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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 8 September 2015

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, 16 September 2015 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 8 JULY 2015

(Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 July 2015 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 EXECUTIVE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL (Pages 7 - 42)

To consider the attached reports to Council from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs) and the Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities). The Council will also be asked to consider the report from the Fire Authority Representatives.

5 CONSTITUTIONAL, PROPER OFFICER AND STATUTORY OFFICER CHANGES (Pages 43 - 48)

To seek the necessary approvals to update the Council's constitution due to recent changes in statutory and proper officer positions. It also seeks to clarify and update the key decision definition and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

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 Governance Senior Adviser, 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.

Present:

Councillor Callow (in the Chair)

Councillors

Benson	Critchley	Kirkland	Singleton
Blackburn	Cross	Matthews	Smith
Brown	Elmes	Maycock	Stansfield
Cain	Galley	Mitchell	I Taylor
Mrs Callow JP	Mrs Henderson MBE	O'Hara	L Taylor
Campbell	Humphreys	Owen	L Williams
Clapham	Hunter	Robertson BEM	T Williams
D Coleman	Hutton	Roberts	Mrs Wright
I Coleman	Jackson	Ryan	
Collett	Jones	Scott	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive

Alan Cavill, Director of Place

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Karen Smith, Deputy Director of People (Adult Services)

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services/ Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Joe Robinson, Communications Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2015

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council held on 22 May 2015 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor paid tribute to the work of Councillor Ryan, Armed Forces Champion, Council staff and Tony Jo in making the Armed Forces week a success.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Neil Smyth, UNISON representative, addressed the Council on the cessation of the Supported Living service. The Cabinet Member for Reducing Inequalities and Adult Safeguarding, Councillor Eddie Collett, responded on behalf of the Council.

5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in their portfolio areas. All the reports covered decisions taken, work in progress and projects to be undertaken in the near future. Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

Notes:

1. Councillor Campbell agreed to provide a response to Councillor Mrs Callow on progress in relation to Norbreck North tram stop.
2. In response to the question raised by Councillor Mrs Callow, Councillor Mrs Wright agreed to provide a written response on how many households used the wheeled bin management facility and how regularly the recipients of the service were reviewed to ensure that their need existed.

6 COUNCIL PLAN 2015/ 2020

The Council considered the recommendation from the Executive from its meeting on 22 June 2015 in relation to the timeline for the development of the Council Plan 2015-2020.

Members noted that early proposals were for the Plan to be based on two key priorities: 'The Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool' and 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

The proposed development process was outlined which included staff and public consultation as well as consultation with key partnerships and stakeholders, with the intention for the plan to be considered at the Council meeting in September 2015.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

'To agree the proposed timeline for the production of the Council Plan 2015/2020.'

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

7 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Members considered the recommendation from the Executive on the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy that set out how the Council intended to exercise its functions under the Licensing Act 2003.

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The Council noted that consultation on the draft Policy had taken place between December 2014 and March 2015 and comments had been considered by the Licensing Committee before recommendation of approval to the Executive.

Motion: Councillor Campbell proposed (and Councillor Blackburn seconded):

‘To approve the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy as submitted to the Licensing Committee and the Executive.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Council considered the decision from the Executive in relation to forms of community engagement and specifically the recommendation in relation to Area Forums. In doing so, members recognised that the effectiveness of Area Forums as a community engagement tool was limited and that other forms of engagement had been piloted and had proved to be highly effective. Discussion took place on alternative options for engaging residents on shaping services and Council priorities.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

‘To agree the discontinuation of the Area Forums from 1 September 2015.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

9 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Members considered the recommendation from the Standards Committee in relation to a revised Code of Conduct for Members following a review of the Code with representatives from the Standards Committees from both Blackpool Council and Fylde Borough Council, along with the independent persons.

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

‘To approve the revised Code of Conduct for Members.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

10 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (STANDING ORDERS) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2015 - APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF SENIOR OFFICERS

Members received a report on legislative changes in relation to instances where a statutory Chief Officer was subject to disciplinary procedures and noted that the Council was required to invite its independent persons to form a Panel that would make recommendations to the Council in such cases. Consultation had taken place with the independent members who had agreed to fulfil this role.

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

1. To authorise the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to amend the Chief Officer Employment Rules to reflect the changes, as described within the Council report, relating to the new Regulations.
2. To agree to appoint a Disciplinary Panel to comprise of the three Independent Persons who have been appointed under the Members' Code of Conduct framework (Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011), as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the Council report.'

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

11 EXECUTIVE, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Proposals were considered by the Council to amend the Procedural Standing Orders in light of the recent restructure of the Executive and Cabinet Members' areas. The proposals were that Executive reporting at Council would comprise three reports at a senior level on corporate, strategic and policy matters with Executive members being held to account on the targets and performance within their areas of responsibility at scrutiny committee meetings.

Members noted that the proposals also included provision for the Chairman of the Audit Committee to report to Council on an annual basis in line with the agreed powers and duties of that Committee.

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

1. To adopt a revised a procedural standing order for Council meetings to replace Council Procedural Standing Order 10 as attached at Appendix 11(a) to the Council report, subject to the deletion of the words 'ward specific' at paragraph 10.4 of the Appendix.
2. To reaffirm the processes for holding the Executive to account through the challenge of corporate, policy and strategic matters at Council and the performance of Executive and Cabinet Member areas of responsibility through the scrutiny process.'

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

12 POLITICAL ASSISTANTS

The Council considered the principle of the appointment of political assistants within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. In doing so, members noted that agreement of the principle would not commit the Groups to make an appointment, but would establish the framework within which such appointments could be made.

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Members were aware that such posts were subject to specific conditions, including remuneration and that political assistants worked directly for the political groups rather than as mainstream officers within the officer structure of the Council.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

1. To approve the principle of appointing political assistants within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
2. To agree that one post be allocated each to the Labour and Conservative Groups and the procedure at paragraph 5.6 of the Council report be followed, should a group wish to make an appointment.'

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, Blackburn, Cain, Campbell, D Coleman, I Coleman, Collett, Critchley, Elmes, Humphreys, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Jones, Kirkland, Matthews, M Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Ryan, Singleton, Smith, I Taylor, L Taylor, L Williams, Mrs Wright - **total 26.**

Against the motion: Councillors Brown, Mrs Callow, Clapham, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Maycock, Roberts, Robertson, Scott, Stansfield, T Williams - **total 11.**

Abstentions: Councillor Callow - **total 1.**

Motion carried: The motion was therefore carried.

13 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council received the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel that had met to undertake a full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Members also considered the proposals to recruit two additional panel members following the sad death of Mr Morris and the wish to add another person to the Panel to assist with its work.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

1. To agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out at Appendix 13(a) of the Council report.
2. That the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly.

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3. That the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to advertise for two additional members of the Independent Remuneration Panel following the vacancy indicated at paragraph 5.3 to the Council report and to liaise with the two Group Leaders in undertaking this recruitment and then to make recommendations to Council , the criteria for appointment being the same as previously applied.'

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 8.10 pm)

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

Report to:	Council
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting	16 September 2015

EXECUTIVE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the attached reports to Council from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs) and the Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities). The Council will also be asked to consider the report from the Fire Authority Representatives.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider and comment on the attached reports.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To hold the Executive to account on their work since the last Council meeting and also to receive feedback and comment on the work of the Fire Authority.

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:

None, this is the process agreed by Council on 8th July 2015.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce."

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At the meeting of the Council on 8 July 2015, it was agreed that as the full Council meeting has responsibility for corporate, policy and strategic matters, that Executive Members are held to account at the Council meeting in these areas. This was to help reduce the number of written responses to questions raised at Council relating to operational and technical issues, which were not always readily known by the Executive Members and it was acknowledged that this information was available through other channels and could be provided within a normal enquiry route to officers or Cabinet Members, without the need for time to be spent on these issues at Council meetings.

5.2 Executive Member Reports

In view of the above, Council agreed that Executive Member reporting at Council meetings, should comprise three Executive reports to Council at a senior level on corporate, policy and strategic matters. These would be presented by the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs) and the Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities) and which would cover the full range of Executive functions and would encourage question and comments of a corporate, policy or strategic nature.

5.3 Council agreed that reports from the Combined Fire Authority representatives remained in line with current practice, but be subject to the time limits agreed as part of the overall process.

5.4 In summary, the process would go as follows:

- a. Presentation of the report by either the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs), Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities) or Fire Authority Representative – up to three minutes per report (warning at two minutes)
- b. Questions and comment from members of the Council – up to 15 minutes per report (warning at 14 minutes).
- c. The person who presented the report at (a) above will have up to ten minutes to answer the questions asked (warning at nine minutes). With regard to the Senior Executive members referred to at one above, their supporting Cabinet Members may also answer on their behalf within this ten minute period.

5.5 For completeness, the revised procedural standing order 10 agreed by Council is detailed below:

10. Executive Member and other Member reports to Council

- 10.1 At each ordinary meeting of the Council, the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Secretary (Senior Executive Member) shall present a report to the Council. These reports will cover corporate, policy and strategic issues in their areas of responsibility.
- 10.2 On a twice a year basis, at an ordinary meeting of Council, consideration will be given to a report from the Council appointed representatives from the Combined Fire Authority. On an annual basis, the Chairman of the Council's Audit Committee will also present a report to Council on the work of that Committee.
- 10.3 Each Senior Executive Member, a nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee will have a maximum of three minutes to present their report to the Council. The Mayor (or other person presiding) will then ask for questions and comments on each report. A period of not more than 15 minutes shall be allowed for oral questions or comments from members (including those from other Cabinet Members) on each report, at the expiry of which the persons set out above, shall be given a period of not more than ten minutes to answer. The Senior Executive Members may also request additional information from the Cabinet Members within their areas of responsibility or for Cabinet Members to respond on their behalf within the ten-minute period.
- 10.4 With regard to the Senior Executive Member reports, questions and comments should relate to any corporate, policy or strategic issue within their portfolio. Questions of technical or purely operational nature may be disallowed by the Mayor, or the Senior Executive Member to whom such a question is directed may decline to answer or state that a written answer will be provided.
- 10.5 In deciding whether a question is technical or operational in nature, as opposed to a matter of general policy, the Mayor and members shall have regard to any guidance issued by the Monitoring Officer.
- 10.6 In connection with the Combined Fire Authority representative or the Chairman of the Audit Committee, questions will be permitted on any area of their reports or of their responsibility.

- 10.7 No supplementary questions/ comments shall be permitted after the response has been given.
- 10.8 In the absence of a Senior Executive Member, the Leader of the Council will appoint another Executive Member to deliver the report and respond to questions/ comments.
- 10.9 A response may be given as set out in Procedural Standing Order 11.3.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 4(a) – Report of the Leader of the Council
- Appendix 4(b) – Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
- Appendix 4(c) – Report of the Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities)
- Appendix 4(d) – Report of the Combined Fire Authority Representatives

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None, other than the reports have been agreed as part of the constitution.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The proposals ensure that Executive Members are held to account at the right level and the Council receives appropriate feedback on the work of the Fire Authority.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 One of the Council’s values is accountability and these proposals help enforce this principle.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL –‘CORPORATE’ PORTFOLIO AREA
COUNCILLOR SIMON BLACKBURN

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council’s website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Corporate Issues

Financial Monitoring

Financial performance monitoring in the early part of 2015/ 2016 has highlighted financial pressures emerging in Children’s Services, Adult Services, Property Services, Concessionary Fares, Parking Services, Community and Environmental Services and Places with estimated working balances forecast to fall by £3,466,000 against the budgeted position over the year. This fall is in the context of working balances at the start of the year of £6,188,000, an erosion of 56%.

The latest month 3 financial performance report for 2015/ 2016 was reported to the Executive on 14 September.

The Budget for 2015/ 2016 required total savings to be found of £25.2 million. As at 30 June 2015 (month 3) 67% of the 2015/ 2016 savings target had already been delivered. The current full-year forecast predicts that 86% will be achieved by the year-end, which takes into account new in-year pressures and savings and work is underway to close this gap further with alternative savings plans.

The full-year effect of the 2015/ 2016 savings in 2016/ 2017 amounts to 62% of the £25.2 million target. This is an encouraging position after only three months.

Revenues and Benefits Performance

Council tax collection at the end of July was 36.4% (36.4% as at July 2014). A review of collection and recovery options for working age Council Tax Reduction customers is underway. The aim will be to focus resource on collection from those who are able to pay and engage other services with those who cannot to provide budgeting or other advice. Business rates collection at the end of July was 35.7%, a significant improvement on the same period last year of 33.5%.

The average time to process new benefit claims and changes for July was 34 days. Work is ongoing to reduce the backlog.

Member Induction and Training

Since the election, the Democratic Governance team has been working with the eight new members to arrange induction sessions into the work of the Council. This has covered a number of areas of the work of the Council and allowed the members to settle into their new roles quickly. We have also taken the opportunity to refresh the Member Training Panel to

enable it to lead on and assess specific projects relating to member learning and development. This will hopefully involve new and long serving members and be a key cross party group.

Blackpool Council Plan 2015/ 2020

Consultation on the refreshed Council Plan is now complete and the final document will be submitted to the next Council meeting. The purpose of the Council Plan is to provide a clear and concise summary of the Council's vision for Blackpool and the key actions that the Council will take to work towards achieving that vision. Over three quarters of the 397 respondents to the consultation reported that the new vision for Blackpool "fully" or "mostly" reflects their own view. Actions felt by the respondents to be particularly important in addressing the two priorities were the regeneration of the town centre, and encouraging civic pride and community involvement.

Budget-setting engagement

An exercise encouraging residents to consider how they would allocate funding across services was launched last month and will continue into September. Used by nearly 100 different Councils across the country, the Simalto method allows people to make decisions between competing priorities, allowing them to take a view on the budget as a whole and understand the financial challenges we are facing. Residents have been invited to take part face to face or through an online survey, with the findings being used to inform initial discussions on the budget setting process. This is a precursor to consultation on specific proposals later in the year.

Strategic Issues

Risk Services

The Corporate Risk Management Group, in conjunction with the Corporate Leadership Team, has reviewed the Council's Strategic Risk Register to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that there is a robust process in place for monitoring progress against the identified controls. The Corporate Business Continuity Plan is being updated and refined including prioritising the critical activities list to be clear in relation to which services cannot fail in order to provide essential services to the community should an incident at the Council occur.

The Council is participating in the North West Chief Auditors Group to develop a peer review process to ensure that the requirements for an external review of the internal team against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards can be met in the most cost effective way.

A spend-to-save business case is being implemented which has seen investment in a system to assist with the detection and investigation of potentially fraudulent insurance claims.

Community Connectors

The Community Connectors programme was launched on 3 September under the auspices of the Fairness Commission. The first cohort of connectors has been identified due to their involvement with the Area Forums previously and they will help to shape the future direction of the project. It is hoped that within five years we can have as many as 1500 community connectors, who will be community minded citizens who will embark on basic training to allow them to help the community support each other. For example, they might organise litter picks or planting projects, they might support lonely or isolated people who want to go

to local clubs and groups but do not have the confidence to go alone, there are a range of projects for them to undertake depending on their skills and interests.

Blackpool Museum

The Council has set out to create a brand new museum for Blackpool and for the nation. It will bring together the objects, stories and memories which together tell the local, national and international Blackpool Story. The museum will be in the Pavilion Theatre within Blackpool's historic Winter Gardens.

Blackpool Museum Project held two public open days in the Pavilion Theatre on 28 and 29 August, 11am to 4pm, to allow members of the local community and visitors to get a taster of what is to come, give us their feedback and tell us their stories.

Policy Issues

Welfare Reforms

The impact of the welfare reforms announced in the recent Chancellor's Budget is being analysed to understand the effect on residents. A report will be made available providing information and case studies to inform members and officers.

The changes will have an impact on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working-age customers and place additional costs upon the Council. Impact and financial modelling is underway, the data will enable Scheme options for 2016/ 2017 and beyond to be prepared and appraised.

Transforming Services

Channel Shift

The Channel Shift Bulky Matters service review is now complete and the process can be completed end to end on the website. Missed Bins process is currently being tested together with the revised process for reporting fly tipping.

ICT Support

The team has recently supported the following implementations to enable services to become more efficient and effective:

- Catering services have recently equipped schools kitchens with an app (Cypad) to enable Schools kitchens to be managed more effectively
- School Admissions service with a pilot of web chat to enable for more effective delivery of the schools admissions process
- Libraries with the implementation of new public access Google Chrome Devices and Self Service Printing Facilities

Working with Partners

Support for People in Crisis

The Council is working with the Blackpool Food Partnership and the Citizens Advice Bureau on a bid for funds to assist people in crisis. It is hoped that funds will be secured for an additional debt worker within the Central Advice Team.

ICT Supporting Partners

The Council has recently signed off the implementation of delivering a managed IT Service for local charity Empowerment.

Through partnership working with the Blackpool NHS IT Services the free Wi-Fi Service (Wireless Blackpool) is to be extended further beyond Victoria Hospital and walk in centres to additional NHS sites to include some GP surgeries and health centres.

Faith engagement and social action

In partnership with Together Lancashire and the local Faith community a major exercise has been completed to map the extent of social and community support contributed by Blackpool churches and other faith groups. Well over 60 initiatives are now included and when the work is finalised it will help to deepen cooperation between faith groups and Council services to work together on tackling poverty and social need. It is also hoped the project will lay the foundations for a new strategic Faith Covenant between the Council and faith leaders in the town, to build on the work of recent initiatives such as the Blackpool Food Partnership.

Combined Authority for Lancashire

I have been involved in talks with Leaders of all the Lancashire district councils, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire County Council to consider setting up a Combined Authority to oversee strategic decisions, which could bring in additional funding to the whole of Lancashire as part of devolved powers for the English regions. The Chief Executive and I will have delivered an update to councillors before this meeting and a formal report on the governance review and a full scheme will be submitted to Council at the next meeting in November.

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (TOURISM, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOBS) – COUNCILLOR GILLIAN CAMPBELL

The Places area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Fred Jackson (Municipal Assets),
- Councillor Wright (Housing, Procurement and Income Generation) and
- Councillor Mark Smith (Business and Economic Development).

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Corporate Issues

Award of Contracts

A total of 16 contracts have been awarded within the Council since the last report with a total value of up to £4.2m and 55% being awarded to local suppliers.

Procurement has also acted on behalf of Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited in awarding four contracts (value £151,000 of which 66% local) and one school in awarding one contract (£27,000 out of area).

Town centre

A number of decisions relating to major developments were taken over recent weeks. These include the relocation of the Police Station to enable development of the Central Station Site and also to agree to keep the Town Centre Policing right in the heart of the town. The Housing Company Limited has now gone live and has been focusing on the first properties that will see the benefit of improvement, but also start the process of stabilising these communities working with many other Council services. Work on further improvements to the Town Centre is being championed by the Cabinet Member for Business and Economic Development, which will build on the established and recent development announcements we have seen to further improve the reputation of the town for entertainment, eating and shopping. A consultation into the provision of car parking to service the town centre and the tourism industry has commenced and I will be reporting on the outcome of this at a future meeting.

Bridge Funding

The Council has been successful in seeking funding from two sources to enable essential repairs and reconstruction of ten strategic bridges to be undertaken at a total estimated cost of £11.365m.

The funding is comprised of £4.23m from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, via a strategic outline business case for Growth Funding and the remaining £7.135m, which includes £1.5m from the Local Transport Plan funding, from the Department for Transport.

The Executive meeting in October will consider a report detailing the programme of works in relation to the ten bridges, with the first to be upgraded being Princess Street bridge post the Illuminations.

Public Space Protection Orders

On 20 October 2014, the Government implemented the Anti-Social behaviour and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act). The purpose of the Act is to give local authorities and the Police more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), providing better protection for victims and communities.

Amongst these new tools and powers are Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's), which are designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. It is for each individual Council to determine what behaviour(s) they want to make the subject of a Public Space Protection Order.

A consultation exercise has been carried out regarding the implementation of PSPO's in the town centre and promenade, and involved in excess of 1,000 people through either face to face interviews, online or paper responses. As a result, draft PSPO's for the town centre and promenade have been produced and will be considered by the Executive in October, with Parks following later in the year.

Travellers

The month of August was a particularly challenging period in relation to travellers entering Blackpool. A large number accessed South Shore car park, with smaller groups entering public land on Lawson's Field, Collingwood Avenue and Mereside. In all instances, Environmental Protection, Street Cleansing, Parks, Legal Services and Parking Services addressed the situation immediately, acting in conjunction with the Police. The appropriate notices followed by orders were issued and presented to Court in terms of compliant and summons. Going forward, a review will take place with the Police to strengthen intelligence gathering, aiding in better planning and management of the situation.

Strategic Issues

Queens Park

The Queens Park Compulsory Purchase Order 2014 Vesting Declaration has now been made, vesting lands in the Council from 19 August 2015. Only possible rights to compensation remain for affected owners.

New Housing Company

The 1 August 2015 was a significant date in the establishment of the Blackpool Housing Company Limited with Council staff formally TUPE'd to the new Company and the new Company Director, David Galvin starting work. The Company is overseen by a new Board, chaired by Councillor Ivan Taylor and is planning its first property acquisitions. Initial capital funding and Service Level Agreements between the Council and the new Company are currently being agreed.

Visits from Heritage Lottery Fund Chairman and Arts Council England Chief Executive

Through the improvements to the Tower, Winter Gardens and the Illuminations and the introduction of new products such as LeftCoast (Creative People and Places) and the

Museum, the Council has been working to reposition Blackpool nationally as a must-see cultural destination and creative town as part of its approach to driving economic growth. This work has now been recognised and took another step forward recently when we hosted two visits from the Chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund followed by the new Chief Executive of the Art Council.

Highway Asset Strategy

A new Highways Asset Strategy is being developed, which when approved will set the way forward for a Highways Asset Management Plan. This plan is to be based on the future aspirations for the town's highway network.

The Strategy and Highways Asset Management Plan is now a statutory requirement placed on every local highway authority and forms part of their new funding model.

In 2014, the Department for Transport (DfT) undertook a review of capital funding for highways maintenance and as a result there will be a move from 2017 towards incentivising Council's to adopt long term strategic planning via their respective Highways Asset Management Plans. From 2017, these plans will be scored and categorised into Bands One, Two and Three (Three being the best score) denoting the DfT's assessment of the quality of each plan. Based on this scoring funding will be calculated.

Policy Issues

Collections Management Framework

We are currently working on a Collections Management Policy Framework for later this year for the Council's historic collections. It will be considered for formal approval by the Executive. This is a structured method for improving the way we develop, care for and make our heritage collections accessible. The framework is essential if we are to retain accredited status.

Tattoo Rating Scheme

A scheme of inspection and rating has been introduced and rolled out to all Tattoo and body treatment businesses in the borough. The scheme is aimed at driving up hygiene standards at these type of premises and been welcomed by the industry. The scheme has attracted huge regional press coverage to date. The results of the inspection are displayed in the window of each shop and also published online.

Selective Licensing

In the Claremont area, the team has visited 2,632 properties in the last 12 months and issued to date 1008 licences. There is a proposal to introduce selective licensing in the Central area and the consultation for this started on 17 July 2015 and will last for ten weeks. This area is as big as both the previous areas put together. There are eight events within the proposed area for landlords and tenants with a presentation followed by a question and answer session and they have been well attended so far.

Transforming Services

Cultural Services

We have been consulting with the public and ward members about the best use of the library resource. With fabulous new state of the art IT equipment being rolled out to our libraries it is important that we understand fully how people want to access libraries and that we open at the best times we can for this. Clearly we need to take into account the resources that we have but we know that we can improve accessibility to these critical services by making some tweaks to the opening times and other operating systems.

I have also been looking at the overall governance in Cultural Services to see if there are any better models out there that either improve the services offered and/ or reduce the costs to the Council. This is an ongoing process and will report before then end of the year.

Positive Steps into work will be launching a recruitment service for employers in the next couple of months. We have been trialing this with some employer partners and the service has been very well received. The service will use all of the skills the team has picked up running the employment contract and will help us to target job opportunities to residents in the most need.

Tomorrow we will launch EC² Virtual Office Services aimed at businesses that would benefit from having an office presence without the full cost of renting. This should be particularly helpful to small, start-up and self-employed businesses.

Street Cleansing/Domestic Waste

Closer working practices are being considered between Street Cleansing and Domestic Waste, the latter of which is operated under a contract with Veolia. The aim will be to consider how bringing the services together can provide service improvements and efficiencies.

Seagull proof sacks are currently being trialed in areas that receive a weekly black sack collection. This is an attempt to combat the sacks being ripped open and strewn across the street. Initial findings are that they are proving an effective deterrent and are well received by the residents and the refuse collection teams. Rollout across other areas is currently being considered.

Domestic Euro Containers are also being rolled out to certain black sack areas and poor performing wheeled bin areas. The aim again is to keep the area clean and tidy and assist residents to manage their rubbish in the most effective way, making it easier to do the right thing.

Both of the above initiatives are proceed by a leaflet drop and door-knocking campaign to inform and educate residents.

Working with Partners

Cosy Homes in Lancashire

The Council is the lead authority for 15 local authorities across Lancashire for the Cosy Homes in Lancashire project and is currently finalising contract documentation with prospective funder(s).

Joint Working with the Health Trust

Partnership working arrangements between Property Services and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals continue to progress well and an initial expression of interest to bid for up to £250,000 of 'One Public Estate' funding has recently been submitted to strengthen joint working with other public sector bodies on a Fylde Coast footprint through the development of the Fylde Coast Asset Management Forum and development of a data mapping exercise to identify the collective public sector estate for the area.

The Enterprise Zone and Business Development

We have been working with colleagues in Fylde and Lancashire to develop the case for an enterprise zone and I am pleased to confirm that we have met the business case requirements set by Treasury and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the new zone is set to be announced later this year. The Enterprise Zone (EZ) will go live from 1 April 2016 and run until 2037. There is much work to be done between now and then to make the EZ operational.

There is increasing national attention on what can be done to help people with permanent or temporary health conditions to gain employment in theory this situation affects more than 11,000 residents in Blackpool. The Council is leading the way by integrating employment and health support. A £2.1m programme, using money won from the Government, will offer specialist employment support alongside parallel therapies to around 1,000 unemployed residents working with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals.

Following much work with existing owners and a forward thinking developer I am pleased to report that we have approved a planning application for a 130 bedroom hotel on the site of the existing Palm Beach Hotel. It is hoped that this development will also deal with the adjacent property which was the Warwick Hotel. With developments underway or planned on the majority of the properties in the South Shore Crescents we are sure this lead to a significant change in appearance of that area in the coming months.

Schools Culture Hub

Blackpool is one of only six 'Culture Hub' pilot projects/ areas to be supported. The investment has been targeted in areas of low engagement where groups of children and young people are at risk of missing out on experiencing a high quality cultural offer. We have received funding of £150,000 over two years, with more to follow, based on our performance to date. The Blackpool Culture Hub partnership includes Blackpool Cultural Services – libraries, arts and heritage, Children's Services, Blackpool Music Hub, Grundy Art Gallery, Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, Grand Theatre, LeftCoast and Blackpool Schools' Partnership.

Highway Consultative Forum

The Highway Consultative Forum is proving extremely successful, enabling local people to be a part of the decision making process in relation to highways and traffic management.

Key stakeholders of business, visitor economy, transport, Police and disability groups are inputting in to the forum. In relation to disability groups, Low Vision and N-Vision have publicly thanked the Council for involving them and listening to their concerns and views.

Rover

The mobile recycling unit, Rover, is delivered by our third sector partner Helping Hands and services those residents with no access to a car, which is in excess of 50% in some areas of Blackpool, won the 'Letsrecycle.com' National Award for Excellence in waste management and recycling.

ReNew Workshop

The ReNew workshop continues to go from strength to strength, delivered in partnership with third sector partner Furniture Matters. The facility opened in June 2014 and has begun training courses in IT and white goods repair and refurbishment and is on target to reach 72 people completing an accredited course in the first year.

In addition to IT and white goods, a furniture restoration unit has been developed within the footprint of the warehouse, which will contribute to the sustainability of the overall project and provide increasing numbers of training opportunities for local people and increased items for resale in the HWRC shop and distribution through the Social Fund.

Over 200 items have been repaired and refurbished to date, with weekly nine volunteers and six placements, with the following courses being delivered:

- Domestic appliance repair and PC build both at Level 2
- 10-week courses for adults aged 18+ not currently in work
- Four day tester training for young people under 18
- 17-week traineeship programme for young people NEET aged 16 years to 18 years.

Bulky Matters

Bulky Matters operates in partnership with third sector group Furniture Matters and has made 1090 collections so far this year, collecting 5,184 items, 388 of which have been reused and 2,365 recycled, achieving a recycling rate of 55%.

Watch out for scams

Criminals worldwide are sending letters and making phone calls which trick millions of people into parting with billions of pounds every year. Blackpool Trading Standards have been working with the Citizens Advice Bureau to promote awareness of scams to local residents and have attended several events during National Scams Month in July. We have also made a number of visits to residents who have been the victims of scams and in some cases were able to return monies paid out by the victims.

Night Time Economy Working Group

The Working Group met earlier in the summer to pull together its final report. Amongst its outcomes has been the production of a new manual, which has been distributed to licensed premises, setting out key information and sample documentation. The objective is to underpin expected standards in licensed premises and provide consistent information to all our premises. The manual has been endorsed by the British Institute of Innkeepers (BII).

The Working Group has also supported the Council's Public Health team, which has provided funding to train all bar staff in the town, with 160 staff already completing the BII Accredited training. The objective is to raise the standards and knowledge of all the staff working in the night time economy. The Group also welcomed and supported the recent re-introduction of

the CCTV in the Town Centre and had done some research on a proposed late night levy. With regard to the late night levy, it was noted that further work was required before a view was taken and this would be an issue for the Licensing Committee to consider.

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CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor John Jones (School Improvement and Children’s safeguarding),
- Councillor Eddie Collett (Reducing Health Inequalities and Adult Safeguarding) and
- Councillor Maria Kirkland (Third Sector Engagement and Development).

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council’s website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Corporate Issues

September Guarantee

Each year every Local Authority is measured on the percentage of school leavers and Year 12 Leavers (17 year old Sixth Form and College Students) who are offered a learning opportunity at a college or training provider by the end of September. At the end of July, 87.3% of 2015 school leavers had either been offered a place or were awaiting the outcome of an application – a similar position to July 2014 (87%). The position for Year 12 Leavers is ahead of this time last year – 59.2% have been offered a place or were awaiting the outcome of an application at the end July 2015 compared with 46.8% July 2014. Early September is the peak activity period against this measure when the major colleges share data and young people who do not appear to have an offer are contacted by phone in the evenings and weekends or through a home visit.

HeadStart

This is a Big Lottery Funded project which forms part of their systems programs alongside Better Start and Multiple and Complex Needs. Blackpool Council is the lead agency and the overall aim of the program is to reduce the number of young people that develop mental ill health by achieving a whole systems change regarding the way in which young people are supported to become more resilient with an emphasis on the way we model and deliver services to them and their families. There is currently a pilot project being delivered as a test and learn opportunity and the preparation for the stage three bid has begun which could see up to £10 million investment in the town over a five year period. The deadline for the bid is 26 February 2016.

The Big Lottery Fund has indicated that the bid should reflect young people’s experiences in school, the family home, the local community and in the digital environment, which will highlight cross cutting issues for the HeadStart partnership.

The programme will include the challenge of modelling a whole system that can support the necessary integration of school, community, family and digital. This will have an impact on current service delivery and the systems in which they operate, for example a current piece of work is looking at the system regarding young people that self-harm, understanding what the

current system is from universal, targeted to specialist (including in- patient) and exploring what could be re modelled to achieve better outcomes for young people.

The vision for the HeadStart project is to increase the resilience of young people, families and the local community. It is envisaged that this will lead to beneficiaries being less dependent on services and having greater confidence/ ability/ autonomy in addressing their issues earlier before they require support from services. Included in this vision is the embedding of a co-production approach where potential/ current beneficiaries of services are involved in improving/ developing services, for example young people have been jointly commissioning services within HeadStart and defining what they feel best suits need.

Strategic Issues

Youth Employment

Year-end figures with the NEET Performance Scorecard have now been published in Blackpool. The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at the end of June was 7.0%, which was an improvement compared to the same time last year (7.5%). This equates to 354 young people. The percentage of young people who were “Not Known” to Connexions at the end of June 2015 was 6.6% which is an increase compared to the same time last year (5.0%). This is mainly due to a change in counting methodology in 2015, if a young person leaves the Blackpool area, evidence is now required of a young person registering with another Local Authority to be counted as “Left Area”, otherwise they are counted as “Not Known”. Blackpool has a relatively high number of young people who fall into this category due to the transient aspect of the population. The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds in learning is very similar to the same period last year 79.6% in June 2015 compared with 79.8% in June 2014. Work is ongoing across the town and in conjunction with partners to provide transition mentoring learning programmes and summer school courses.

National Minimum Wage/ National Living Wage

Increases to the National Minimum Wage from October 2015, place additional cost pressures on the providers of social care services and test the new duties under the Care Act that are designed to ensure that Councils take account of the viability of the rates they pay for care in relation to the services they commission. Work is underway with providers to understand the impact of these measures and the potential offsets to costs provided by changes to National Insurance and Corporation Tax measures.

0 – 5’s Transition

Responsibility for commissioning Children’s 0-5 Public Health services transfers to Local Authorities on 1 October 2015. This includes health visiting and Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) targeted services for teenage mothers. Work is ongoing with Local Authorities and NHS England area teams to ensure a smooth transfer of commissioning.

From early in 2015 contract and performance meetings have been jointly undertaken between the current commissioners NHS England and Blackpool Council, meeting with the provider to focus on achieving the required outcome indicators for 0-5 services and ensuring that performance data reporting systems are compatible with Local Authority requirements prior to hand over in October.

Public Health Annual Report

In June 2015, the Public Health Annual Report 2014 was published. The purpose of the Public Health Annual Report is to present the Director of Public Health's independent assessment of local health needs, determinants and concerns. This year the report focused on health inequalities and provides Blackpool's response to the recommendations made in "Due North: Report of the Inquiry on Health Equity for the North." "Due North" was the final report of an inquiry that was commissioned by Public Health England to investigate the clear North/ South divide in health that exists in England.

The recommendations from 'Due North' were as follows:

- Tackle poverty and economic inequality within the North and between the North and the rest of England.
- Promote healthy development in early childhood.
- Share power over resources and increase the influence that the public has on how resources are used to improve the determinants of health.
- Strengthen the role of the health sector in promoting health equity.

The report describes the current picture in Blackpool, work that is currently ongoing in Blackpool and looks at what further actions should be taken to improve the health of everyone in Blackpool. This year there is just a single recommendation arising from the Public Health Annual Report namely that all the recommendations for local action set out in the Due North report are implemented without delay.

Policy Issues

School Support and Advice

The School Improvement Service continues to provide support, advice and challenge in relation to category of need. The categories used to determine need are under review. The new categories will mirror more effectively judgements made in the new Ofsted Common Inspection Framework, which came into force in September. The new categories will also support the drive to move 'Good' schools towards 'Outstanding'.

Adoption

There has been a change in funding to adoption services. The Government announced an additional £30m national funding as part of the summer budget to pay fees (currently £27,000 per adopter) when a child is placed with an adopter recruited and approved by another agency. This means Blackpool is able to recoup in the region of £300,000 this financial year.

OFSTED

OFSTED has just concluded consultation on the format for multi-agency thematic inspections. It is proposed that it will undertake six inspections nationally between October and April, which will consider multi agency approaches to child sexual exploitation and missing from home. The format for the inspections will include a notice of inspection eight working days before the commencement of the fieldwork. During this period, agencies will be asked to jointly audit in the region of five cases. The Fieldwork will be a week long and will include all the relevant inspectorates with OFSTED acting as the lead. OFSTED will undertake an audit of the front door and then track cases through all agencies systems and processes. The

inspection will not be graded, but will produce a letter of priority and general actions for single and cross agency organisations.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

A development plan for services is in place, which is managed by the Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board sub group on CSE and includes actions from the ministerial review, which was undertaken in spring 2015. This includes:

- Increased training and public awareness raising
- A self-assessment and revised commissioning plan
- Improving data capture and sharing.

In addition, referral pathways are being improved so that young people can have faster access to the services they need. The service is also seeking additional resource to provide better data on missing from home and the link to CSE through a pan Lancashire bid to combat organized crime, which has secured additional monies for Blackpool.

Delays to key financial aspects of the Care Act

The cap on care costs and the plan to introduce a 'care account' was due to be introduced in April 2016, but has now been delayed to April 2020 following concerns about the timetable for implementation and calls for more funding for care and support. Some people currently pay something towards their care and support costs (depending on a means test to work out ability to pay) and will continue to do so. At the moment, if people have capital and savings above £23,250 they will fund all of their social care, subject to a local cap on costs.

For those who do have to pay the full amount for their own care there is now a national scheme called deferred payment agreements, which means that people should not have to sell their home within their lifetime to pay for their care.

Consultation on changes to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

In early July, the Law Commission published its consultation paper on deprivation of liberty, including proposals for a comprehensive scheme to replace the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards (DoLS). This is the legal framework for placing restrictions on the freedom of people without the mental capacity to agree to them and include a range of things from bed rails preventing a person getting out of bed unaided, to locking of doors and restrictions on the choices a person can make.

Councils, including Blackpool, have received additional funding to help with the extra costs of a huge increase in the number of cases brought within the DoLS framework following case law last year, which are now also adding to the volume of annual reviews needed. However, there are skill shortages (for example in Best Interest Assessors and Doctors) and existing pressures of work that are adding to these. Applications currently stand at an average of 60 applications per month since April 2015 compared with only 49 applications for the whole of 2013/ 2014. The funding received has also been split with the Coroner's service as the DoLS changes have also impacted on that service.

The Law Commission consider that there is a compelling case for replacing the DoLS, which are perceived to be overly technical and legalised and not meaningful for disabled people and their families or carers and are consulting on their proposals.

Increasing the uptake of Direct Payments

We have been successful in increasing the number of people taking direct payments in Blackpool over the last 12 months. Direct payments are monetary payments made to individuals who request to receive one to meet some or all of their eligible care and support needs. They provide independence, choice and control by enabling people to commission their own care and support in order to meet their eligible needs. Most people choose to employ their own personal assistants (PA), but greater autonomy and innovation are also encouraged. The Care Act confirms that direct payments remain the Government's preferred mechanism for personalised care and support.

The Direct Payments Team currently supports 434 people (93 Children with Disabilities and 341 Adults and Carers). This is an increase of over 14% from the 380 supported at the same time last year, with 115 new people being supported to access Direct Payments throughout this period.

Response to Public Health England: E-Cigarettes: an evidence update released 19 August 2015

The report claims to provide the best-evidence available for health professionals, policy makers and the public, to clarify the truth about the relative risks and benefits of e-cigarettes. There are a number of concerns we have raised regarding some areas within the report. The report highlights that e-cigarettes are 95% less harmful to your health than normal cigarettes, and helps smokers to quit tobacco altogether. However, this also contradicts advice from the World Health Organisation, who recommend that until such time that there is a product produced, that is deemed safe and effective and of an acceptable quality by a competent regulatory body, consumers should be strongly advised not to use any of these products.

The report fails to cover the effects that e-cigarettes may have on the normalisation of smoking e-cigarettes amongst children and young people. Recent data from the Health and Social Care Information Centre shows that Blackpool has the highest proportion of 15 year olds who have ever used e-cigarettes at 33.9% compared to England average of 18.4%. E-cigarette use is prevalent in young people who have never smoked tobacco. It is of great concern that non-smokers are taking up use of e-cigarettes and there is evidence emerging that a proportion of these are progressing to smoking tobacco. This is of concern given that nicotine use has been found to disrupt brain development in young people, which can have long-term, irreversible consequences on brain function.

Transforming Services

Commissioning

Following the release of Future in Mind the following Transformational and Systemic work is currently underway across Blackpool with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) acting as the lead partner agency around Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in Blackpool.

There is an expectation that each CCG locality area co-ordinates the effort across all agencies in relation to how Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services are delivered and that Transformational change is implemented. Delivering this requires real changes across the whole system. It means the NHS, all services within Local Authority (public health, social care, schools and youth justice sectors) must work together to meet set criteria.

CCG's will be expected to submit Transformational Plans to NHS England in October 2015 clearly articulating the case for change and evidencing how this will be achieved with all partners over the next five years.

Due to considerable investment in Blackpool from BIG Lottery (Better Start, Headstart and Fulfilling Lives), Blackpool Council, Blackpool CCG, NHS England and Lancashire MIND, around emotional well-being and mental health the Transformational Planning is timely in that it provides the Strategic Framework to ensure that this work is linked together to ensure a coherent system. This is necessary to ensure that complex commissioning arrangements and funding of new programmes is seamlessly linked.

A governance structure that will include ALL key partners will be implemented in order to take this work forward over the next five years. The structure will ultimately report to the Health and Wellbeing Board through the Children and Young People's Partnership Group. It will also link with Strategic Commissioning Group, Better Start Executive, Headstart Executive, CCG Executive Board, Clinical Leads Group and Commissioners Network Meeting.

Within the documents and also as part of additional press releases, the Government will increase the funding dedicated to Children's Mental Health Services. There is a recommendation for commitment by the Government of £250 million annual investment with outputs of 110,000 additional children and young people being treated within mental health services by 2020.

Looked After Children and Children's Homes

The number of children that are looked after is at the lowest level since 2012 (currently 443). However, this is significantly higher than the national and statistical neighbour average. This number of children places significant pressure on resources to support our children. Therefore, the strategy for 'Our Children' is being revised to include the following:

- A cultural shift away from the term 'looked after children' to 'our children' to strengthen the focus on the lived experience of the child and the corporate parenting function, if it would not be ok for our birth children it is not ok for these children. This means a number of plans are in place to drive up quality of provision and outcome.
- More robust edge of care provision to prevent reception into care, this will include exploration of models of intensive support and respite and links with Better Start to prevent multiple babies being removed from the same families.
- Revised commissioning, our current placement provision is not varied enough to meet the needs of the full range of our children, therefore the service is identifying young people for whom we could specifically family find, working with providers to extend the range of placements and also to reduce the costs by moving away from spot purchase arrangements.
- Rigorous approach to preventing breakdown, all placements which are at risk of breakdown will have a formal planning meeting to ensure additional support is provided and the data from those that breakdown will be captured to highlight service provision/ commissioning gaps.
- Robust approach to re unification, all of those children subject to placement with parents (i.e. on a care order, but placed at home) will be reviewed with a plan to discharge where appropriate. Tracking of placements will be improved to support better legal and parallel planning.

- Improved support to enhance educational and employment outcomes, all children will have a personal education plan in place by the end of next term. In addition social workers will take a more active role in understanding educational needs and working with young people in this area. Plans are in place to develop traineeships to support improved pathways into employment and apprenticeships.
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health support, many of our children have significant mental health needs, especially self-harming and it is very difficult to access appropriate services for them. We often have to purchase additional therapeutic support for our young people in placement and we are working with Health Commissioners to provide tri partite funding. In addition through the development of HeadStart the service is looking to access mental health support for our children including the development of a “friend for life” which provides young people with one consistent adult to support them.
- Care leavers drop in, work is ongoing to develop the care leavers drop in, the venue has now been secured and it is hoped building work can begin in September. JustUz have led the design of the building.

Safeguarding

An independent review of the front door to services (which included the efficacy of access to early help and social care) was undertaken in July 2015. This demonstrated that work is required to clarify roles and functions in relation to early help and simplify pathways to services. Work is therefore being undertaken with the Getting it Right and MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) steering groups being combined to ensure clarity of thresholds and support services across the multi-agency partnership and reduce the number of meetings required.

The pathways at the front door are also being simplified to remove the EAT and Catalyst service and combine them with MASH to ensure a more efficient route through providing more support pre-social care and a faster route to access social care services when thresholds are met. This realignment will also allow additional support into duty and assessment (the social care front door) and Awaken (the specialist CSE team) to improve capacity.

Troubled Families

Targets continue to be exceeded in this area and we have received a personally written note from Louise Casey praising the service lead. Blackpool has a nationally celebrated model for the delivery of the Troubled Families agenda, which focusses on a whole family approach to tackling persistent absence, crime and anti-social behavior and unemployment. Our target of 100% of families turned around in Phase One was met early and we were invited to become early implementers of Phase Two allowing us the opportunity to expand the programme and focus on locally relevant needs.

Extensive Care Services and Enhanced Primary Care

The Council is working closely with the CCG and Acute Trust on the planning and delivery of a transformational programme to deliver new models of care focused on groups of GP surgeries operating in a neighbourhood model. The aim is to deliver care much closer to home and reduce the need to attend or be admitted to hospital for treatment.

The first Extensive Care service for Blackpool has begun, located in Moor Park Primary Care Centre and health and social care professionals are working together to deliver a more

proactive service for people with two or more long-term conditions who have a history of repeated hospital admissions. Funding is being sought as part of the NHS Vanguard programme to help pay to get the changed services up and running whilst at the same time keeping existing services going during the period of change. As part of this work, new roles have been developed, such as Wellbeing Support Workers, who will be a key point of contact with people using the service and ensure that they are connected to all the right services at the right time, as well as tackling wider issues of social isolation and poor living conditions.

Blackpool Intermediate Care Commissioning Review (2015)

Intermediate care services provide help to get people out of hospital more quickly or to avoid them having to go into hospital in the first place. They are a range of health and social care services that aim to help people maintain or regain their independence for example residential rehabilitation, reablement at home, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Most people benefiting from these services are older people, although there is no age limit.

Work is currently underway to put together a plan for moving these services forward by bringing health and social care even closer together and ensuring that people have the best chance of achieving a good outcome from them. When working well, these services should reduce the number and length of hospital admissions and help to keep people out of long term residential care for longer.

Transforming Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Winterbourne Review)

The Council's specialist Extra Support Service supporting learning disabled adults at risk of challenging behaviour is working through a service development plan in response to the Department of Health (DoH) 'Transforming Care for Adults with a Learning Disability – Next Steps' which is directly linked to the Winterbourne Audit and Review.

Improving the skills of the workforce supporting people who 'challenge' is a key feature of Transforming Care. With a highly trained, skilled and experienced workforce the Extra Support Service will be equipped to support more individuals with very particular needs and risky behaviours within the local community and therefore preventing admissions to specialist hospitals and/or expensive out of area placements.

Working with Partners

Adult, Community and Family Learning

The Adult Learning Team has been working with the Equality Challenge Unit to raise awareness of equality issues facing learners in adult education. The project had three outcomes firstly to train a number of staff on equality and diversity, secondly to seek and sign up a variety of venues to the 'Safe Haven' project and thirdly to make a film concerning the communication used between members of the public and those from the transgender community. The film was very well received by not only the trans-community, but also by the funders who pronounced it an 'outstanding piece of work'. This will now go on to be used both locally and nationally as a training tool with organisations such as the NHS and the Government department BIS (Business Innovation and Skills).

The Adult Learning Team received funding to take part in the Mental Health Community Learning Pilot, which is looking at forming stronger partnership work with the NHS Mental Health Team and Public Health. A variety of courses are being delivered which are dual

facilitated by a tutor from Adult Learning and a Psychological Well-Being Practitioner. These courses include Stress Management, Work Related Stress and Depression and have been designed to help and support residents with mental health issues. The desired outcome is that residents of Blackpool will have an enhanced offer and a quicker route through a joined up service.

The Blackpool Music Service and Music Education Hub

The service continues to work at a local, national and regional level and after extensive regional choral finals in Blackpool, Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen, a Grand Finale was held in King George's Hall (Blackburn) on 19 June. Anchorsholme Primary Academy won and Norbreck Primary Academy came second. With hundreds of school choirs entering this competition credit must be given to the school choirs and their Head teachers.

Thirteen young instrumentalists have passed auditions for National Orchestras since September. After 13 years, it appears there are now appropriate and extensive progression routes in numerous genres of music for all pupils.

The Service's Spanish Tour with the Youth Concert Band started at the end of July. Thirty-eight instrumental ambassadors will perform in and around the Costa Brava and have an opportunity to experience new traditions and cultures. For many of them, this is their first time beyond the Borough of Blackpool.

Youth Offending Team (YOT)

The YOT Partnership has been working through its improvement plan since January 2015, which shall be subject to sign off by the Youth Justice Board in September 2015.

The partnership has achieved a number of targets including a continued reduction in First Time Entrant and Custody rates and a reduction in the number of offenders and re-offences. There has also been a reduction in the number of custodial remands, helped by the commissioning of a remand fostering service from a third sector provider.

The service has also seen an increase in funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Youth Justice Triage Service we commission from a third sector provider jointly with our two neighbouring YOTs and successful implementation of Youth Disposal Panels with our two neighbouring YOTs and our shared police service.

The YOT has also been subject to a commissioning review and service and staffing structures being revised in line with this. However, the Youth Justice Board has announced an additional in year cut of 14% to the grant, which means the service will need to save an additional £58,000. Therefore, the service will need to consider where efficiencies could be created, especially through co location or improved integration of services for vulnerable adolescents.

Pupil Welfare Service

The Pupil Welfare Service has built strong and promising relationships this academic year with Blackpool Schools and engagement in buy back is excellent leaving only two schools outside of service provision for the next academic year. Work to establish the core functions has progressed well and schools are all engaging in the process of register audits allowing us to safeguard all Blackpool young people in education.

Services around Schools

The Blackpool Challenge held its launch on 22 June at the Winter Gardens. The priority will be to support schools in their improvement journeys through Achievement for All, Challenge Partners and the World Class Programme.

Following the release of the Key Stage 3 results, the Blackpool Challenge Board will undertake the autumn conversation with Head teachers and Academy Sponsors in order to establish projections for 2016. Work will continue to revise the Area Education Strategy for 2017/2020.

After this summer's GCSE results the Blackpool Challenge Board will be focusing on strategies to secure the future progress and attainment of Blackpool children at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The performance of schools nationally and within Blackpool has gone down this year with Blackpool's 5A*-C English and Maths down from 44 to 41.8%. Investigations are underway with schools to clarify the impact of changes in grade boundaries for the IGSE English exam, which has affected three schools in Blackpool.

The impact of the Maths strategy at both primary and secondary is starting to show progress and the three levels of progress in Maths has improved slightly this year across Blackpool. The number of children achieving two good GCSEs in Science has improved by 4.6% however this remains a target area for further improvement as it is still a limiting factor for five Good GCSEs.

Educational Diversity has noted significant improvement in the number of children attaining a qualification.

Connexions

In conjunction with strategic partners/ providers across the town Connexions held its annual jobs and apprenticeship event at Blackpool Library in July. On offer there were over 500 apprenticeships and jobs for young people to apply for, alongside a range of volunteering opportunities. The event was well attended with 250 young people making the most of the opportunity.

Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board

The Blackpool Safeguarding Board continues to work with partner agencies to embed the multi-agency policy and protocol. The newly appointed Adult Board business manager took up the role in late June and an interim appointment of the Independent Chair for the Adult Board has been made. Both Adult and Children's Boards are also moving toward increased joint working through the merging of the training sub-groups. This joint working arrangement will maximise efficiency and minimise duplication of the work required. A training co-ordinator to work across both Boards and facilitate this approach is in post from 1 August 2015.

Working with 'The Challenge'

Blackpool Centre for Independent Living (BCIL) on Whitegate Drive has fostered a working relationship with "The Challenge" and Making Space. "The Challenge" is a UK charity dedicated to building a more integrated society, working on a local level to bring people together from all ages, ethnicities and walks of life, connecting communities and building trust. BCIL has hosted an event bringing together existing user groups at BCIL and students

working with The Challenge to create a new flag logo for the Centre, helping people with a variety of support needs to work together to create and “sell” their ideas. It was a great success for all involved and the groups are already planning more projects for the future.

Boil Water Notice across Lancashire

The recent Boiled Water Notice across parts of Lancashire was because of the contamination of the water supply with *Cryptosporidium*. This issue has now been dealt with by United Utilities. During the course of the incident and to ensure an appropriate and timely response to the contamination, Blackpool Council through its Director of Public Health took over the chairing of the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) Strategic Co-ordinating Group. This group coordinated the response and also ensured appropriate scrutiny and oversight of the United Utilities response. Through its Media Manager, Blackpool Council also took over the chairmanship of the LRF’s Strategic Media Advisory Cell to ensure that appropriate messages were being delivered to the public of Lancashire. The boiled water advice has now been lifted by United Utilities across the whole of Lancashire and all customers can now use their water supply as normal for all activities including drinking, food preparation and brushing your teeth.

Emergency Response Group skills sharing

Blackpool Council is working collaboratively with Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire County Council to support skills sharing for the Emergency Response Group (ERG). The ERG are volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the Council is able to provide a robust response to support people evacuated from their homes or in need of regular information, in the event of a major emergency, such as a large fire or flood, as part of our statutory responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act. The three authorities are working together to ensure that training is consistent, effective, and engaging, and that staff are supported to gain and retain the skills they need to provide the right response in times of need.

Anchorsholme Park

The £80m investment by United Utilities in Anchorsholme Park, which will see new pumping, storm water tanks and sewage overflow pipes in to deep water, is well underway. Ultimately the aim is to improve sea water quality and is part of a major investment programme across the Fylde Coast. Public consultation has been extensive and in particular, a new Master Plan for Anchorsholme Park has been developed with a huge number of local people involved. This will be invested through reinstatement works, with Community and Environmental Services aiming to secure additional funding to enhance the scheme.

Leisure Partnership

A new leisure partnership with Better Start has created new opportunities within each community for the transition of early years to upskill local parents to become leaders. The partnership identifies local residents and parents from the community to provide training and qualifications to increase their confidence in engaging children to participate in active recreation within the parks and local community facilities. The scheme has engaged 5,190 people during September 2014 – July 2015.

Blackpool Pride

This event was held on the weekend of 13 and 14 June. The event attracted over 8,000 people this year and has progressively grown over recent years and is now a key event in the tourism calendar, celebrating diversity with top class entertainment.

We are now working on an exciting opportunity to link this work into a transnational European partnership sharing good practice in promoting LGBT equality.

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS JACKSON, MATTHEWS AND T WILLIAMS

This report updates the Council on the work of the Combined Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is made up of 25 Councillors (19 representatives from Lancashire County Council three from Blackburn and Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met on three occasions, 16 February, 27 April and 22 June 2015. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of those meetings and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 16 FEBRUARY 2015

1. NATIONAL RESILIENCE ASSURANCE TEAM – MULTI-CAPABILITY ASSURANCE PROCESS – REPORT OUTCOMES FOR LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The National Resilience Assurance Team visited Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) on 7 and 8 January 2015 as part of the multi-capability assurance programme. Assurance visits are part of a wider assurance process designed to provide evidence to the National Resilience Board and key stakeholders that National Resilience (NR) capabilities (which are: Urban Search and Rescue, High Volume Pump and the Incident Response Unit) remain ready to respond to major or catastrophic incidents requiring mutual aid.

The quality of evidence provided against seven key areas of assessment was of a high standard, which demonstrated LFRS ability to respond using all NR capability, hosted by the Service, with mechanisms for initiating and maintaining that response in place. Conversely, there were no non-conformities identified, with three opportunities for improvement aligned to areas of conformity in the following areas: i) welfare arrangements (out of County); ii) welfare arrangements (in County) and iii) the function of Tactical Advisors. A schedule of work has been put in place to ensure that the opportunities for improvement are incorporated into LFRS policies and procedures.

Given the very positive report, the Authority was reassured that the areas the assurance team were tasked to review meant that statutory duties outlined in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007 in relation to NR capability could be discharged to a high standard.

2. MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY

In December 2007, the Authority introduced the “Champion” role and allocated a £5,000 budget per Member in respect of the subject areas. These positions were currently filled by:

- Equality and Diversity - County Councillor Sylvia Taylor
- Older People - County Councillor Mark Perks
- Environment - County Councillor Ken Brown
- Road Safety – Councillor Fred Jackson

Equality and Diversity

It was noted that a Service level review was being undertaken which formed part of the Service's Workforce Development Programme Board and there were no developments of note to report during this last quarter.

Older People

It was noted that the Lancashire Fire and Rescue's Community Safety Strategy 2014/ 2017 had been published. This had been designed to provide a clear framework that contributed to making our communities safer.

Councillor Perks had supported the CFOA Ageing Safely Week during September and October. The aim along with other fire and rescue services and partners was to make a difference to the lives of older people where older people felt secure, valued and able to contribute to society. This event also acted as a platform to share resources and expertise, extend the reach of protection activity and deliver integrated, holistic services to support our community.

Councillor Perks had also supported the UK Older People's Day 2014 event, which was held at various locations across the county.

The Dying to Keep Warm Charity pilot in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre was unable to continue into year three due to funding issues and LFRS had expressed its appreciation on behalf of County Councillor Perks personally to its founder and secretary for all of the invaluable partnership work that had been undertaken during the last two years.

Road Safety

It was noted that Councillor Jackson had attended the Road Safety Forum meeting on Wednesday, 14 January 2015. He supported the work to promote and deliver the ongoing Wasted Lives programme (soon to reach 50,000 young people) and the new Childsafe Plus Road Safety programme (currently being rolled out to year 6 pupils in all Primary Schools).

The importance of the Road Safety work that LFRS was involved in with key partners was very important in the current climate of reduced funding, reduced resources and reduced staffing.

Environment

The Member Champion for the Environment, County Councillor Ken Brown highlighted:

That following the successful re-accreditation to the International Standard ISO 14001 for the Environment, an improvement action plan has been developed to ensure that ongoing improvements in the Environmental Management System were made.

All new vehicles ranging from fire appliances to cars that are being replaced or introduced into the service were fitted with the latest Euro 6 engines. The Euro 6 engine was cleaner than ever before with permitted nitrogen oxides reduced by 75% compared to the Euro 5 engines and a reduction of 99% for particulate matter (basically soot particle). In addition, the waste contract for general and recycling waste ceased on the 31 March 2015 and preparations were under way to tender and appoint a new contractor from 1 April 2015.

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 - 2017/18

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2015/ 2016 of £56.738m. After allowing for a council tax increase of 1.90% and allowing for the increase in council tax base and improved council tax collection rates, this resulted in a net budget requirement of £56.530m for 2015/16 and a council tax of £64.86 per Band D Property.

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
27TH APRIL 2015**

1. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FIRE CADET PROGRAMME

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service had been approached early 2014 by Youth United and the Chief Fire Officers Association to take part in an initiative to establish a small number of Fire Cadet Units in schools within Lancashire. The initiative was to run for a period of 12 months during the academic year 2014/ 2015. The project was commissioned by the Cabinet Office, as part of a wider piece of research, to establish whether having some form of uniformed cadet service operating in schools, improved pupil's progression and attainment of qualifications.

Lancashire was one of a several geographical areas identified by the Cabinet Office as part of the initiative alongside other service providers for example Sea Cadets. A total of 40 schools were involved across various counties, six were within Lancashire:

- Carnforth High School;
- Ormskirk School;
- Whitworth Community High School;
- Christ the King Catholic College (Preston);
- Corpus Christi Catholic High School (Preston); and
- St George's School (Blackpool).

The initiative, which was being evaluated by Durham University, had been set up to test the impact of youth social action activities on the engagement and attainment of pupils in Year 9 (13-14 year olds).

As a Fire Cadet the young people took part in a range of activities, including volunteering projects in the local community; learning new skills such as First Aid, learning about the role and responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Service, learning and developing operational type skills through practical training as well as developing as a person i.e. self-confidence, communication skills, leadership traits etc. The programme followed the Fire Services Youth Training Association Fire Cadets' syllabus. It ran for an academic year and could lead to a BTEC Level 2 Award qualification on successful completion.

Midway through the programme an evaluation process had begun with views being sought from all the interested parties the school, the cadets themselves, their parents/ carers and LFRS personnel involved in its delivery. Key findings received to date were:

- Head teachers had been very supportive of the programme and commented how much the Fire Cadets enjoyed it, feeling more confident and benefitting from being involved. They had also been impressed and spoken very highly about how LFRS staff worked with and engaged the young people this was a credit to all staff involved in the delivery.
- Teaching staff viewed it as a valuable programme in that it helped the young people build confidence and develop themselves. They reported having seen increased maturity and self-esteem, team skills being developed, new friendships formed and better relationships formed with teachers.
- The young people wanted to be a Fire Cadet due to the potential future opportunities it would open up and the BTEC qualification they could achieve. They also liked the identity the uniform gave and made them feel proud.

- The parent/ carers reported having noticed improved attitudes and maturity from their children and had developed greater interaction with their children as they now talked more freely about their role as a Fire Cadet with LFRS.

A final passing out parade would be held at each school shortly before they finished for the summer. The event would focus on celebrating the achievements of the Fire Cadets. A final evaluation report would be completed at the end of the programme to inform a decision on whether to continue the programme and, if so, how best to achieve this being cognisant of resources moving forward.

In attendance at the Authority meeting were staff involved in the Fire Cadet programme and 40 Fire Cadets. Members received personal accounts of experiences and achievements made so far from Julie Simpson, Community Fire Safety (LFRS), Mr Harrison, Teacher (St George's School, Blackpool) and Fire Cadets Harry Taylor, Molly Costello and Louis Burke.

2. FIRE RELATED PROSECUTIONS

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period February 2015 to March 2015 was endorsed by Members. There had been one fire safety conviction within the period and detailed information was also supplied in relation to eight arson convictions.

Members noted that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service had successfully prosecuted Mr Stuart De'Ath, the landlord of a number of premises in the Lytham St Annes area, for eighteen separate breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 relating to three of his premises. The case was heard at Blackpool Magistrates Court and the defendant pleaded guilty to eighteen charges.

Although work was undertaken with landlords to ensure public safety, it was also important to demonstrate that individuals would be held accountable for breaches of their statutory responsibility. Such prosecutions served as a warning to others to fulfil their obligations regarding the safety of people under their responsibility.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 22 JUNE 2015

1. COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The meeting held 22 June was the Authority's AGM and Members appointed County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively for 2015/ 2016.

2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman welcomed new Members, Councillor Allan Matthews and Councillor Tony Williams from Blackpool Council. He thanked the continuing Members for their contributions to the work of the Authority over the past year and looked forward to another excellent year working together for Lancashire residents.

3. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

As required by the Localism Act 2011, the Authority has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of Members, which include the appointment of one or more Independent Persons. Following consideration, the Authority re-appointed Mrs Hilary Banks as its Independent Person for a further period of two years until the CFA AGM in June 2017.

4. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

The Authority considered the Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. As the body with ultimate responsibility for staff health, safety and environmental compliance, it is important that all CFA Members are aware of performance in this respect. The report therefore provided a summary of key actions, overall progress and outturn performance in respect of accidents and near misses and carbon emissions, together with a look forward.

The report summarised the arrangements in place to deliver the Service's Health and Safety Policy and provided a summary of health, safety and environment performance data. It included the reporting on occupational safety, health and environmental issues that had arisen during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that 2014/ 2015 had seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. The number of accidents to LFRS staff was the second lowest on record with 64 events being reported of which only 21 resulted in lost time. Manual handling related activities accounted for the largest number of accidents within the Service, which would be focussed on through refresher training for operational personnel during 2015/ 2016. LFRS continued to deliver projects to reduce its carbon emissions. The health and safety and environment management systems would continue to be developed and this was supported by external reviews that advocated robust policies, systems and a positive culture were in place within the Service.

5. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

This report included information for the two Unitary and 12 District Authorities relating to Community Fire Safety Initiatives and Fires and Incidents of particular interest.

As part of this report, Area Manager Ben Norman gave a presentation to Members on water safety. In 1997, the Service attended ten water related incidents per annum and since then there had been an increase in these types of incidents from young people swimming in reservoirs and from those who found themselves in fast flowing rivers. In 2007, the annual number of incidents had risen to 95 incidents and now the Service was looking at 150-170 water related incidents per annum. Water related deaths affected young males disproportionately and was the third most common cause of death amongst young people.

Sadly, on 22 June 2014, James Goodship lost his life in a reservoir in Foulridge, Nelson. James' family wanted to raise awareness and promote the importance of water safety and together with the Service's Corporate Communications Department had the courage to produced two videos, which can be accessed by following the links:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/lancsfrs/122651517>

<https://vimeo.com/channels/lancsfrs/122896724>

These videos were being shown in schools and had been circulated to other Fire and Rescue Services to use.

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Report to:	Council
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting :	16 September 2015

CONSTITUTIONAL, PROPER OFFICER AND STATUTORY OFFICER CHANGES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To seek the necessary approvals to update the Council's constitution due to recent changes in statutory and proper officer positions. It also seeks to clarify and update the key decision definition and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive (due to meet on 14th September and which will be reported to the meeting) in relation to the following:

1. To extend until 30^h November the appointment of Delyth Curtis as statutory Director of Children's Services (as defined in Section 18 of the Children Act 2004) and Karen Smith as statutory Director of Adult Services (as defined in Section 6(1) of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970), for the reasons set out in paragraph 5.2.
2. To appoint Joceline Greenaway (the Head of Bereavement and Registration Services) as Proper Officer for Registration Services (as defined under the Registration Service Act 1953).
3. To approve the revised definition for a key decision, as set out in paragraph 5.6.
4. To amend the Council's Financial Procedure Rules as set out in paragraph 5.8.

2.2 To agree that Sharon Davis be appointed the statutory scrutiny officer, as defined in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of this report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 It is considered timely to report to Council on these proposals as there have been recent changes in personnel relating to proper officer positions and the temporary

statutory officer arrangements for Delyth Curtis and Karen Smith are due to expire at the end of September, so a Council decision is required before then. The proposed changes to a key decision definition and the Financial Procedure Rules will add clarity and certainty going forward.

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:

To appoint different individuals to the proper officer and statutory officer roles, or to appoint them on a different basis and to agree a different key decision definition/ Financial Procedure Rules.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Executive is due to meet on 14^h September and will be informed that in February 2015, the Chief Officers Employment Committee agreed to authorise the Chief Executive to commission the Hay Group to assist him in an evaluation of the authority's senior management structural arrangements. This was partly due to the temporary arrangements in place for Delyth Curtis undertaking the role of statutory Director of Children's Services and Karen Smith undertaking the role of statutory Director of Adult Services. It also involved the secondment of a chief officer to Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited, which is due to expire in May 2016. The temporary arrangements for the statutory roles had been agreed by Council on 17 September 2014 to be in place until 30 September 2015. It was envisaged that the Chief Officers Employment Committee would have met by this date to allow it to consider the aforementioned review. However, this has not happened and the review is still subject to consultation. A meeting of the Chief Officers Employment Committee will be held in the near future and before the next Council meeting in November.

5.2 The Chief Executive has consulted with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group and accordingly wishes to ask Council to extend these temporary arrangements until 30 November 2015, to enable them to be considered at the November Council meeting, following the Chief Officers Employment

Committee's review of the structure. The Executive at its meeting on 14 September will be asked to support this recommendation.

5.3 It is also considered appropriate to change the designation for the Proper Officer for Registration Services. This is currently held by Mark Towers, but the detail of the role involves regular liaison with the Registrar General and it is recommended that Joceline Greenaway who is the Head of Registration and Bereavement Services undertakes this role, as it is more relevant to her day to day duties and she is of sufficient level to hold this role. This role is held by holders of similar positions in other unitary/ County Councils. The proposal is supported by the Registrar General's office. The Executive at its meeting on 14 September will be asked to support this recommendation.

5.4 At its meeting on the 22 May 2013, the Executive agreed a set of decision making criteria which forms part of the constitution. Given that two years have now elapsed since these were agreed, it is considered timely to review these criteria to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. Part of the review has involved an internal audit review of the application of these criteria within a Council directorate. Due to feedback received from Democratic staff and feedback at the beginning of this review, it is suggested that one proposed change is the definition of a key decision.

The point requiring clarification is when approval has already been sought for a decision because it is already clearly referenced in the budget. A second decision for approval is therefore not required. This has always been the advice given to officers and members but it is considered for clarification purposes, it needs to be clearly referenced in the definition. There are no proposals to change the other parts of the definition.

5.5 The updated definition would therefore read as follows:

An Executive decision will be a key decision if it comes within any of the following categories:

a) It involves expenditure or savings (including receipt of or loss of income) of £250,000 or over in relation to the budget for the service or function to which it relates, but excludes any decision:

- taken as a consequence of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for the current financial year;
- taken as a direct consequence of an earlier key decision;
- identified within the Council's agreed Budget for the current financial year where there is a clear intention of the decision to be taken.

- b) It is likely to have a significant positive or negative impact on the people living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.
- c) It makes recommendations on the Council's Policy and Budget Frameworks.
- d) If the decision is to approve a 'plan or strategy', reserved for Executive approval only, as set out in the constitution.

The Executive at its meeting on 14 September will be asked to support this recommendation.

5.6 As part of this review of the Constitution it is also considered prudent to change the Financial Procedure Rules to reflect the current financial climate of local government and financial status of the Council. Paragraph 2.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules currently states:

- 2.3 Expenditure may be incurred in excess of individual revenue budget heads provided that the total of such excess spending does not:
- (i) exceed 1% of the authority's total net revenue expenditure, or
 - (ii) have the effect of reducing the authority's Reserves and Working Balances below 50% of their normal projected level.

5.7 It is proposed that this paragraph now read:

- 2.3 Expenditure may be incurred in excess of individual revenue budget heads provided that the total of such excess spending does not:
- (iii) exceed 1% of the authority's total gross revenue expenditure, or
 - (iv) have the effect of reducing the authority's Working Balances below 50% of their normal target level.

The Executive at its meeting on 14 September will be asked to support this recommendation.

5.8 The Council has a statutory duty to designate one of its Officers as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer under section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Steve Sienkiewicz, the Scrutiny Manager previously held this role and he retired earlier in the summer and was replaced by Sharon Davis, an officer from his team. Paragraph 82 of Parliament's Explanatory Notes to this Act explains the intention of Section 31 in relation to the statutory position.

"Typically, a scrutiny officer will promote the scrutiny function generally within the authority and local government partners more widely and provide advice and support to members of the authority's committee(s) in undertaking their work. This may

include the provision, or management, of committee secretariat services, research, and report preparation for example."

- 5.9 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer role is in effect a direct management role of the scrutiny function and in line with the explanatory note referred to above, it is considered appropriate that the Scrutiny Manager continues to undertake this role. (This role also cannot be undertaken by the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or the Statutory Finance Officer). The success of scrutiny relies on not just the statutory officer but the buy in and support from lead scrutiny members (chairmen and vice chairmen, members of the relevant committees, chief officers and the Executive.
- 5.10 The appointment of a Statutory Scrutiny Officer is a Council responsibility and the proposal will secure compliance with the Council's duty under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 A Council has to have in place statutory and proper officers for various positions. This report seeks to extend and also formalise certain appointments for the reasons explained in the report. A Council also has to have an agreed definition for a key decision and Financial Procedure Rules. This report again seeks to update the current definitions to make them more relevant.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 Equality considerations would be considered as part of the decision making process when each Executive and Cabinet Member decision is taken.

9.0 Financial considerations:

- 9.1 There are no financial considerations relating to the proposals in this report. The reasons for the changes to the Financial Procedure Rules are listed in the report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Additional clarity over corporate governance arrangements will reduce the risk of decisions being taken at the wrong level or not properly recorded. Decisions on statutory and proper officer positions at September's Council meeting will also make sure the Council has appropriate accountable people in relevant positions to meet its obligations.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the individuals for the proposed statutory positions and with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group specifically regarding the extension of the arrangements for the statutory positions for Director of Children's Services and statutory Director of Adult Services.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None