are trusted professionals in supporting individual, family and community health. They are often the first point of contact for advice and medication.

The nationally recognised concept of HLP enables pharmacies to help promote healthy behaviour choices within the local community by delivering high quality health and wellbeing services, promoting health and providing proactive health advice.

HLP is being rolled out across Lancashire and in Blackpool commenced with a launch event in June 2014, to date 28 of our 44 pharmacies have signed up and are working towards HLP status. Being HLP accredited and displaying the HLP kite mark demonstrates consistent delivery of high quality services and a health and wellbeing ethos in the pharmacy. In Blackpool we have developed a 'Certificate of Commitment', which the pharmacies can display in their windows, once signed up to HLP and whilst working towards full accreditation.

We have assigned a dedicated member of the team to work closely with pharmacies to support them in gaining accreditation in a timely manner. We have also supplied each pharmacy signing up to HLP with a resource pack, this will support pharmacy staff to open discussion and can be used for health promotion displays.

In addition to developing a portfolio of competence, to gain accreditation the pharmacy must fulfil specific criteria:

- Leadership Training - Pharmacist (or Pharmacy Manager) must attend Leadership Training. This training inspires and motivates to lead change, focuses on developing and motivating the team, discusses the changes HLP brings and techniques and tips to support implementation and supports the development, delegation and direction of others
- Healthy Living Champion - Each pharmacy is to nominate two HL Champions as part of their pharmacy teams. The HL Champion must undertake the RSPH - Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement. The aim of the HLP Champion is to help the public adopt healthier lifestyles and access the support they need.
- Brief Intervention (BI) Training - All pharmacy staff must attend a Brief Intervention training session. BI is a method of discussing health issues in a positive, non-confrontational way to encourage individuals to think about a change to healthy behaviours and enabling them to access specialist support when they are ready.

In summary, Healthy Living Pharmacy:

- Promotes healthy living and wellbeing as a core activity.
- Has a team, proactive in supporting health and wellbeing, with the community's health at centre of all it does.
- Is accessible and approachable.
- Is valued and trusted.
- Maintains premises to a high professional standard with private consultation facilities.
- Works closely with other healthcare providers, proactively and reactively.
- Will be easily identifiable by the public and healthcare professionals.
- Is a community hub capitalising on its community based social asset status.

The benefits of implementing HLP in Blackpool are:

- Improvements in outcomes, quality and productivity.
- Ability to demonstrate to commissioners what community pharmacy can deliver to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- Increased public awareness of community pharmacy across a range of health and wellbeing services that can be delivered.
- Demonstrates raised awareness of the role of community pharmacy in support of Healthy Living to local populations so that increasingly community pharmacy becomes an access point of choice for patients seeking solutions to their health and wellbeing needs.
- A recognisable branding for HLP that represents excellent quality to the public and health professionals.
- An engaged and motivated pharmacy team able to deliver proactive health and wellbeing interventions and improved performance.
- Improved involvement and engagement of pharmacy team including a trained Health Champion.
- Enhanced engagement and collaboration with other health professionals.

Tobacco Update

Whilst figures in other areas of England have seen reductions in the numbers of adults who smoke, in Blackpool the figures have remained static over the last few years at around 29.5% of the adult population smoking as compared to the England average at 20%. Smoking rates in the most deprived communities in Blackpool remain disproportionately high, 51% in the most deprived areas (e.g. Bloomfield) compared to less than 25% in the least deprived areas (e.g. Anchorsholme). This is a key factor in contributing to Blackpool's persistent health inequalities that result in the unfair differences in life expectancy between the richest and poorest of our communities. People in routine and manual occupations are around twice as likely to smoke as those in managerial and professional occupations. In Blackpool smokers from routine and manual groups comprise 44% of the overall smoking population, reducing smoking in this group is also critical to reducing inequalities in the town.

In addition to national initiatives, legislation and campaigns, locally various steps have been taken which go towards further reducing harm from tobacco within our population. These steps include:

- smoke free hospital and grounds to protect patients and visitors.
- signage to encourage smoke free playgrounds and parks to protect our children.
- working with midwifery services and pregnant women to reduce the rate of pregnant women smoking at the time of delivery giving babies a better start in life with initiatives including being the first are to introduce CO monitoring at 36 weeks and a positive opt out referral to stop smoking services.

- commissioning a smoking cessation service within GP practices in addition to the Specialist Stop Smoking Service ensuring wider more accessible services for those people wishing to stop smoking.
- working closely with colleagues such as Trading Standards on various operations relating to proxy sales of tobacco to children, employing specialist sniffer dogs on illicit and illegal tobacco operations and operations at Blackpool airport on smuggling.
- commissioning a lung health check project to find the 'Missing Millions', people who may be in the first stages of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) with the aim of giving those people information that would encourage them to seek help to stop smoking.
- an in-patient tobacco service at Blackpool Victoria Hospital offering unplanned admission access to NRT during their stay and referral to community services on discharge.
- supported social marketing projects to understand what pregnant need to encourage them to have a smoke free pregnancy and birth (e.g. BUMP magazine).
- introduced an incentive scheme to encourage women in making a quit attempt.

The Blackpool Tobacco Control Strategy builds on work already undertaken and recognises the need for a multi-faceted approach to local work, whilst balancing input and influence on a range of national, regional and sub-regional actions that complement and reinforce each other. Tobacco Free Lancashire is an important and influential forum whereby with work with wider partners to take forward some of this wider work.

In implementing decisive tobacco-control policies, Blackpool Council and our partners must show leadership in responding to the direction of travel set out in this Strategy. However, communities themselves also have a role to play. Whole population approaches such as regulation and investment in services must be supported by interventions which are driven by and meet the needs of, local communities. We all need to consider, as individuals and communities, what we can do to support each other to make smoking a thing of the past and improve not only our own health, but also the health of our local areas. Only by taking this approach can we achieve our ambition of a tobacco-free Blackpool and accelerate our efforts to tackle the underlying causes of health inequalities.

The Public Health team has been involved in the development of the Tobacco Free Lancashire Strategy 2014/ 2016. This pan-Lancashire document has been agreed by the Blackpool, Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The team has also developed with partners the Pan-Lancashire Smoking in Pregnancy Action Plan and agreed work to develop local solutions to the actions identified.

The Blackpool Tobacco Control Strategy and Action Plan 2014/ 2016 focuses on a range of actions across three priority themes as we believe these to be the areas of greatest opportunity where the greatest differences can be made:

- Prevention - creating an environment where (young) people choose not to smoke
- Protection - protecting people from second-hand smoke
- Cessation - helping people to quit smoking

Schools Catering Services

From September 2014, school lunches have been provided free of charge to all pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Two throughout all schools in England and Wales. This is a Government initiative aimed at ensuring a good quality, nutritional lunch 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 envisaged that the take up figure in Blackpool will be in excess of 85%, although figures are currently being analysed. In order to ensure that the pupils enjoy their meals and that parents have

total trust in what the children are being served, Blackpool Catering Services have amended 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 continue to have a choice of hot meals available every day, complemented by a salad bar, featuring a wide range of produce, a bread basket and a selection of tasty desserts.

In preparation for the introduction of the New Food Standards in January 2015, the menus are being revised to ensure that Blackpool Catering Services provides menus that are fully compliant with the new standards.

In addition information relating to each individual menu dish will be available in order to comply with the Allergen Legislation which comes into effect on 13 December 2014.

Child Poverty

Preparatory work for the Better Start programme has continued with the appointment of a new Director to drive the delivery of the work and two development officers to establish the project team and working arrangements. Councillor Taylor's report gives further details of the progress made so far.

Away from Better Start, the recently-released official figures measuring child poverty levels show that although Blackpool is now ranked as the 14th highest local authority for the level of child poverty in England (up from 21st place), the proportion of children in poverty fell from 30.2% to 29.3% in Blackpool between 2011 and 2012.

Since these figures, we have seen significant progress through a range of initiatives addressing the drivers of child poverty. The September claimant count for 18-24 year olds is the lowest since 2012, with the proportion claiming Job Seekers Allowance down from 6.2% to 3.8% September 2012 - September 2014, and 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) down from 11.5% to 5.4% over the same period.

The Council has played a significant role in addressing youth and adult employment through a variety of projects. These include:

- The Chance2shine programme, which has delivered opportunities for work experience for 111 young and adult residents, of which 43 have gone on to achieve paid employment
- 153 people were supported to start new businesses, with £428,000 of funding being accessed as a result of our work
- Dedicated work with Care Leavers to improve their application skills has resulted in young people accessing employment and college courses
- The Summer Ventures Programme offers learning and mentoring for NEET 16-18 year olds, with 94 out of 103 people starting the programme leaving the NEET category on completion
- A pilot Virtual Early Leavers Service, which acts rapidly to support young people leaving training. 73% of the 80 people supported got back into education, training or employment
- Apprenticeships delivered through both the Council's own apprenticeship scheme, and other posts created through collaboration with partners across Blackpool

We will further build on this by appointing a local training provider to work with us on a new traineeship programme for young people not ready for apprenticeships, which will include training support and work placements.

Health funding

Finance

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 responsibility for commissioning many public health services was transferred to Local Government under the responsibility of the Director of Public Health (DPH) as part of a ring fenced public health grant. Nationally it has been agreed that the commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (Universal/ universal plus) will transfer to Local Authorities on 1 December 2015. Funding will sit within the overall ring fenced public health budget.

The methodology used for the above contract split has resulted in a £400,000 reduction in the funding in the Blackpool allocation. Blackpool Council has passed on the following comments to the Lancashire Area Team regarding the contracts for 2015/ 2016

“We do not accept the methodology for the split of the contract value based on provider information as this appears to result in a circa £400,000 reduction in the Blackpool allocation of the contract value from previous Primary Care Trust (PCT) investment. We feel this method may fail to adequately account for levels of disadvantage and skill mix”.

Indicative funding allocations were due to be released to local authorities on 20 October for consultation, but this has been delayed. We are awaiting further updates from the Local Area Team.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR CROSS

Cleansing, Bins and Litter Management

Street Cleansing services have seen the busiest half term holiday period for a very long time where the town centre, promenade and holiday areas were bursting on occasions. These circumstances together with the mild conditions gave the service a severe test in managing litter levels and servicing litter bins.

Layton residents were pleased to see the Local Environmental Action Force (LEAF) carryout deep cleaning of front and back streets including drainage gullies and grass verges. Leaf rangers cleared back streets of fly tipping, abandoned contaminated wheeled bins and engaged with the residents around environmental issues. The main focus of engagement with residents was around their issues with dog fouling our teams explained to the community that if they identify likely culprits we can make enquiries and challenge behaviour.

The winter season will offer the chance to review the service performance to identify where improvements can be made. The introduction to larger capacity litter bins along the promenade has certainly aided litter collection and a review of litter bin provision across the district centres throughout the borough will be carried out.

Fly tipping continues to be a significant part of reactive parts of the services and recent events include tipper vehicles discharging their loads whilst travelling through streets late at night. A recent event in broad daylight captured on camera is being vigorously investigated. It is envisaged that a prolific fly tipper will soon be taken to court where evidence obtained has now been finalised.

Domestic Waste (including refuse collection and recycling)

Blackpool Council has recently received news that the official recycling figure for 2013/ 2014 is 41.1%, which is Blackpool's best ever recorded recycling rate. So far this year we have treated 33,394 tonnes of waste, which month on month is similar to last year.

The trial for seagull proof sacks began in October with two sacks being delivered to each of the properties in the identified area. Monitoring of this area will be undertaken in the coming weeks to assess the impact that they have on the general cleanliness of the area especially on collection days.

The costs of waste collection still remain a significant cost to the Council with continuing efforts to reduce these costs. Detailed work is being carried out on collection rounds that have consistently failed to produce high levels of participation in the amounts of material being recycled. The costs of a collection round i.e. vehicle and staffing are the same whether 10% of residents are participating or 100% so the Waste team are working on a number of initiatives designed to boost these areas.

Rover

Rover in its first 12 months has proved to be a huge success and continues to be extremely popular with Blackpool residents. In the first 12 months of its operation it has diverted over 106.5 tonnes of waste from landfill and been visited by 5,681 residents. It has enabled us to prevent small electrical items being disposed of via the grey bin which was causing issues at the waste treatment plants. The routes that Rover takes are constantly being reviewed and revamped to prevent the service from becoming stagnant. This year it will also be a collection point for the 'Give a Little' campaign.

Commercial Waste Services

The service continues to operate successfully, with in excess of 3,000 businesses accessing the service. The feedback is excellent, with value for money regularly being highlighted by customers. The confidential waste service is now operational and proving extremely successful, with a review taking place to consider its future development.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

The HWRC recycling rate remains steady at around 70% each month with the exception of September which saw a rise to 76%.

Bulky Matters Furniture Service

	April – September 2013	April – September 2014
Number of Jobs	1238	1537
Collected Items	3590	4515
Overall weight (tonnes)	111,934	143,470
Weight to landfill (tonnes)	51,487	63,070
Weight recycled/reused (tonnes)	60,448	80,401

As you can see from the above chart, Bulky Matters continues to be a growing and successful service. This year it has provided many residents in Blackpool with much needed support (over 800 items) through the Discretionary Support Fund.

Over 200 items have been repaired and refurbished to date at the RENEW Warehouse, which is a great start. We now have nine regular volunteers and six placements who all attend weekly.

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE – COUNCILLOR WRIGHT

Arts

Blackpool Council, through Cultural Services, has been successful in securing £150k of investment from Curious Minds for a two-year programme. The funding is to support the development of the cultural offer for young people inside and outside of school and will support various activities including the creation of a strategic partnership, Arts Award training for young people, a new 'place-based curriculum' for schools and a new Youth Arts programme for young people outside school settings.

The Arts Service organised and managed the highly successful Fylde Coast Shakespeare Festival that took place earlier this year to mark the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. The festival saw nearly 800 people of all ages come together to take part in promenade performances, readings, live radio broadcasts, workshops and discussions. Twenty seven community groups from Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde took on the challenge performing in 21 venues across the coast.

LeftCoast, the partnership established to deliver the Creative People and Places Programme in Blackpool and Wyre, has been successful in a bid to the Clore Prize Fund and has been awarded a prize of £50,000 for an innovative project based on the traditional Bed and Breakfast experience. A new social enterprise will be set up to create the first ever "Art B and B", which will be a fully functional space. The project will support people recovering from addiction, enabling them to work alongside artists to create every element of the B and B experience from a virtual landlady to the bedroom décor. Blackpool's bid was the only successful award in the north of England.

Heritage

Pupils from primary and secondary schools across the town have been using the world famous illuminations to learn a range of new maths skills as part of a Heritage Lottery-funded project focused around the Blackpool Illuminations historic collections. The Illuminations have been used to create special activities to teach children about patterns and sequences, as well as simple tasks like multiplication and division. The pupils also learn more about the art and history behind one of Blackpool's most famous attractions.

The children have also been out to visit this year's display at the Illuminations depot, studying each illumination to understand the design and symmetry that goes into making them so popular. This was followed by a trip along the Promenade, with their families to see the famous lights in position, so that they could understand how the different designs came together.

The work is having a positive impact on the way that the pupils understand the relevance of mathematics in everyday life and is directly linked to the maths curriculum. The Mathematical Illuminations project is part of the Blackpool's schools cultural programme, which is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, the Arts Council and Blackpool Council.

Libraries

The library service continues to provide a crucial role in assisting residents with Internet access and online transactions such as national government e-services through www.gov.uk. The team is receiving training to enable them to work with benefit claimants to support access to universal credit, which is due to be rolled out in Blackpool in December. As well as developing people's digital skills, residents are also signposted to other sources of support, such as debt advice, adult learning activities or cultural opportunities to help people rebuild their confidence or learn new skills. Our digital offer

also has a creative learning element two monthly tech clubs were launched at Palatine Library in September.

The Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge attracted 779 children, 60% of these becoming members in order to take part. In the lead up to the summer holidays, a local storyteller told mythical stories to children in school assemblies to help to support the challenge.

A Micro Festival of Poetry for National Poetry Day was held on the theme of Remembrance. The day included various workshops and poetry readings and culminated in the announcement of the Wordpool poetry competition winner and a drive through the illuminations to see the winning poem in lights. Blackpool is also leading on a shared reading project with Lancashire libraries.

Plans are currently underway for the national launch of the Reading Well Books on prescription for dementia in January 2015. A launch event is being planned for people with dementia and their carers. To date, two thirds of the staff are trained as Dementia Friends and the target is for all staff to be trained by the end of 2014. Libraries are increasingly used for community-based health activities including weekly memory screening clinics, and mental health Information clinics, and blood pressure checks.

Grand Theatre

Grand Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Montgomery High School and Blackpool Council have developed a partnership to increase children and young people's understanding of Shakespeare and to improve their literacy and English skills both at primary and secondary level. Around 900 children have been involved, with approximately 2000 in the audience at the Grand, along with 50 teachers. Part of the programme focuses on offering high-quality training to teachers so that they can improve their approaches in the classroom. Montgomery's Ofsted report demonstrates this impact on improved attainment for English as a direct result of the project. Another eight schools are involved in the wider cluster. As a result of the Grand being part of this partnership the RSC has chosen the theatre as one of its 10 national venues for their number one tour DREAM:16.

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	26 th November 2014

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider a review of the political balance calculations following the election of Councillor Derek Robertson at the recent by election for Waterloo ward.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To re-appoint the following Committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 5(a). These are:

- Scrutiny Committee (membership of fifteen and with a composition of ten Labour and five Conservative)
- Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Planning Committee (membership of ten and with a composition of seven 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 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.

- 2.4 To note that the Licensing Committee and the Public Protection Sub Committee do not need to be re-appointed as the political balance calculations do not change.
- 2.5 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to note the appointment of members to Committees as set out in Appendix 5(b).
- 2.6 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 5(b) based on the above recommendations.
- 2.7 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

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 The Appointment of Committees and political balance calculations normally take place at the Annual Meeting and did so this year on 12th May 2014. However, due to 3 by elections on 22nd May 2014 (Talbot, Layton and Hawes Side) and one on 24th July (Clifton ward) reviews of the political balance calculations have taken place at both the June and September Councils. At the September Council due to the by election called for 9th October (Waterloo ward), it was agreed that a further report be submitted to this Council meeting following on from the election of a councillor for that ward.

- 5.2 Councillor Derek Robertson (Conservative) was elected and the Council now has all of its 42 seats filled. This report sets out the political balance calculations now required and the calculations are set out at Appendix 5(a).
- 5.3 The Licensing Committee is not subject to political balance rules, but the Council has sought to apply proportionality, with the addition of the Liberal Democrat member. This calculation has been done and no changes are required so Council does not need to re-appoint it, nor re-appoint the Public Protection Sub Committee.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 The Scrutiny Committee will now increase to a membership of 15 (from 14), made up of 10 Labour and five Conservative members. Accordingly, this committee will need to re-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.
- 5.6 In order to achieve true political balance, the Labour Group will continue to forgo a member on the Chief Officers Employment Committee and the Conservative Group will add another member to that Committee (increasing its membership from one to two).
- 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 5(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 is a matter for its Parent Committee to deal with).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) sets out the political balance calculations

Appendix 5(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/uksi/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.

Provisional Political Balance Allocations 2014/ 2015

(November 2014)

STAGE 1 - Percentage representation on the Council:

Party	Membership	Percentage %
Labour	28	66.67
Conservative	13	30.95
Liberal Democrat	1	2.38
	<u>42</u>	<u>100</u>

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
Total	<u>76</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	50.67	51
Conservative	23.52	<u>24</u>
		75

NOTE: There is 1 less seat than Stage 2, as the Liberal Democrat Group representation does not constitute a Group.

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	10.00	10
	Conservative		4.64	5
Call In Sub-Committee	Labour	9	6.00	6
	Conservative		2.79	3
Health Scrutiny	Labour	9	6.00	6
	Conservative		2.79	3
Finance and Audit	Labour	7	4.67	5
	Conservative		2.17	2
Planning	Labour	10	6.67	7
	Conservative		3.10	3
Appeals	Labour	6	4.00	4
	Conservative		1.86	2
Public Protection Sub-Committee	Labour	7	4.67	5
	Conservative		2.17	2
Chief Officers Employment	Labour	7	4.67	5
	Conservative		2.17	2
Standards	Labour	6	4.00	4
	Conservative		1.86	2
Total Seats				76

(see Note 3)

	Stage 4	Stage 3	
Labour	52	51	Labour to forgoe 1 seat from a Cttee above to balance (see note 3)
Conservative	24	24	
	<u>76</u>	<u>75</u>	

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

Note 3

For stages 3 and 4 to balance, Labour would need to forgoe 1 seat. 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.

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
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:
Blackburn, Simon (LAB) Chairman	Coleman, Ian (LAB)	Coleman, Gary (LAB) Chairman	Coleman, Gary (LAB)	Doherty, Brian (LAB)	Coleman, Ian (LAB)	Cain, Graham (LAB) Vice Chairman
Cain, Graham (LAB)	Elmes, Jim (LAB)	Elmes, Jim (LAB) Vice Chairman	Doherty, Brian (LAB)	Hutton, Adrian (LAB) Chairman	Hunter, Peter (LAB)	Coleman, Ian (LAB)
Campbell, Gillian (LAB)	Hutton, Adrian (LAB)	Matthews, Allan (LAB)	Hunter, Peter (LAB)	Jackson, Pam (LAB)	O'Hara, David (LAB)	Hunter, Peter (LAB)
Jackson, Fred (LAB) Vice Chairman	Matthews, Allan (LAB)	Ryan, Chris (LAB)	Hutton, Adrian (LAB) Chairman	O'Hara, David (LAB) Vice Chairman	Smith, Mark (LAB) Vice Chairman	Jackson, Fred (LAB) Chairman
Clapham, Don (CON)	Owen, David (LAB) Chairman	Callow, Maxine (CON)	Jackson, Pam (LAB)	Taylor, Sylvia (LAB)	Taylor, Luke (LAB)	Clapham, Don (CON)
Williams, Tony (CON)	Smith, Mark (LAB)	Galley, Paul (CON)	Mitchell, Martin (LAB)	Delves, Joyce (CON)	Callow, Peter (CON) Chairman	Delves, Joyce (CON)
	Jackson, Pam (LAB) Vice Chairman		O'Hara, David (LAB) Vice Chairman	Cox, Christian (CON)	Galley, Paul (CON)	
	Brown, Tony (CON)		Ryan, Chris (LAB)			
	Robertson, Derek (CON)		Smith, Mark (LAB)			
	Stansfield, Andrew (CON)		Taylor, Sylvia (LAB)			
			Brown, Tony (CON)			
			Evans, Peter (CON)			
			Delves, Joyce (CON)			
			Cox, Christian (CON)			
			Green, Doug (LD)			
Membership: 6	Membership: 10	Membership: 6	Membership: 15	Membership: 7	Membership: 7	Membership: 6
Labour 4	Labour 7	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 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:	CLlr Blackburn, Simon Chairman
Benson, Kath (LAB) (Lead)	Benson, Kath (LAB)	Benson, Kath (LAB)	CLlr Taylor, Ivan
Coleman, Debbie (LAB) Vice Chairman	Coleman, Debbie (LAB)	Coleman, Debbie (LAB)	CLlr Collett, Eddie
Coleman, Ian (LAB)	Elmes, Jim (LAB)	Elmes, Jim (LAB)	CLlr Clapham, Don
Doherty, Brian (LAB) (Lead)	Hunter, Peter (LAB) Vice Chairman	Jackson, Pam (LAB)	Dr Rajpura, Arif
Elmes, Jim (LAB)	Mitchell, Martin (LAB) Chairman	Mitchell, Martin (LAB)	Curtis, Delyth
Jackson, Pam (LAB)	Owen, David (LAB)	Taylor, Sylvia (LAB)	Smith, Karen
Mitchell, Martin (LAB)	Henderson MBE, Lily (CON)	Callow, Maxine (CON)	Fisher, Roy
Smith, Mark (LAB)	Mitchell, Henry (CON)	Clapham, Don (CON)	Dr Rudnick, Leanne
Taylor, Luke (LAB)	Stansfield, Andrew (CON)	Williams, Tony (CON)	Doyle, Amanda Vice-Chairman
Taylor, Sylvia (LAB) Chairman			Bonson, David
Callow, Maxine (CON) (Lead)			Doherty, Gary
Stansfield, Andrew, (CON) (Lead)			Johnson, Ian
Henderson MBE, Lily (CON) (Lead)			Tierney-Moore, Heather
Galley, Paul (CON) (Lead)			Higgs, Jane
Robertson, Derek (CON)			Vacancy
Kershaw, Fred (Church Representative)			Rose, Joan
Vacancy (Church Representative)			Noble, Stuart
			Bone, Simon
			Emmess, Richard
Membership: 15 #	Membership: 9	Membership: 9	Membership: 20
Labour 10	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

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 Galley**

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**

Item 6 - Notice of Motion

To consider the following motions which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1 :-

a) CLASSIFICATION OF HOLIDAY FLATS. Councillor Smith to propose.

“Blackpool Council is concerned that holiday flats and permanent flats fall within the same use class in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). Both currently fall within use Class C3 - 'dwellinghouses' and hence there is no material change of use involved if a holiday flat changes to a permanent flat (unless there is a condition or conditions attached to the planning permission which preclude the change).

This is a problem in Blackpool for a number of reasons. Many holiday flats were approved in the 1960's, 1970's and early 1980's when it was never envisaged that there would be a reduced demand for this type of accommodation and hence no conditions were applied to the planning permissions to restrict them solely to holiday flats.

The Council considers that holiday flats would be more appropriately classed as C1 which comprises the following 'hotel, boarding house or guesthouse'. This would allow holiday flats to be converted to hotels and guesthouses without requiring planning permission whilst retaining the holiday character of streets in the town whilst preventing the creation of further one bed flats in the town of which there is already a substantial stock.

The Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to seek a change in the legislation so that holiday flats fall within use Class C1, rather than C3, for the reasons outlined”

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