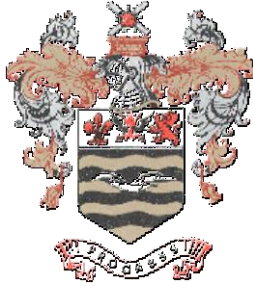


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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Friday 18 March 2016

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, 30 March 2016 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 20 JANUARY 2016 (Pages 1 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 January 2016 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION (Pages 5 - 6)

To receive a representation from Ms Gillespie, a spokesperson for the South Beach Beacons, in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 and a response from Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council.

5 MRS CARMEL MCKEOGH, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This Council will be the last meeting prior to the departure of the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, Mrs Carmel McKeogh.

Councillors will have the opportunity to show their appreciation to Mrs McKeogh for her service to the Authority.

6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS, COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (Pages 7 - 38)

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 Combined Fire Authority report and the Chairman of the Audit Committee report.

Members are reminded that:

- Each Senior Executive Member * has up to three minutes to present their report, after which there will be a period of no longer than 15 minutes per report for questions/comments (a green card will give a one minute warning, red for the end of the debate).
- There will be three minutes per question/ comment from any Councillor on anything within the portfolio and no limit to the number of times a Councillor can ask a question.
- There will be a period of up to ten minutes for a response from the Senior Executive Member * (or relevant Cabinet Member) at the end of the questions/ comments for each report.

* or Combined Fire Authority representative or Chairman of the Audit Committee.

7 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN (Pages 39 - 48)

To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 7 March 2016 relating to the approval of the Community Safety Plan 2016/ 2019.

8 POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW (Pages 49 - 58)

To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 7 March 2016 relating to the approval of the Policy Framework Review.

9 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS - STANDARDS (Pages 59 - 62)

The Council is asked to consider the appointment of three statutory Independent Persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011.

10 GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT (Pages 63 - 84)

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress on the Lancashire Combined Authority proposals, outline the response to the public consultation exercise and seek agreement for the Council to become a constituent member of a Combined Authority for Lancashire.

11 PAY POLICY STATEMENT (Pages 85 - 92)

To consider the Council's Proposed Pay Policy Statement.

12 STREET COLLECTIONS REGULATIONS (Pages 93 - 100)

To consider amendments to the Street Collection Regulations for Blackpool.

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 Advisor, Tel: (01253) 477034, e-mail yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk

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

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Present:

Councillor Callow (in the Chair)

Councillors

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

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Place

Delyth Curtis, Director of People

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

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

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Henderson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 'Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17'.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2015

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2015 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council that he had agreed for the March Council meeting to take place on 30 March 2016 in order to allow for briefings to be held on the Combined Authority proposals.

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Mr Andy Higgins, spokesperson for the Blackpool Supporters Trust, addressed the Council on the concerns regarding the relationship between Blackpool Football Club's owners and the local community. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Blackburn, responded on behalf of the Council.

5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS TO COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Secretary presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in their own portfolio area and those portfolios under their responsibility.

The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners.

Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

Notes:

- (1) Councillor Campbell agreed to provide details to Councillor T Williams on staffing costs in relation to Selective Licensing, including the numbers of staff and working hours and to confirm whether those costs related solely to Selective Licensing duties.

6 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2016/ 2017

Members considered the recommendation from the Executive at its meeting on 7 December 2015 in relation to the approval of a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and noted that the proposals were for the Scheme to be of the same design as currently in place but with the removal of the family premium from housing benefit for children born after April 2016 or for new claims made after that date.

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

- '1. To agree that the Council continues to operate a Discretionary Discount Policy to be awarded in cases of exceptional hardship.
2. To agree that the reduction applied to Working Age claimants remains at 27.11% for the 2016/2017 Scheme and that the main elements and method of calculating awards previously agreed by Council on 22 January 2015 will remain the same.'

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

(Note: Councillor Mrs Henderson having previously declared a prejudicial interest, left the room while the item was under consideration).

7 BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 1: CORE STRATEGY

The Council considered the recommendation from the Executive in relation to the adoption of the Core Strategy which formed part of the statutory planning framework for Blackpool and set out where new development should be located to meet the town's needs to 2027. The Strategy would also be used to determine planning applications and priorities in Blackpool over the next 12 years.

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

1. To accept the Inspector's findings and his recommendations and adopt the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy with the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector as set out in Appendix 2(a) (ii) to the Executive report and with the additional (minor) modifications to the Core Strategy set out in Appendix 2(b) to the Executive report and the amended Policies Maps at Appendix 2(c) (ii) to the Executive report.
2. To authorise the Chief Executive to undertake the necessary steps for the adoption process to be completed.
3. To authorise the Director of Place to make any final modifications to improve readability and the final presentation of the document, and to correct any factual matters or typographical errors.'

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

8 WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2016/ 2020

Members considered the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 18 January in relation to the draft Workforce Strategy. It was noted that the document replaced the People Strategy and was designed to provide direction for the current and future management and development of people across the Council and informed business planning, workforce planning, employment policy development, procedures and practice.

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

'To approve the Workforce Strategy 2016-2020.'

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

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY DECLARATION ON HEALTHY WEIGHT

The Council received the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 18 January regarding proposals for a Healthy Weight Declaration that had been developed as a vision and commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of Blackpool. Members noted that the Declaration followed a collaborative programme launched by Directors of Public Health in the North West to tackle increasing obesity.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016

Motion: Councillor Cross proposed (and Councillor Cain seconded):

'To sign up to the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight including both the national themes outlined in paragraph 5.2 and the local priorities outlined at paragraph 5.3 of the report considered by the Executive at its meeting on 18th January 2016.'

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

10 MAYOR ELECT FOR 2016/ 2017

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

'That Councillor Kath Rowson be invited to offer herself for the election of Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16 May 2016 and agree that the meeting commences at 2.00pm, as it has in previous years.'

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.14 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Tel: 01253 477127

E-mail: lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk

Council:
30 March 2016

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

NAME	SUBJECT
1. Ms Julie Gillespie (spokesperson for the South Beach Beacons).	<p>Ms Gillespie wishes to speak on the following issue:</p> <p>“The aim of the South Beach Beacons is to improve the South Beach area of Waterloo Road and Bond Street and its surrounding area.</p> <p>We will be speaking about the projects we are undertaking to achieve this that our Council will probably wish to support with advice and contacts and also some difficulties we are facing”.</p>

Response to be given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Blackburn

NOTE: The representative will be able to speak for up to a maximum of five minutes.

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30 March 2016

**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

Benefit Claims, Council Tax and Sundry Debt Collections

The average days, to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims and changes in circumstance, improved by one further day since the last report and now stand at 24 days for January 2016.

The number of telephone calls received by Customer First remained at around 12,500 during January 2016 this includes repeat calls. A total of 45% of all calls were answered.

In-year council tax collection at the end of January was down by 1.5% when compared to the same point in the previous year (85.3% against 86.8%). Business rates collection was up at 85.7% compared to 84.3 last year.

Strategic Issues

Financial Monitoring

The latest financial performance monitoring report for 2015/ 2016 was reported to the Executive on 7 March 2016. As at month 10, in-year pressures prevail in Children’s Services, Strategic Leisure Assets and Public Health with estimated working balances forecast to fall by £2,868,000 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.

The Budget for 2015/ 2016 required total savings to be found of £25.2 million. As at 31 January 2016 (month 10), 72% of the 2015/ 2016 savings target had already been delivered. The current full-year forecast predicts that 89% 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 92% of the £25.2 million target and reflect the planned replacement of non-recurrent savings such as the £2.5m contribution from earmarked reserves with recurrent savings.

On 8 February 2016, the Department for Communities and Local Government announced the Final Settlement of Blackpool Council's 2016/ 2017 Settlement Funding Assessment. There was no change to Blackpool Council's funding allocation of £75.85m in 2016/ 2017, as such the 2016/ 2017 General Fund Estimate of £122,999,000 was recommended to the Executive on 22 February 2016.

The Council's Discretionary Support Team has earned praise from the Parliamentary Work and Pensions Select Committee for its work in developing a local service to support people who are truly in need. Members of Parliament (MP's) on the Committee said the Blackpool team, along with their counterparts in Croydon and Milton Keynes, deserved 'great credit' for their work on initiatives to help residents.

The comments were made as part of an inquiry into the Local Welfare Safety Net, following on from the changes made to the Welfare System in April 2013. The Blackpool Scheme has been acknowledged by the MP's as showing best practice and innovation at local level, addressing vulnerable people's needs in the most cost effective way by providing practical help and person-centered support to prevent further needs arising.

Talbot MSCP

The Basrai World Buffet opened a few days before Christmas 2015 and seems to be trading well. A schedule of the landlord works is being agreed with 'The Gym' and will need to be carried out prior to the site being occupied. Following this, the Gym will commence their fit out works and expect to be open to trade in June 2016.

Speculative Offices, Retail Units and Sale of Assets

A public sector organisation viewed the first floor for the third time on 1 December, they are very interested, but it is dependent on the sale of their existing premises. Two private sector organisations have viewed the first floor in the last few weeks. Both have said that once they have made a decision they would want to move in by the end of June this year.

The Blackpool Entertainment Company has agreed to take unit 2A of No. 1 Bickerstaffe Square to operate as a coffee shop/ café branded, as the Tower Coffee Company selling Coffee Republic. The contractor started work on 22 February.

Talbot Gateway

As part of future phases of this project, the Council has been looking at how the Wilkinson's building fit into the wider development. Options including acquisition, to better facilitate the tramway extension, will be considered by the Council in the coming weeks.

Blackpool Museum

The formal 'gateway' review by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) of the Museum development highlighted the progress made in developing this ambitious and highly complex project. The HLF commended us on the comprehensive community engagement programme, the quality of the team and the considerable progress made to date. Having acknowledged that the museum

is 'an exciting and innovative concept', they are recommending that we take additional time to develop the national and international significance of the Blackpool story, as well as the funding partnerships needed to deliver it. The team is currently reviewing the timetable, as well as the cost implications and further discussions with HLF and other funders are scheduled in the next few weeks. Recently, officers from every regional team from the Arts Council of England participated in a workshop to develop the Interpretative Brief.

Policy Issues

Welfare Reforms

The Government has announced proposals to cap the amount of rent that Housing Benefit (HB) will cover in social sector accommodation with effect from April 2018. The proposed change will restrict the amount of HB to the relevant Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate, which currently applies to private sector tenants.

It is understood, that the Government's LHA cap will also apply to supported and Sheltered Accommodation. The impact of limiting Housing Benefit payments via an LHA related cap to such vulnerable individuals could be significant for both the claimant and providers. Current Government proposals include making additional funding available to local authorities in the form of Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) to enable top ups between the LHA rate and the actual rent and service charge. The Benefits Service is currently gathering information on the impact the proposed changes could have on residents and Social Housing providers.

Employee Engagement

The Group that has been managing the process around the budget cycle met to complete a lessons learned review of the arrangements for this year. The group found that each year the approach to managing the processes continues to become more efficient and so this way of managing arrangements will continue. The review particularly noted the importance of ensuring that engagement, communication and a pro-active approach to supporting employees facing redundancy was an essential part of effectively managing budget processes.

Working with Partners

Revenue and Benefits Service

Fylde Council has recently confirmed that it will be taking the option to extend the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service arrangement to October 2017.

Combined Authority

Work has been continuing on influencing the shape of any Combined Authority with the rest of Lancashire. This has included exploring what 'deal' could be agreed with Government if a Combined Authority were to be agreed. This will be debated elsewhere on the agenda.

Public Services Board

The Public Services Board made up of all the key public sector partners in the town hosted an event for all senior managers in the City Learning Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a shared vision for Blackpool that would resonate with all partners and to begin to explore what that would mean in terms of actions and commitment of participants. The Transformation Network, who facilitated the event, will provide a report, which pulls together the key outcomes from the session and compares the strategies and plans of each of the main public sector bodies to identify synergies and differences.

30 March 2016

**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 Mark Smith (Business and Economic Development) and
- Councillor Wright (Housing, Procurement and Income Generation).

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

Contracts and Procurement

Contract awards made since the last meeting are detailed below:

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Location)	CONTRACT VALUE
BCH Adaptations	Lot 1 – Bambers – Blackpool, Upholland - Skelmersdale, Sovini – Bootle. Lot 2 – Bambers – Blackpool, Upholland Skelmersdale, Eric Wright – Preston.	£650,000
In- patient Detox and Residential Rehab	Various – Acorn, ADS, ARCH, CAIS, Delphi, GMW, Harvey House, Holgate House, Mersey Care, Oasis, Salus, THOMAS, Turning Point.	Call off
Lift Maintenance	Knowsley Lifts – Liverpool	£320,000

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Location)	CONTRACT VALUE
Council Tax/ NNDR – Enforcement Agents and Property Inspection Services	Phoenix Commercial Collections – Bolton	The supplier generates income by applying a legislative charge to the debtors.
Ad Hoc Waste Removal	Fylde Environmental Services – Blackpool 3D Environmental Ltd – Preston	Approx. £15,000-£30,000
Squires Gate Bridge Repairs	Murphy’s - Leeds	£1,500,000
Bridges – Gas Works Subway	AE Yates - Bolton	£276,296
BOC/ BHC Auditors	Smith Craven – Doncaster	£19,445
Removal and Disposal of Batteries	Recycling Lives – Preston	Income generation of approx. £7,000
Rubble/Hard-core removal	Blackpool Skip Hire – Blackpool	£9,900

Queens Park Development

Preparations for the demolition by implosion of the three remaining tower blocks at Queens Park in May 2016 are now underway. This event will dramatically change the skyline of Blackpool and enable the completion of the Queens Park re-development through the construction of a further 99 high quality homes. Most of these new homes will be much needed two, three and four bedroom family houses for affordable rent. Consultation with residents in the immediate area is starting now so that people know the arrangements for moving to safe observation points while the demolition takes place. The last new homes will be completed by March 2018.

Princess Street Bridge

The Council was successful in acquiring capital funding in excess of £11m in 2015 for the repair and reconstruction of ten bridges within the town, from Challenge and Growth Funding streams.

The first bridge on the programme is Princess Street bridge. Work to replace the bridge was completed ahead of schedule with both Princess Street and Seaside Way re-opening to traffic

on 17 March prior to the Easter Bank Holidays and completed within the £1.3m budget. The next bridge on the programme is Plymouth Road bridge, which the works programme is being scoped and developed with Network Rail and due for replacement in 2017.

Strategic Issues

Public Space Protection Order

In October 2014, the Government implemented the Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014. 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 of victims.

Amongst these new tools is the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO), which are designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space.

The Council embarked on a PSPO public consultation exercise from 15 June to 31 August 2015 regarding PSPO's in relation to the Town Centre and Parks.

In relation to the Town Centre, PSPO's are now in place with the Executive agreeing on 7 March 2016 the PSPO for parks and open spaces within Blackpool.

A total of 1,062 responses were received from the public and the new PSPO for parks covers the following:

- Engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour, Vandalism, or Causing Harassment, Alarm or Distress;
- Consumption of Alcohol in a public place;
- The use of Psychoactive Substances; and
- Carrying out Regulated Activities without permission.

Public Space Protection Order- Dog Exclusion

A public Space Protection Order (PSOP) is going through a public consultation process to prohibit dogs from all areas of beach between the north side of South Pier and the south side of the steps opposite the Solaris Centre and all areas between the slipway opposite Duchess Drive Bispham and the steps opposite Sandhurst Avenue Bispham, between 1 May and 30 September in each year.

The prohibition of dogs from these areas would facilitate the award of Blue Flag status at Blackpool South bathing water and a Seaside award at Bispham bathing water. This status and award are given in recognition, by independent organisations, of a standard of cleanliness and safety. If dogs are allowed in the proposed areas, these standards will not be achieved to the detriment of other beach uses, as the standards will not be met.

Litter Campaign with Keep Britain Tidy

The Keep Britain Tidy organisation is currently working with us in consulting with businesses and residents alike regarding views and issues in relation to litter, in order to develop a more robust plan to tackle the problem.

Key areas of focus will be businesses, residents and visitors, with opportunities for businesses to sign up to the campaign, encourage residents to take more ownership and be part of doing the right thing in their neighbourhoods and a campaign to encourage and stop visitors from dropping litter. The plan will be launched in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy in April 2016.

Highways

Hornby Road and Coronation Street will be made two-way to make it easier for drivers to reach the Town Centre in particular the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre and associated car parks, the work is scheduled to take place between May and June 2016.

Brownfield Register Pilot Project 2016

The Government considers that brownfield (previously developed) land has an important role to play in meeting the country's need for new homes and has made a commitment to introduce local brownfield registers and ensure that 90% of suitable brownfield sites have planning permission for housing by 2020. Through the Housing and Planning Bill and secondary legislation, the Government intends to require local planning authorities to compile and maintain a register of brownfield land suitable for housing within their area, which if enacted is likely to take effect early 2017.

In January 2016, Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) invited Local Authorities in England to apply for a £10,000 grant to pilot a brownfield register. Blackpool submitted a successful bid in February (one of 36) to be part of the pilot scheme. The Government considers that brownfield registers will improve the quality, availability and transparency of information on brownfield sites that are suitable for housing and provide certainty for communities and other interested parties, encouraging investment in local areas. The grant funding of £10,000 for each authority is to assist in preparing and publishing a pilot brownfield register ahead of the statutory requirement to do so. Throughout the pilot process, authorities are expected to share best practice and feedback ideas to inform secondary legislation and guidance on brownfield registers. The expectation is that pilot brownfield registers should be published locally by the end of June 2016.

Policy Issues

Licensing Services

Since the last Council meeting, the Licensing Committee has considered a number of policies either in their final form or as a draft, prior to consultation. A review of the Statement of Gambling Policy has been undertaken and a revised policy will now go out to consultation. Also

agreed to go forward for consultation is the 'Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy', which also took into account the recommendations from the scrutiny review.

Having received and considered consultation responses a revised 'Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy' was also agreed to be referred to the Executive for adoption.

Transforming Services

Street Lighting/ Traffic Signals

The PFI Street Lighting/ Traffic Signals contract has been refinanced at the end of January 2016, securing Council savings in the region of £3m over the remaining 19-year term of the contract. The new funders are SMBC and Nord LB Banks. The Department for Transport (sponsoring department) and HM Treasury supported the refinancing project.

Council website and Channel Shift

The development of the Council website and channel shift programme is progressing well. The layout and the navigation have been updated in line with best practices. The website is now much more responsive and friendly to mobile devices and tablets. We are seeing a marked increase in traffic from mobile devices and tablets, with 40% of all traffic now coming from such devices. A recent analysis of some of the channel shift work has been awarded the top four-star rating by SOCITM.

The Channel Shift Working Group has now successfully moved a number of services on line including "missed bin reports", "bulky matters" and "report fly tipping". Over 48% of bulky item removal bookings were made on-line in December 2015. During a recent external assessment, the Councils on line missed bin web pages and online process was awarded four stars (the highest mark).

Keep Britain Tidy National Awards.

The Council's Waste Services Team was named as Environmental Team of the year 2016 at the annual Keep Britain Tidy awards held in Birmingham recently, recognising their innovative works in cleaning up the environment and recycling initiatives.

In particular, praise was given for work with the Third Sector, which is helping to make it easier for people to recycle, waste going directly back into the community for use for use and training programmes and initiatives related to recycling.

New Grant Investment in Libraries and Arts Services

Blackpool's popular festival of literature and arts, Wordpool, has secured £70,000 of funding from Arts Council England to develop its festival programme, now in its tenth year. To celebrate, the festival, which traditionally runs in July will now have three themed mini-festivals programmed through the year, A Festival of Stories in July, a Festival of Poetry and Performance in October and in the spring a Festival of the Written Word. The Arts Council

funding will develop Wordpool for two years, helping to making the festival stronger and sustainable, developing staff and volunteers and attracting a range of well-known authors, poets, artists and performers as well as developing new and emerging talent.

Wordpool works with a wide range of partners including the Grand Theatre, LeftCoast, altBlackpool, Friends of Stanley Park, Family Learning, Grundy Art Gallery, Arts for Health, Blackpool Museum Project, Save Our Stories, Blackpool Sixth Form, The Reading Working Party, BID (Blackpool Business Improvement District), Writing on the Wall, DigiEnable and the Fylde Coast Youth Dance Company.

Wordpool is one of a number of interventions to improve the skills of those 60% of residents whose literacy skills fall below average.

For more information, visit: www.blackpoolwordpool.wordpress.com facebook.com/wordpool twitter.com/wordpoolfest

Working with Partners

Sea Defences

The majority of the new £19 million Anchorsholme sea defence wall to the north and south of United Utilities (UU) Pumping Station, known as the headland is now complete. The outstanding elements include the headland, access ramp, tie-in to the existing Cleveleys sea wall in the north and the south tie-in at Little Bispham. The highway works are almost complete and lighting (columns and infrastructure) are well underway.

The sea wall will be completed in summer 2016 and is within the budgetary provision and preparation is underway for the Traffic Regulation Order for the new raised highway so that the road can be opened upon completion of the seawall.

The Council continues to work with UU with the delivery of their £80 million Anchorsholme Park development to provide storm water storage, a new pumping station and new outfall to sea to improve bathing water and the associated integration with the adjacent sea wall project.

Shakespeare Festival

The Blackpool and Fylde Coast Shakespeare Festival 2016 will mark the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death (23 April) and follows the successful 2014 festival, which was held across the Fylde Coast to celebrate the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. Local groups and organisations are taking part this spring to celebrate some of Shakespeare's great works. Events include poetry workshops and performances, literary readings and a variety of performing arts. The festival will begin on Saturday 2 April, ending on 5 May.

Visit by 400 Arts Council of England Staff

On 1 and 2 March, Arts Council England (ACE) brought the entirety of their 400 staff to Blackpool for their staff conference. This follows previous visits in the last 18 months by CEO Darren Henley and Chairman, Sir Peter Bazalgette. It is our understanding that this is only the second time that ACE has taken their conference outside London. The ACE selected Blackpool because they wanted to highlight how Arts Council England investment has enabled an increase in local cultural engagement in an area of considerable deprivation, as well as helping to draw in new investment from other sources. They are interested in our work to use culture to encourage economic growth, build community resilience and reposition Blackpool as a cultural as well as tourism destination. The Arts Council is keen to use Blackpool as a model of good cultural leadership with other local authorities.

Ambition for Excellence Award

With the support of Blackpool Council's Cultural Services team, Blackpool Grand Theatre and LeftCoast have been successful in obtaining £700,000 from Arts Council England for two major projects, which will transform Blackpool's profile on a national stage. The first is for an immersive theatre production in the bowels of the Winter Gardens, *Absent* by the internationally renowned DreamThinkSpeak. The second is *Kong Live!* a reimagining of the classic tale of King Kong played across the streets and buildings of the town as part of a multi-platform, user-generated experience. The outstanding Frank Cottrell Boyce, who wrote the groundbreaking 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony, will rewrite the project for its Blackpool location.

Nickelodeon

The Council is collaborating with global children's TV network Nickelodeon to present the first SLIMEFEST event in the UK.

SLIMEFEST, which has already been staged in Australia, Spain and Italy, will form a part of Blackpool's Illuminations Switch-On weekend with free and paid-for family events taking place throughout Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September.

The SLIMEFEST live-ticketed shows will take place at the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens, with the free outdoor festival staged on the Switch-On arena at the Tower Festival Headland. Highlights from SLIMEFEST will be broadcast on the Nickelodeon channel later in the month.

Arrangements for the Friday night Switch On event, which last year featured Hollywood film director, Tim Burton, are still at the discussion stage.

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30 March 2016

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Eddie Collett (School Improvement and Children’s Safeguarding),
- Councillor Amy Cross (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

Budget Equality Assessments

A wide range of services have been involved in assessing the impact of budget proposals on equality issues. The work includes analysis of relevant data and research together with appropriate levels of consultation, for all key equality characteristics. This work has informed the decision-making in the budget process and also includes measuring the impact on our workforce.

Continuous Improvement Board

The Continuous Improvement Board is now in place covering all of Children’s Services. It is independently chaired and is attended by all key partners. The Board will focus on Ofsted improvement and better outcomes via a series of detailed plans.

Strategic Issues

Review of Care at Home and Residential Care Fee Rates 2016/ 2017 (Adult Services)

A review of the fee rates paid to care at home and residential care providers has taken place against a background of:

- The introduction of the National Living Wage in April 2016, which will see the hourly rate for workers aged 25 years and over increase to £7.20.,
- The ongoing requirement to enrol employees aged 22 or over and earning over £10,000 in a pension scheme.
- Employment case law and changes to the requirements for the payment of sleep-in shifts.

Alongside the financial issues, the Council must be mindful of its legal requirements under the Care Act 2014. These requirements in relation to market shaping and commissioning include:

- A duty not to undertake any actions, which may threaten the sustainability of the market as a whole, for example, by setting fee levels below an amount, which is not sustainable for providers in the long-term.
- Allowing for providers to meet statutory obligations to pay at least the national minimum wage and provide effective training and development of staff.

Consultation with providers to quantify the impact of the introduction of the national living wage, the pension enrolment requirement and the implications of employment case law with regard to sleep-in rates has been undertaken over several months. Using information directly from providers and costing models, which have been developed locally and nationally, fee rates for 2016/ 2017 have been proposed and will be effective from 1 April 2016.

When considering residential fee rates, the opportunity has been taken to achieve a number of long-standing objectives:

- To simplify the current fee framework by reducing the number of fee rates and move towards a more consolidated fee structure by no longer applying the Quality Banding Scheme.
- Fee rates for adults aged 18-64 with a Learning Disability, a Physical Disability or a Mental Health issue will be aligned and merged with the rate for older adults' standard residential care.
- A more consistent basis for funding the additional care needs of people with complex and challenging conditions has been developed.

Policy Issues

Transforming Care – Children and Young Peoples Emotional Health & Well being

Implementation of the Transformational Plan for Lancashire and the Locality Plan for Blackpool is underway. Blackpool has submitted the Transformational Plan and established a Transforming Care Steering Group to provide additional strategic leverage around implementation and ensure joint working across the Lancashire footprint as appropriate. The Steering Group will report their progress to the Strategic Commissioning Group, Children and Young Peoples Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body and act as the interface with regional governance bodies including the Children and Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing Operational Board for Lancashire and the Collaborative Commissioning Board.

Transforming Services

HeadStart Programme

The Council submitted its bid on the 26 February for the Big Lottery HeadStart Programme. HeadStart is a Big Lottery Fund five year strategic investment that aims to increase the mental wellbeing of young people aged 10-16, achieving the overall outcome of decreasing those who go on to develop mental health conditions. Blackpool is one of 12 areas involved in the investment that offers both universal and targeted interventions and considers the young person life at home, in school, in the local community and in the digital environment.

The purpose of HeadStart Blackpool is:

- To embed a resilience approach across the young people's workforce.
- To embed co-productive practice across the council, working with young people to develop appropriate and effective initiatives.
- To gather and analyse evidence on the programme, using this intelligence to re-allocate resources from crisis services to prevention services where appropriate.
- To develop resilience-promoting work environments for the young people's workforce.

The detailed HeadStart programme has been developed in conjunction with young people, with the governance of the programme including both an Adult and Young People's Executive Board that feeds into the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP).

Healthy Weight

The following provides an update on the strategic approach in place to promote healthy weight within the town.

Obesity is a serious Public Health problem for the town and contributes significantly to poor health. Not only does obesity result in an increase in chronic disease leading to distress and sickness, there are significant impacts for the broader economy of Blackpool through disability, unemployment and burden on the social care system. In Blackpool it is estimated that there are approximately 83,500 Blackpool residents aged 16 and over who are overweight or obese. This is 72% of the Blackpool population compared to the North West 66% and England 63.8%.

The picture for the children in Blackpool is a particular concern. The data from the National Child Measurement Programme for 2014/ 2015 shows that 26% of our Reception children (approximately 2,600) have excess weight (overweight or obese) compared to 23% for the North West and 22% nationally. The children are also weighed in Year 6 and for the same year, 38% have excess weight compared to 34% for the North West and 33% nationally. Rates of overweight and obesity are increasing faster than the national average, which appears to be starting to level off. High levels of sugar consumption, particularly in the form of sugary drinks, are increasingly being recognised as a key driver of obesity levels, but are also making a significant contribution to poor levels of dental health in our children.

Healthy Weight Strategy Refresh

The Healthy Weight Strategy was recently refreshed. The refreshed strategy reflects the growing consensus that preventing childhood obesity is key to achieving healthy lives in adulthood and ultimately to reversing obesity prevalence. To achieve this we need to change our approach as a society to food, drinks and physical activity and prioritise the creation of 'healthy-preference learning' opportunities for children. Also highlighted is that a relatively quick way to reduce inequalities is through enabling disadvantaged communities to express healthy food preferences by ensuring access to healthy food, skills and social support.

Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight

A key component of the refreshed strategy is the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight and the Council recently became the first local authority in the country to sign up to this declaration. An action plan for the strategy has been developed and this incorporates the commitments within the declaration.

'Give Up Loving Pop' (GULP) campaign

This campaign, aimed at encouraging teenagers to swap sugary pop for healthier drinks, ran in November 2015. An evaluation of the campaign is currently underway, but initial feedback has been very positive. Subject to the evaluation findings, the plan is to run this campaign again during 2016/ 2017.

Pilot of Child Obesity Prioritisation Toolkit

Members of the Public Health team are working with Public Health England to pilot a Child Obesity Prioritisation Toolkit. This toolkit comprises three stages:

1. Leadership and priorities
2. Stocktake
3. Prioritisation

To date the pilot of Stage one and two have been completed. This has involved structured discussions by senior officers including the Director of Public Health and Director of Children's Services and a workshop for members of the Healthy Weight Steering Group. A follow up workshop looking at Stage three of the toolkit is arranged for early March.

Next steps

The Healthy Weight Steering Group to oversee the delivery of the action plan arising from the Healthy Weight Strategy and Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight.

A national Childhood Obesity Strategy is expected to be released and any implications for local authorities will need to be considered.

Update on Mile Fluoridation Scheme

The proposal to introduce fluoridated milk as part of the Free School Breakfast Initiative was approved by the Executive at its meeting on 18 January and the Council on 20 January 2016. The following was agreed:

- To agree to the proposal to introduce a fluoridated milk scheme as part of the Council's Free School Breakfast Initiative.
- To note the details of the implementation plan would be agreed by the Director of Public Health after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the implementation group.

A project plan is now being drawn up and a Steering Group will be convened to scope out the implementation of the scheme and oversee its application. Members of the Group, including representatives from the Council's Public Health, catering from the Council's Community and Environmental Services Department and Public Health England, are attending a national workshop on milk fluoride scheme. This will inform the processes and systems required for running a successful scheme, considering the arrangements for overseeing and monitoring the scheme, and developing effective communications to support the scheme. We are currently working towards a potential roll out for autumn term 2016. Work has already commenced to develop the communications plan and materials (such as information for parents, information to schools, newsletters, develop the web page, Question and Answers and responses for external enquiries).

Safeguarding and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The Safeguarding Boards for both Adults and Children's Services are continuing the journey towards closer working and shared resources. Examples are the formation of a joint Business Management group to support more efficient and effective use of information across Blackpool with regard to individuals who may be at risk of harm, a joint sub group for training to support staff development across Boards' partner agencies and closer working between the Business Development Managers and support staff.

Adult Social Care

As part of our work with Health on the Vanguard and New Models of Care, provisional staffing proposals in relation to social care elements of neighbourhood teams have been drafted. There is an expectation that the neighbourhoods in Primary Care (six in total for Blackpool) will be developed with targeted direction from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and staff have now been seconded from the CCG into posts to develop these. The Local Authority will be part of the planning in respect of this and consider what, if any, system changes we will need to make these become established service delivery areas/ teams. The ultimate aim is to deliver health care closer to home, encourage self-care where appropriate and ensure social care contributes to keeping people safe and well, and as independent as they can be.

Care and Support

As part of the work in response to Transforming Care (Winterbourne View), the Council's In House Extra Support Scheme (Learning Disability Supported Living) is working through some key development work. This is in advance of a full service review that delivers some of the aspirations of 'Transforming Care' and requirements of the 'Positive Behavioral Support Competency Framework', the key areas of development include:

- Funding has been secured from Skills for Care to support the training and development of staff working within the service area to ensure that the practice of Positive Behavioral Support is embedded.
- Partnership working with Blackpool and Fylde College to deliver the bespoke training over the next nine months.
- Service Manager representation at Pan-Lancashire project groups that are driving the Transforming Care agenda.
- Blackpool identified as a 'project area' for the work being done in relation to developing the workforce.
- Service Manager representation at a National Level contributing the 'Accreditation' consideration for future Positive Behavioral Support Training.
- Development of E Learning Modules relating to 'Challenging Behavior' and 'Positive Behavioral Support' that will be available to Council employees and the wide Provider Market

Working with Partners

LGBT history month

February was LGBT history month and the overall aims of this annual campaign are to:

- Increase the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") people, their history, lives and their experiences.
- Raise awareness on matters affecting the LGBT community.
- Work to make institutions safe spaces for all LGBT communities.
- Promote the welfare of LGBT people.

In Blackpool this year, we have worked with our key partners in the LGBT strategic partnership. This has included a number of local events including a social media photo campaign, special screening of award winning film "PRIDE" depicting the turbulent events in Welsh mining communities during the 1984 strike and a day of Trans Awareness, featuring Christine Burns MBE, patron of LGBT history month.

Bereavement Services

An open evening with representatives of local Funeral Directors and Clergy was held on 27 January, which was well attended. Issues discussed included improvement at Layton Cemetery,

alterations to the Chapel at Carleton, extension of the cemetery at Carleton and the holding of cremation services at different times of the day including Saturdays.

Adult Community and Family Learning

The Family Learning Service has been developing and delivering provision in a range of partnership projects. The service worked with the Grand Theatre and nine schools on a Family Learning project, which included photography and theatre performance. Accredited Functional English and Mathematics for parents has been delivered in four Children's Centre's. Two secondary schools are piloting accredited Mathematics courses for parents for the first time. The aim of the courses is for parents to be able to assist their children with the mathematics curriculum. Family Learning is also being delivered in two new settings (Thames Primary Academy and Stanley Kittens).

There are two emerging exciting partnership projects. Firstly, Family Learning and Better Start are working together on literacy projects and secondly, Family Learning has been working in partnership with the Early Years Team to develop and deliver REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) training for practitioners and parents to support children's literacy development.

Access and Inclusion

Research on the Educational Progress of Children Looked After (CLA) in England, linking care and educational Data has recently been published by the Rees Centre, University of Oxford and University of Bristol. It includes data comparisons for four groups: CLA Long Term (split into early entry (pre KS2) and late entry (post KS2)), CLA short term, Children in Need (CIN) and a comparison group (not CLA or CIN). It concludes that comparisons between CLA and CIN are more useful than comparing CLA with their non-looked after peers.

The research identifies protective factors such as early entry to care, good attendance at a mainstream school, supportive foster carers, birth parents and teachers.

The factors, which have the biggest impact on poorer performance are placement and school instability (especially changing school in Year 10 or Year 11), high unauthorised school absences and fixed term exclusions. The individual characteristics which affect performance include Free School Meals, Special Educational Needs (especially Autism Spectrum Disorder, Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe and Multiple Learning Difficulties or those with a disability), being male.

The research identified that the attainment gap widens over time from KS2 to KS4. The planned priorities and developments in response to the local context are being overseen by the Blackpool Challenge Board.

School Improvement Processes

The School Improvement Team is carrying out spring visits to Maintained Schools. The focus within the meetings is to review gaps between Pupil Premium children and other pupils in

school. School Improvement Partners will also be asking for judgements within Early Years regarding any gaps.

14 -19 Strategy

The Sixth Our Future, Our Choice event took place at Blackpool Pleasure Beach at the end of January this year. All of Blackpool's secondary schools, Further Education colleges, training providers and employers, support this collaborative event, steered and managed by the Blackpool Guidance Community Network and Blackpool Council. It is widely recognised as a template for good practice in relation to national aims and priorities. The two-day event attracts around 1,500 young people and in excess of 120 school staff from local secondary schools, including special schools and Pupil Referral Units. This year also saw ten of Blackpool's Primary schools attending the event.

Connexions are currently in the first full year delivering the Virtual Early Leaver service. This service is designed to quickly identify early leavers from Colleges and training Providers and then provide immediate support to them. To date 308 young people have come through the service with 197 moving into a positive destination within six weeks.

Connexions and Virtual schools are working together to provide all 16-24 Looked After Children who are in education specialised Careers Guidance, financial advice and early intervention of those at risk of disengaging. This project has also allowed us to know what the current destinations of our Looked After Children are including the qualifications they are undertaking and progress against them.

Youth Offending Team Partnership

Membership continues to evolve and improve to meet governance requirements of HM Inspectorate. Links have been strengthened with the Safeguarding Board and the BeSafe Partnership.

Community Safety Public Protection Reports for young people who commit a serious offence or attempt suicide or self-harm while under Youth Offending Team supervision showing a pattern of young people who have been victims of Child Sexual Exploitation have prompted a Multi-Agency Audit that is currently in progress.

Following the imposition of an in-year grant cut by Youth Justice Board a further reduction to the national grant is anticipated, but will not be known until late March. National negotiations between the Youth Justice Board and the National Offender Management Service regarding their contribution of staff and financial resources are proposed, which will bring reductions in both. Indications from the Youth Justice Board suggest a further, significant cut to the Effective Practice Grant in 2016/ 2017.

A 'table-top' review report on the service in relation to inspection criteria was presented to the Chief Executive and Director of People in January, with improvement actions identified in line with current best practice, including the participation of young people in the development of

the service. The service is one of a number within the scope of the current review of services to vulnerable adolescents.

Youth Employment

The Connexions Youthability Hub is due to complete its second year of activity. Connexions Youthability Hub is a one stop shop for young people aged 16 - 24 to get a range of support that helps them into employment. This support includes specialist careers advice, NHS counsellor support (from Connect) and direct input from employers alongside other Council/ Third Sector support services. Over the last twelve months employers such as Blackpool Transport, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and Burger King have supported Youthability. Since April last year 855 young people have accessed Youthability during its weekly three hour slot with 71 young people gaining employment and a further 247 in apprenticeships and Traineeships.

Admissions

The following data refers to Blackpool Residents gaining their first preferred Blackpool Secondary School or one of their preferred Blackpool Schools.

Percentage Offered First Preference	Percentage Offered First, Second or Third Preference
2016 – 75.0%	2016 – 91.1%
2015 – 79.4%	2015 – 92.0%

The national Offer Date for confirming Primary allocations is 16 April 2016.

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30 March 2016

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, 7 September 2015, 7 December 2015 and 15 February 2016. 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) 7 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. CHAIRMAN'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Authority gave thanks to Mr Max Winterbottom for his valued work and dedication in the role of Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority since 2005 and wished him well in his retirement at the end of September 2015.

2. COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER SCHEME LAUNCH

The Authority received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer who was pleased to announce that after much work between Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) and North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and their respective trade unions the first National Joint Council approved Community Responder Pilot in the country had been agreed in Lancashire. On 24 August 2015, fire crews in Morecambe and Ormskirk formally started operating the pilot, which after 6 months would be reviewed with a view to extending the initiative to other areas across Lancashire.

Members viewed a video, which had been produced for the launch of the Scheme which had received good media coverage and which was accessible from the following link:
<https://vimeo.com/137256138>.

Firefighters would be mobilised by NWAS to 'Red 1' and 'Red 2' (serious and life-threatening) medical emergencies simultaneously alongside Ambulance crews if they were closer to a patient than an ambulance when the call came through. In the event of a fire call while on the way to a medical incident, the LFRS appliance would be redirected to respond to the fire. The crews involved in the Scheme had received a high standard of life support training and were able to respond using blue lights. The crews had additional medical equipment and carried oxygen in addition to the defibrillator already installed on all appliances.

Since the Scheme had commenced the Service had attended 45 calls across the two stations involved. Feedback so far had been very positive from both members of the public and

NWAS staff. A formal report would be brought to Members at a future meeting for a decision on whether to extend the pilot.

3. BREAKING AND ENTRY PILOT

The Authority was advised that the Service was responding as part of another pilot in association with NWAS, replacing the Police when the Ambulance Service required access to a casualty given they did not have powers to effect an entry. This pilot involved all fire stations and had commenced six weeks ago.

The first quarter activity, which was reported recently to the Performance Committee under the Service's Key Performance Indicator for Preventing and Protecting, showed there had been 69 occasions during the first quarter of 2015/16 where the Service had gained entry. The Service's response time had been between 6½ – 8 minutes whereas the average Police response time had been 24 minutes. In addition, the Service was entering in a way which better left the premises secure. On occasions the Service had arrived before the Ambulance Service therefore, should the community first responder scheme be rolled out across the Service this would complement that work very well.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that the Service took a risk-based approach and that there was a risk in doing both the pilots. There could be occasions when fire engines might be unavailable to attend a fire from the nearest station due to undertaking the additional activity and in these situations, the fire engine would be despatched from the next nearest station. The benefits however, of responding to the additional activities outweighed this risk. Also as a consequence of this extra workload, there would also be an increase in incident numbers, which would be reflected in the Service's performance information.

4. FIRE RELATED PROSECUTIONS

Under this item Area Manager Phil Cox updated the Authority on the support the Service was giving to private rented sector landlords to ensure they were ready for the new regulations which made it compulsory for all landlords to fit smoke alarms in rented homes. The regulations were expected to come into effect from October 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval. Under the new laws, smoke alarms must be fitted on every floor of the property as well as carbon monoxide alarms in properties, which burned solid fuels. Landlords must check the alarms were working at the start of every new tenancy with potential penalties for non-compliance of up to £5,000.

To support local landlords to improve the safety of their tenants a new dedicated business support plus section had been created on the Service's website. This explained what landlords needed to do to make their properties safer from fire risk, carbon monoxide and other hazards and provided completely free access to a comprehensive, fully mobile enabled and intuitive online fire risk assessment. This provided a one-stop-shop tool to assess risk, evidence precautions taken by uploading photographs and storing relevant certification and documents all in one place online. Registration on the site enabled private rented property landlords to access a limited number of free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors that had been supplied to LFRS by the government. Members viewed the site, which could be accessed via the following link: <http://www.lancsbusinessplus.org.uk/>. In addition, the

Service was running area business forums throughout Business Safety Week (7 – 14 September 2015) to publicise this and provide advice.

5. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

Under this item, the Area Manager Ben Norman updated the Authority on the Services' response to a 4-storey building collapsed at Wood Flour Mills on Tunstall Road in Bosley, Cheshire on 17 July 2015 where, following explosions there were large fires at the scene and people reported missing. The Service provided assistance through its Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) based at Bamber Bridge and Chorley stations whose staff were mobilised to support Manchester Fire and Rescue Service at the major incident. The team consisted of a Station Manager, 10 USAR team members, specialist equipment and the canine unit. In Lancashire, the logistics were managed by a small incident room to ensure adequate cover and relief for the staff both in Cheshire and in Lancashire at the Bamber Bridge and Chorley stations. This was the largest USAR deployment in the country since the inception of national resilience arrangements. One of the main constraints was the surrounding dangers from burning silos and unstable structures. It was a real test of the resilience and operational planning arrangements. The team brought back a lot of learning which would be evaluated and which would inform future training policy thereby making any future responses more effective.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 7 DECEMBER 2015

1. WELCOME TO NEW CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER TO THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

At the Authority meeting, Members welcomed Mr Mark Nolan as the new Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Combined Fire Authority.

2. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE – 2014/15

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2012) provides overall strategic direction to English Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). It sets out the Government's priorities and objectives and places a requirement on all FRA's to provide assurance to their communities and to the Government on financial, governance and operational matters.

The Statement of Assurance was considered and approved by Members. It provides the necessary accountability and transparency to the people of Lancashire and evidences that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service continues to deliver the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

The Statement sits alongside the Service's IRMP, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and recently redesigned Annual Service Plan and Annual Progress Report. It details what measures are in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance remains efficient, economic and effective.

3. CAPITAL BUDGET 2016/17 – 2020/21 AND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 – 2019/20

The Authority noted and endorsed the draft Capital Programme for 2016/17 - 2020/21 and Revenue Budget for 2016/17 - 2019/20.

The Authority also authorised consultation with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers and Trade Unions on the budget proposals and agreed to give further consideration to both at their Budget Fixing Meeting scheduled for 16th February 2016.

4. URGENT BUSINESS – FLOODING IN LANCASHIRE

The Chief Fire Officer advised Members of the Service’s response to flooding-related incidents over the weekend.

Initially calls in Lancashire were to support stranded motorists and vulnerable people. North of Lancaster city centre an electrical sub-station, on Caton Road became surrounded by rising water. To prevent an outage in the Lancaster area, Electricity North West decided to isolate the supply, which serves over 50,000 properties. The Service brought in a high volume pump from Burnley to assist pumping operations into the canal. The water rescue teams were also brought in to assist. As the rain continued to fall, the River Lune burst its banks flooding the centre of Lancaster, which necessitated the evacuation of buildings including the Fire Station on Cable Street.

Gold command was set up at the Police Headquarters in Hutton with a co-ordinating room set up at Service HQ to match capacity to the volume of calls being received through North West Fire Control. Overall, over 400 emergency calls were received of which 278 were within the Lancaster area.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that he had attended the multi-agency Gold command meetings, which continued currently in the emergency phase although it was expected to move into the recovery phase within 24 hours. This had been relayed to Peter Holland, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser who attended the Government’s contingencies committee Cobra, to discuss the current situation.

Members praised the efforts of staff who had worked exceptionally hard to protect the people of Lancashire. The Authority asked that their appreciation be put on record and communicated to all staff.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 15 FEBRUARY 2016

1. BLUE LIGHT TIME TO CHANGE PLEDGE

Mental health problems affect 1 in 4 people every year, and 9 in 10 of those experiencing a mental health problem say they have faced negative treatment from others as a result.

The Chairman of the Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer has signed the “Blue Light Time to Change Pledge”. This is supported by an action plan which details some of the activity and

objectives the Service is going to do to support mental health and mental wellbeing amongst staff and their families.

A programme of training for managers through the “Managing Mental Health at Work” course provided by the mental health charity MIND has already been delivered and the Service supported the “Time to Talk Day” on the 4th February to help spread the word that you don’t have to be an expert around mental health to talk about it. Sometimes a text, a walk or a simple ‘how are you?’ can make a real difference.

2. REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2019/20

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2016/17 of £55.611m. After allowing for a council tax increase of 0.99% and allowing for the increase in council tax base and improved council tax collection rates, this resulted in a net budget requirement of £55.176m for 2016/17 and a council tax of £65.50 per Band D Property.

3. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLABORATION

On 11 September, the Government commenced a six-week consultation entitled ‘Enabling Closer Working Between Emergency Services’. This was considered by the Resources Committee on 25 September 2015 and a position statement established. Delegated authority was given to the CFA Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Leader of the main opposition party to agree a final response. This was subsequently agreed and returned before the close of the consultation.

In addition, a meeting was held between the CFA Chairman, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and chief officers of the Police and Fire in Lancashire to establish a common understanding and agree a direction of travel. This recognised both services were high performing and were collaborating effectively. As such, there was no evidence that a change in governance structures would deliver any tangible benefits. The position of being content with current governance arrangements was also endorsed by Lancashire County Council on 22 October 2015.

It is, however, recognised that different parts of the country with different economic, geographical or political pressure may seek alternative solutions. The CFA position was clearly that any changes to governance structure must be agreed between the Fire Authority and the PCC, rather than as the result of independent action.

The Government has now considered the 318 responses to the consultation commenting on some or all of the 16 questions posed. Their intention is to:

- introduce a high level duty to collaborate on all three emergency services, to improve efficiency or effectiveness;

- enable PCCs to take on the functions of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs), where a local case is made;
- where a PCC takes on the responsibilities of their local FRA, further enabling him or her to create a single employer for police and fire personnel;
- in areas where a PCC has not become responsible for fire and rescue services, enabling them to have representation on their local FRA with voting rights, where the local FRA agrees; and
- abolish the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and give the Mayor of London direct responsibility for the fire and rescue service in London.

Implications for the Authority include a new duty to collaborate between all three emergency services. This would not be exclusive and existing partnerships with other agencies could still continue. The Government's intention was to enable the PCC to have representation on the CFA or its committees with voting rights. This would be subject to the PCC making clear their reasons for seeking membership and the CFA agreeing the request. There would be further implications if the PCC moved to independently make a case to take control of fire. This position would need to be reviewed in light of the forthcoming PCC elections in May 2016.

4. FIRE RELATED PROSECUTIONS

The Authority received a report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015. One fire safety conviction was noted with 11 further cases / investigations ongoing.

In addition, fire protection and business support information had now been included in the report. This included an update for Members on the support provided by the Service to landlords to support their responsibilities in line with the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations, which required landlords to install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their properties from 1 October 2015.

There were no completed arson cases to report on this occasion. Members noted that arson detection rates for Lancashire continued to stay at over 3 – 4 times the national average. The continually improving standard of stage 1 fire reports submitted to the Police was resulting in early guilty pleas, which negated the need for officers to present evidence in court. This report informed Members of only the cases that went to a full hearing. It was noted therefore that during the last fiscal year 19 cases had been reported to Members however, an additional 136 cases had realised an early guilty plea.

30 March 2016

CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR PAUL GALLEY

Overview

I am pleased to provide this first report to the Council on the work of the Audit Committee, over the last Municipal Year and will be happy to answer any questions.

In June last year, the Council adopted the CIPFA recommended terms of reference for an Audit Committee, allowing the Committee to focus on its core audit functions. The purpose of the Committee is to provide those charged with governance, independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of financial reporting and annual governance process.

Audit Committees in local authorities are necessary to satisfy the wider requirements for sound financial management. In England, for instance, local authorities are responsible 'for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control, which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk'. Again, in England, section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires every local authority to 'make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs'.

Therefore, we have an important role in the Council's overall governance framework through providing support and challenge. I feel the importance of having an effective Audit Committee is especially crucial in light of the current financial climate currently faced by local government.

Since the formation of the new Audit Committee in May 2015, work has continued to increase the level of challenge provided by the Committee. This report summarises the work that has been undertaken by the Committee over the course of the 2015/ 2016 municipal year. It also demonstrates the Committee's commitment to its own training and development as it aims to become more effective, as well as highlighting some key aspects of the Committee's future work programme.

Work Undertaken

Risk Services

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in regards to oversee of the Council's control and assurance framework. The Committee has reviewed the Risk Services Quarterly Reports and following concerns over the inadequate assurance being provided for two specific Internal Audit reviews, it has requested Chief Officer attendance to provide assurance that

adequate progress was being made to address the control weaknesses. The two specific areas of concern were in relation to Framework-I implementation and the CCTV service.

Strategic Risk Register

The Committee approved the Strategic Risk Register in September and requested that risk owners be required to attend Committee meetings to discuss progress against addressing each risk on a periodic basis.

So far, we have discussed the below strategic risks with the appropriate risk owners:

- Unsustainable Local Economy /Increased Deprivation
- Lack of Resilience
- Service Failure
- Inadequate Change Management
- Failure to Keep People Safe

External Audit

The External Auditors, KPMG, continue to attend the Committee on a regular basis and the Committee has considered and approved a number of key documents relating to External Audit, including:

- The Annual Audit Fee 2015/ 2016
- The External Auditor's Report to those charged with Governance (ISA 260)
- The Annual Audit Letter 2014/ 2015, which summarised the key issues arising from the 2014/ 2015 audit of the Council
- The External Audit Plan 2015/ 2016
- The Certification of Grants and Returns 2014/ 2015

The Committee has also been informed by the External Auditor of the specific requirements that will need to be complied with when exercising the power to appoint an External Auditor from the 2018/ 2019 financial year onwards.

Referrals to Scrutiny

Throughout the course of the Audit Committee's work over the year, a number of issues have arisen that we have considered appropriate to refer to the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee to be examined in more detail. The referrals made by Audit Committee to the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee have resulted in:

- A planned report on the Highways Asset Management Strategy
- A planned report on the impact of Channel Shift and the performance of Customer Services
- A recommendation to consider the impact of the CCTV Service once its performance is able to be demonstrated

Other work undertaken

Since the start of the Municipal Year, the Committee has also approved the Council's Prosecution Policy and Anti-Money Policy and Procedure, which helped to embed a zero tolerance approach to fraud at the Council. National trends and local performance in relation to fraud and fraud prevention has been considered by the Committee on a regular basis to provide assurance that the Council's approach to fraud prevention and detection is robust.

Training and Development

Committee Members have been committed to their own development and have attended a number of training sessions that have been held over the past year, on the below listed subject areas:

- Audit Committee induction training
- Statement of Accounts
- The role of External Audit
- Understating Risk Services reports
- Corporate fraud
- National Fraud Initiative and Audit Committee best practice.

The Committee intends to undertake a self-assessment of its work to determine whether the Committee's performance has improved over a twelve month period. It is intended that the Committee members will continue to develop their skills through training and a self-evaluation of skills and knowledge will also be undertaken to inform future training needs.

Future Work Programme

The Committee will continue to receive and review the Risk Services Quarterly Report and when appropriate, invite Chief Officers to attend to provide explanations where inadequate assurance has been provided or where key controls have not been implemented.

The Strategic Risk Register will also be subject to continuous review and Chief Officers will be required to update the Committee with regards to the controls that are being implemented in order to manage the Council's risks. The following strategic risks are due to be considered by the Committee in its forthcoming meetings:

- Reputational Damage
- Sustainability of the Council
- Ineffective Governance
- Inability to respond to a major incident

The Committee aims to strengthen the monitoring process of the Annual Governance Statement and plans to carry out its own independent review of progress made in addressing the governance issues identified in the 2015/ 2016 Annual Governance Statement in September/ October of 2016.

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Alan Cavill, Director of Place
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2016

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016/2019

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 7 March 2016 relating to the approval of the Community Safety Plan 2016/ 2019.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To the approve the Community Safety Plan 2016/ 2019, as submitted.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Community Safety Plan outlines how it is intended for the Community Safety Partnership to address the key priorities identified by the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership 2015 Strategic Assessment namely anti-social behaviour, Domestic Abuse, violence against the person, sexual offences and rape and Child Sexual Exploitation.

- 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:

Not to endorse the Community Safety Plan.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council priorities are "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on Community Safety Partnerships to formulate a Strategic Assessment (SA) to ascertain the levels and patterns of crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse in their area, in order to identify the priorities for a three year Community Safety Plan. Following the completion of the Strategic Assessment and consultation on the priorities, the Community Safety Plan is then developed to address the priorities identified by the Strategic Assessment.

5.2 If approved, this plan, which the Community Safety Partnership, will refresh annually, sets out the actions that will be required to tackle these issues over the next three years.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 7(a) - Executive Decision Notice EX16/2016

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive and can be found on the [Council's website](#).

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 particularly Section 6:
"In formulating and implementing the Strategy, a responsible authority for a local government area must have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for the police area which comprises or includes that local government area. Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007."

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 An Equalities Analysis report has been completed is attached at Appendix 3b, to the Executive report.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 An on line survey was created which aimed to seek the views of residents and businesses on the priority outlined in the Community Safety Plan. This was to ascertain whether the public feel that these are the correct priorities to be addressed by the partnership, and also gave the public an opportunity to suggest any alternative priorities. This survey was also published in the local newspaper, as well as on the Council website, Council social media pages and through the Lancashire Constabulary internet information service 'In the Know'.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX16/2016
Relevant Officer:	Alan Cavill, Director of Place
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economy and Jobs)
Date of Meeting	7 th March 2016

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016/2019

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Community Safety Plan which articulates the priorities to be addressed by the Community Safety Partnership with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend Council to approve the Community Safety Plan 2016 – 2019.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Community Safety Plan outlines how it is intended for the Community Safety Partnership to address the key priorities identified by the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership 2015 Strategic Assessment namely anti-social behaviour, Domestic Abuse, violence against the person, sexual offences and rape, and Child Sexual Exploitation

- 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:

Not to endorse the Community Safety Plan.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on Community Safety Partnerships to formulate a Strategic Assessment (SA) to ascertain the levels and patterns of crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse in their area, in order to identify the priorities for a three year Community Safety Plan. Following the completion of the Strategic Assessment and consultation on the priorities, the Community Safety Plan is then developed to address the priorities identified by the Strategic Assessment.

5.2 This Community Safety Plan builds upon the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership 2015 Strategic Assessment. The priorities are anti-social behaviour, Domestic Abuse, violence against the person, sexual offences and rape, and Child Sexual Exploitation. This plan, which will be refreshed annually by the Community Safety Partnership, sets out the actions that will be required to tackle these issues over the next three years.

5.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.4 List of Appendices:

Appendix 3a – 2016 – 2019 Blackpool Community Safety Plan
Appendix 3b – Equalities Analysis

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 particularly Section 6:
“In formulating and implementing the Strategy, a responsible authority for a local government area must have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for the police area which comprises or includes that local government area. Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.”

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 An Equalities Analysis report has been completed is attached at Appendix 3b, to the Executive report.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 An on line survey was created which aimed to seek the views of residents and businesses on the priority outlined in the Community Safety Plan. This was to ascertain whether the public feel that these are the correct priorities to be addressed by the partnership, and also gave the public an opportunity to suggest any alternative priorities. This survey was also published in the local newspaper, as well as on the Council website, Council social media pages and through the Lancashire Constabulary internet information service 'In the Know'.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 32/2015

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

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

15.0 Call-in information:

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

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 26th February 2016 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend Council to approve the Community Safety Plan 2016 – 2019.

18.2 Date of Decision:

7 March 2016

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

The Community Safety Plan outlines how it is intended for the Community Safety Partnership to address the key priorities identified by the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership 2015 Strategic Assessment namely anti-social behaviour, Domestic Abuse, violence against the person, sexual offences and rape, and Child Sexual Exploitation

19.1 Date Decision published:

8 March 2016

20.0 Executive Members present:

20.1 Councillor Campbell, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Collett, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

Apologies were received from Councillor Blackburn who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes :

22.1

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2016

POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 7 March 2016 relating to the approval of the Policy Framework Review.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

The Executive recommend to Council:

- 2.1 To approve the Council and Executive Policy Framework in light of the new Council Plan priorities.
- 2.2 To consider the strategies at Appendix 4(c) of the Executive report and agree that future iterations of these are approved by the Executive.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 As resources diminish and priorities change it is important that the work the Council does is focused and aligned to the organisation's priorities; similarly, the number of strategies has reduced over time and it is equally important that the Council's strategic direction is clearly articulated.

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:

Not to have a Policy Framework.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool and Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 There are a number plans and strategies that exist that consists of either statutory documents or documents that have been developed to deliver and drive priorities. The purpose of the Policy Framework is to ensure that the Council’s strategic direction is clearly articulated.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 8(a) - Executive Decision Notice EX17/2016

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive and can be found on the [Council’s website](#).

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 A number of the strategies that are due to expire are statutory. Therefore, it is important that the necessary plans are in place to refresh the documents.

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 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX17/2016
Relevant Officer:	Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	7 th March 2016

POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To present the final version of the Council Policy Framework (CPF) and Executive Policy Framework (EPF). The report sets out:
- An updated Policy Framework to reflect the organisation's new Council Plan priorities;
 - A clear golden thread with strategies aligned to the new priorities;
 - A list of strategies which are due to expire by March 2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the Executive recommends to Council to:
- a) Approve the Council and Executive Policy Framework in light of the new Council Plan priorities, please see Appendices 4a and 4b;
 - b) Consider the strategies at Appendix 4c and agree that future iterations of these are approved by the Executive.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 As resources diminish and priorities change it is important that the work the Council does is focused and aligned to the organisation's priorities; similarly, the number of strategies has reduced over time, and it is equally important that the Council's strategic direction is clearly articulated.

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:

Not to have a policy framework

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The Policy Framework applies to both Council Priorities

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Council Policy Framework

The Council Policy Framework or Constitutional Policy Framework consists of statutory documents and ones considered key to delivering the Council’s priorities. In recent years, developments have occurred legislatively and organisationally which have initiated further changes:

- A new Council Plan has been developed and adopted;
- The government published the Welfare Reform and Work Bill which effectively removes the duty to produce a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy.

5.2 Executive Policy Framework

The Executive Policy Framework (EPF) supports the achievement of the strategies in the (CPF). These are approved by the Executive as part of its role to run the Council on a day to day basis. Those developing strategies must obtain Corporate Leadership Team approval before developing or reviewing any document in the Executive Policy Framework or Constitutional Policy Framework. It is also a requirement of the Executive that all strategies, plans and policies are approved by the Corporate Leadership Team beforehand and the Executive.

5.3 Appendix 4b, to the Executive report, is a list of strategies that form the basis of the Executive Policy Framework and will be published on the Council’s website with links to the relevant document. It includes a separate list of licensing policies and a separate list of internal corporate strategies. These are strategies which contribute indirectly to the achievement of the Council’s priorities.

5.4 Appendix 4c, to the Executive report, is a list of strategies which have not been approved by the Executive. It is recommended that future iterations of these strategies are approved by the Executive.

5.5 **Partnership Strategies**

Many strategies are developed and delivered in partnership with other organisations and are driven by national policy. They are developed on a variety of footprints and can be Blackpool-specific, Fylde Coast or pan-Lancashire. This creates additional complexity when trying to align to organisational priorities.

5.6 Appendix 4d, to the Executive report, is an attempt to align Executive strategies to the Council Framework; however there is not clear alignment in many cases. Full alignment will happen over time as strategies expire and new strategies are developed in line with the Council Plan.

5.7 **Strategy reviews**

The following table shows strategies which are due to expire before March 2016. As part of the review process (and for any new strategies), a strategy template will be required for Corporate Leadership Team and Leadership Team to enable links to other strategic plans to be made and for approval to proceed with the development process, in instances where the strategy is not statutory.

Strategy	Progress update
Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2016	A new strategy is in development.
Highways Asset Management Plan	A new plan is in development.
Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 15	A new strategy is in development.
Child Poverty Framework 2012 – 15	There are no plans to refresh this due to forthcoming legislation to remove the duty to have a Child Poverty Strategy. The Council’s approach to addressing child poverty will be written into the new HWB Strategy.
Community Safety Plan 2012 – 15	A new strategy is included on this agenda for approval
Housing Related Support Commissioning Strategy 2014 – 16	To be reviewed this year.
Mental Health Action Plan 2013 – 15	This has been refreshed
Alcohol Strategy 2013 – 16	This will be refreshed in May 2016.
Sexual Health Strategy 2013 – 16	A sector led improvement exercise with Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Cumbria County

	Council is due for completion in June; the strategy will be refreshed by October 2016.
Internal Audit Plan 2015 – 2016	The plan is currently being refreshed.

5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 List of Appendices:

- Appendix 4a – Council Policy Framework (CPF)
- Appendix 4b – Executive Policy Framework (EPF)
- Appendix 4c– Strategies not included on the EPF
- Appendix 4d– Strategies aligned to Council Priority

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 A number of the strategies that are due to expire are statutory. Therefore it is important that the necessary plans are in place to refresh the documents.

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 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

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

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

15.0 Call-in information:

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

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To recommend to Council to approve the Council Policy Framework in light of the new Council Plan priorities, as attached at Appendix 4a, to the Executive report.
2. To approve the Executive Policy Framework as attached at Appendix 4c, to the Executive report, and to recommend Council to note the creation of this document.
3. To note the strategies at Appendix 4c, to the Executive report, and agree that future iterations of these are approved by the Executive.

18.2 Date of Decision:

8 March 2016

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

As resources diminish and priorities change it is important that the work the Council does is focused and aligned to the organisation's priorities; similarly, the number of strategies has reduced over time, and it is equally important that the Council's strategic direction is clearly articulated.

19.1 Date Decision published:

8 March 2016

20.0 Executive Members present:

20.1 Councillor Campbell, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Collett, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

Apologies were received from Councillor Blackburn who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes :

22.1

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Date of Meeting	30 March 2016

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS – STANDARDS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Council is asked to consider the appointment of three statutory Independent Persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to appoint Mr A Mozley, Mr B Horrocks and Mrs H Broughton as statutory Independent Persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011, for a three year period starting from 1 May 2016 until 30 September 2019.
- 2.2 To confirm the continuation of the sharing arrangement with Fylde Borough Council, for the use of the Independent Persons.
- 2.3 To request the Chairman of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer to write a joint letter on behalf of the Council to Mr Ellwood, to thank him for his service as an Independent Person over the previous three years and to wish him well for the future.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To consider the appointment of statutory independent persons under the Localism Act 2011, following a recent advert for these positions.
- 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 not make any appointments.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool and Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Localism Act 2011 abolished the former standards regime including the requirement to have co-opted independent members. However, in the interests of enabling independent scrutiny of the process by which complaints against elected members are dealt with, the Act includes a requirement that all Local Authorities must appoint at least one Independent Person.

5.2 In addition, the Monitoring Officer must consult with the Independent Person prior to referring a matter for formal investigation. The Monitoring Officer can also use them in an advisory manner in other standards matters. The Act also states that an Independent Person should be available to be consulted by a member who is the subject of an allegation that they have breached the Members’ Code of Conduct. As the Independent Person advising a member subject to an allegation cannot be one and the same as to whom the Monitoring Officer has utilised, this leads to the conclusion that there should be at least two Independent Persons.

5.3 Following the introduction of the legislation in 2012, Fylde and Blackpool Councils agreed to share Independent Persons across both Councils and agreed to appoint three independent persons for a three-year period, finishing on 31 January 2016. The arrangement with Fylde Borough Council has been very successful over the last three years and the scrutiny, advice and support of the three Independent Persons has been equally positive.

5.4 At the meeting of the Council in November 2015, it was agreed to extend the term of office for Mr A Mozley, Mr B Horrocks and Mr R Ellwood as statutory independent persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 until 1 June 2016 or a lesser period (agreed by Council), subject to the successful conclusion of the recruitment process.

5.6 The recruitment process commenced in the New Year and interviews were held in March 2016. The interview Panel comprised of Councillor Fred Jackson, Chairman Standards Committee, Blackpool Council, Councillor John Singleton, Chairman Audit and Standards Committee, Fylde Borough Council, Mark Towers, Monitoring Officer, Blackpool Council and Tracy Morrison, Monitoring Officer, Fylde Borough Council.

5.7 Mr R A Ellwood who served as an Independent Member for the previous three year term, had indicated that he did not wish to seek a re-appointment for personal reasons and did not put himself forward for consideration.

5.8 The Interview Panel interviewed four applicants for the three positions and recommends to Council the appointment of three of the candidates. These are Mr A Mozley and Mr B Horrocks (both of whom had served previously as Independent Persons) and Mrs H Broughton, a local business woman. The three year period would end in 2019 and it is suggested that as it is election year the term of officer ends on 30 September 2019, to allow advertising of the positions during the summer months.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011 states the requirement to appoint at least one Independent Person for standards matters.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 There are no Human Resource considerations

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equalities considerations to this report.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The statutory Independent Persons appointed under the Localism Act 2011 have an honorarium of £500 per year, which is currently the subject of a review.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There are no risk management considerations other than not having sufficient members to serve as Independent Persons.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Nothing other than as indicated in the report.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2016

GOVERNANCE REVIEW - COMBINED AUTHORITY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress on the Lancashire Combined Authority proposals, outline the response to the public consultation exercise and seek agreement for the Council to become a constituent member of a Combined Authority for Lancashire.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

The Council is recommended:

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 To note the appended response to the public consultation on the Combined Authority proposals.
- 2.3 To agree to become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority and submit proposals to do so to the Secretary of State.
- 2.4 That in the interim period, the Council agree to form a shadow Lancashire Combined Authority
- 2.5 That any future proposals for a devolution deal with the Government be brought back to Council for agreement.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To seeks the agreement of the Council to become a constituent member of the Lancashire Combined Authority

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? Yes. The Council has not been part of a Combined Authority before

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To not progress to the next stage.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority are "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool" and "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Members will be aware that in October 2014 Council Leaders indicated their wish to develop closer collaborative working across Lancashire on economic related matters and to explore the options in this regard.

5.2 In order to determine whether the existing arrangements are effective or would benefit from change the Leaders asked that a Governance Review be undertaken. The Council considered the Governance Review and draft Scheme of Governance at its meeting on 25 November 2015.

6.0 Lancashire Combined Authority

6.1 As part of the Governance Review Leaders developed ambitions for Lancashire. These are:

- Prosperous Lancashire – a Lancashire that is recognised as a destination of choice, to invest in, do business in, live or visit;
- Connected Lancashire – digital and transport connectivity to promote inclusive growth;
- Skilled Lancashire – a skilled workforce to meet the demands of employers and future business growth;
- Better Homes for Lancashire – better living standards for residents with good quality homes and a wide housing offer;

- Public services working together for Lancashire – integrated public services at the heart of local communities giving everyone the opportunity for a healthier life.
- 6.2 Leaders have recognised that some of the ambitions set out above can be delivered through the existing excellent partnership arrangements in place across the County geography. However, in order to attract and maintain economic growth and achieve a prosperous Lancashire for all, we need to demonstrate that Lancashire means business and provide reassurance that we have strong, robust governance arrangements in place and a commitment to work together.
- 6.3 The Lancashire Combined Authority will provide a legally constituted body operating across Lancashire to take strategic decisions on transport, economic development and regeneration and strengthen the relationship with the LEP and local authorities.
- 6.4 Lancashire has one of the largest local economies in the North of England generating over £25bn GVA, with over 45,000 businesses supporting 700,000 jobs. A Lancashire Combined Authority will ensure Lancashire is able to reach its full economic potential. The Government have been clear that it wants to deal with Local Government on economy, planning, housing and skills through a Combined Authority arrangement. For Blackpool Council, a Lancashire Combined Authority will be:
- A single voice for Lancashire in the debate about the future of the North. Neighbouring areas already have powerful voices through their Combined Authorities and are shaping the ‘Northern Powerhouse’. Lancashire needs a strong voice to influence the debate.
 - A focus for driving economic growth. When new funding arrangements for Local Government are fully implemented, Councils will be reliant on business rates to fund services. A Combined Authority and the potential additional investment, offers the strongest way to impact on our business rate.
 - An opportunity for Councils to influence and shape the work of the LEP and the funding streams which the Government distributes through the LEP. The Scheme of Governance sets out that the Combined Authority would include local authorities and the LEP within its governance structure.
 - An opportunity to influence and contribute to a ‘Lancashire Plan’ on economy, skills, development and shape how Lancashire’s priorities and investments are decided.
 - An opportunity to influence what the strategic transport priorities are locally, across Lancashire and at a regional level and provide a strong voice for Lancashire in shaping the priorities for the Transport for the North.

- An opportunity to share capacity, expertise and experience in a co-ordinated way.
- An opportunity to work collectively on the challenge of delivering sustainable public services in the future.

6.5 The Lancashire Combined Authority will operate within a Scheme of Governance. In summary the arrangements will be:

Members hip	Local authorities in Lancashire, represented by Leader.
Voting arrangements	One vote per each local authority (excluded transport).
Decision making	Unanimous agreement on strategic plans, investment strategy, annual budget, borrowing limits, adoption of freedoms and flexibilities, any changes to CA arrangements. All other decision 2/3 majority. There is no provision for Executive arrangements.
Decision making – transport	Transport planning and investment would be subject to unanimous agreement by three transport authorities.
Overview and Scrutiny	Scrutiny Committee with representation from authorities would be established.
Finance	No member allowances payable Councils to meet core costs (kept to a minimum)

7.0 Devolution

7.1 In developing the Combined Authority, Lancashire Leaders have been considering devolution proposals, which could enable greater control, power and influence over a range of programmes and funding delivered in Lancashire. These include devolved funding for strategic transport and development; influence and/ or control over employment and skills programmes and delivery; housing; growth funding and aligning investment activity.

7.2 Whilst there is a close link between Combined Authorities and devolution deals with the Government, it is important to note that they are separate issues and subject to negotiation. A devolution deal would need the agreement of the constituent members of the Combined Authority.

8.0 Next Steps

8.1 This report seeks the agreement of the Council to become a constituent member of the Lancashire Combined Authority and signals to the Government that the authorities are committed to working together for a better Lancashire. A similar report is going to other Councils throughout March and April. Subject to Council decisions, a proposal to form a Lancashire Combined Authority will be submitted to the Government for consideration and negotiation.

8.2 In the interim period, it's recommended that the local authorities operate as a shadow Combined Authority using the guiding principles set out in the Scheme of Governance from July 2016.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

Yes/No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 10(a) - Lancashire Combined Authority Consultation Report February 2016.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 The powers to establish a Combined Authority are contained within the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ("the Act") and The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016.

9.2 A constitution for the Combined Authority will also be developed. The Council's own constitution will also be reviewed and any necessary amendments will be made.

9.3 A parliamentary order is needed to establish a Combined Authority.

10.0 Human Resources considerations:

10.1 There are no Human Resources considerations, at this stage.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 There are no Equality considerations, at this stage.

12.0 Financial considerations:

12.1 Officer resources have been made available by some authorities in supporting the Combined Authority development on an 'in kind' basis and it is envisaged that this will continue. At this stage there are no financial implications.

12.2 As per the Scheme of Governance for the Combined Authority, approval of the annual budget including decisions on any levies, precepts or other demands for financial contribution from constituent authorities is subject to unanimous agreements by the constituent members.

13.0 Risk management considerations:

13.1 The Council needs to move to the next stage of the process to fully consider the benefits of being part of a combined authority.

14.0 Ethical considerations:

14.1 There are no ethical considerations.

15.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

15.1 The Lancashire councils along with the Lancashire LEP have recently undertaken a public consultation exercise. A summary of the response to the consultation is appended to this report for information. To ensure an independent, robust and coordinated approach the councils in Lancashire commissioned Infusion Research to undertake the consultation.

15.2 The consultation was held from 11 January to 19 February 2016. Promotion of the consultation reached an estimated 444,000 people and over 15,000 people visited the consultation website over the six week period. Almost 2000 responses were received.

15.3 Of those respondents 70% strongly or tend to agree with the proposal to establish a Combined Authority for Lancashire. Of those who disagreed with the proposal, the main concern appears to be around where any resources would be focused and any adverse impact on local services.

16.0 Background papers:

16.1 None.

**Lancashire Combined Authority
Consultation Report
February 2016**

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Consultation response

- 1,944 responses were received to the consultation on a proposed Combined Authority in Lancashire between 11 January and 19 February 2016
- 1,317 residents and 518 local authority employees took part in the consultation, as well as 35 businesses and organisations
- Promotion of the consultation reached an estimated 444,000 people and over 15,000 people visited the consultation website over a 6 week period

1.2 Agreement with proposal

- 74% of respondents strongly or tend to agree that a partnership approach is important in Lancashire
- 70% strongly or tend to agree with the proposal to establish a Combined Authority in Lancashire
- Local authority employees (79%) and businesses or organisations (82%) had a higher level of agreement with the proposal than residents (65%)
- Of those who disagree with the proposal, the main concerns appear to be around where any resources would be focused across the county and the adverse impact the proposal might have on local services

1.3 Key objectives

- The level of agreement with the identified objectives for the proposed Combined Authority is highest for a Prosperous and Connected Lancashire (81% strongly or tend to agree), followed by a Skilled Lancashire and Public Services Working Together (both 80%) and then Better Homes for Lancashire (74%)
- A range of other objectives for the proposed Combined Authority were suggested by respondents, including a 'Greener Lancashire', an 'Equal Lancashire' and a 'Listening Lancashire'

1.4 Other comments and feedback

- Final comments were varied with the most important issues seeming to be achieving a balance between local identity and a strong strategic voice for Lancashire, as well getting the right structure and administration to achieve efficiencies without impacting on local service delivery

2 Background and Methodology

2.1 Background

A Combined Authority is a formal legal arrangement which supports and enables collaboration and co-ordination between two or more local government areas on transport, regeneration and economic growth as well as skills, housing and employment. It is intended to support increased democratic accountability and transparency complementary to that provided by the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to a major area of local government policy making. Each of the councils that are members of a Combined Authority remain separate authorities; the Combined Authority is a mechanism to work more effectively and formally in partnership.

A Governance Review was requested by Leaders across Lancashire in order to determine whether the existing arrangements are effective or would benefit from change. As part of the Review an options appraisal was undertaken and consideration was given to arrangements including – enhanced status quo, Joint Committee, Economic Prosperity Board, Integrated Transport Authority and Combined Authority.

The Review concluded that a Combined Authority offers the strongest governance model to attract freedoms and flexibilities from the Government and will enable a cohesive approach across Lancashire to a range of issues including developing better and broader skills provision, including entry level skills; more co-ordinated infrastructure planning with improved use of resources; more co-ordinated approach to housing provision; more co-ordinated approach to business growth.

Councils across Lancashire agreed to undertake a public consultation on the proposal to establish a Combined Authority and seek views on the Governance Review and Draft Scheme of Governance.

After consideration of the outcome of public consultation, authorities wishing to form a Combined Authority would then submit a proposal to the Secretary of State for consideration.

2.2 Methodology

To ensure an independent, robust and coordinated approach to the public consultation, councils in Lancashire commissioned Infusion Research. This is a not-for-profit local government research service which has operated across the county for over ten years.

The primary method was a consultation website, hosted on the Infusion website. This set out information on the proposal, including supporting documents such as the Governance Review and Draft Scheme of Governance, and provided respondents the opportunity to have their say through an online survey. Moreover, to ensure access to a paper-based survey for those who may not use the internet, copies were made available at libraries across Lancashire.

The consultation went live on Monday 11 January and closed on Friday 19 February 2016, giving respondents six weeks to have their say on the proposal. As an open consultation, the primary purpose was to seek views from any resident, employee, organisation or business wishing to express an opinion. Whilst the findings are not representative of the population as a whole, they indicate the level of interest and general views of the most engaged.

During this time a proactive, coordinated approach was taken to communicating and promoting the consultation. This included:

- Signposting to the central consultation website from each local authority website
- Regular social media posts from Lancashire councils as well as online promotion from Marketing Lancashire and several references to the consultation on local radio
- 50 online and written news articles about the consultation
- Email alerts to a range of local resident panels and databases
- Direct invitations to a comprehensive list of local and regional stakeholders and businesses at the beginning of the consultation, with a reminder sent part way through

This level of promotion resulted in a combined reach of 444,406 people through social media and new articles, and a total of 15,539 views of the consultation website during the consultation period. A total of 1,944 responses were received to the consultation, comprising of 1,897 online survey submissions, 41 paper survey returns and 8 direct written responses (two of which duplicated an online submission).

Within this report any percentages reported are based on the number of responses to each individual question (referred to herein as the 'base' total). Any open-ended comment questions have not been quantifiably categorised at this stage but a summary of some of the common responses is provided for each question to give a feel for the comments received. These summaries should not be interpreted as being representative of the views of all respondents to the consultation.

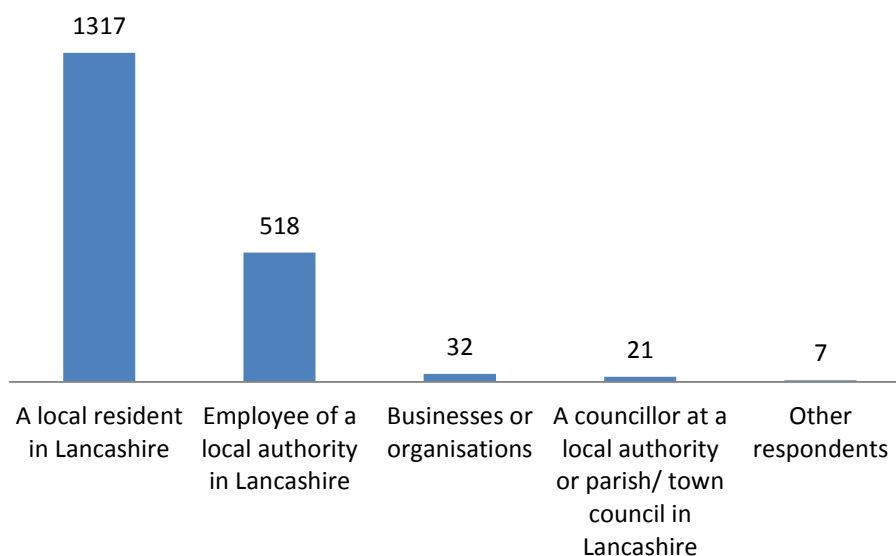
Apply some caution to the percentages expressed for business/ organisation and councillor categories where the 'base' totals are low.

3 Who Responded?

Of the people who indicated their response type in the consultation, 69% were local residents in Lancashire and a further 27% were local authority employees in the county.

48 respondents did not indicate in what capacity they were completing the consultation survey. In addition to the survey returns, 8 written responses were received (two of which duplicated an online submission).

Figure 3.1: Are you responding as...? (Q1, base – 1888)



3.1 Local residents

Of those residents who provided their home postcode, nearly half live in a PR postcode area which covers Chorley, Leyland and Preston.

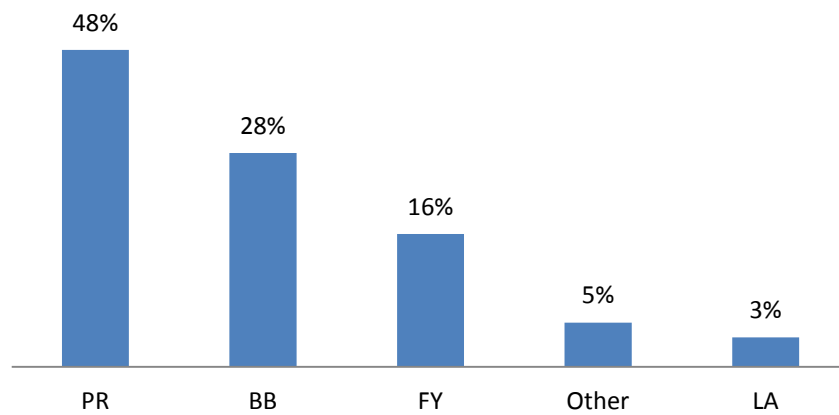
The BB postcode area covers much of East Lancashire, including Blackburn, Burnley, Pendle, Accrington and Clitheroe.

The FY postcode area covers the Fylde Coast, including Blackpool, Fleetwood, Lytham St Annes and Thornton-Cleveleys.

The LA postcode area covers Lancaster and surrounding areas such as Carnforth and Morecambe.

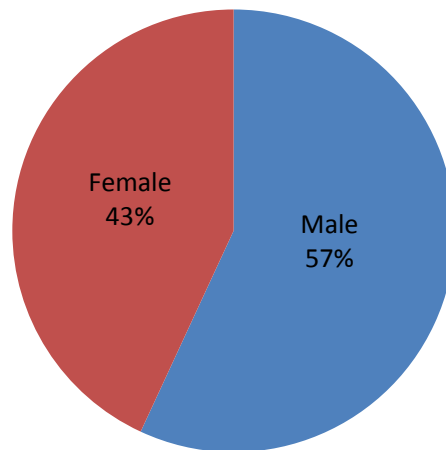
A range of other postcodes were captured from areas of Lancashire including BL (outlining areas of Blackburn, Chorley and Rossendale), OL (outlying areas of Rossendale) and WN (covering parts of West Lancashire such as Skelmersdale).

Figure 3.2: What is your home postcode? (Q8, base – 1269)



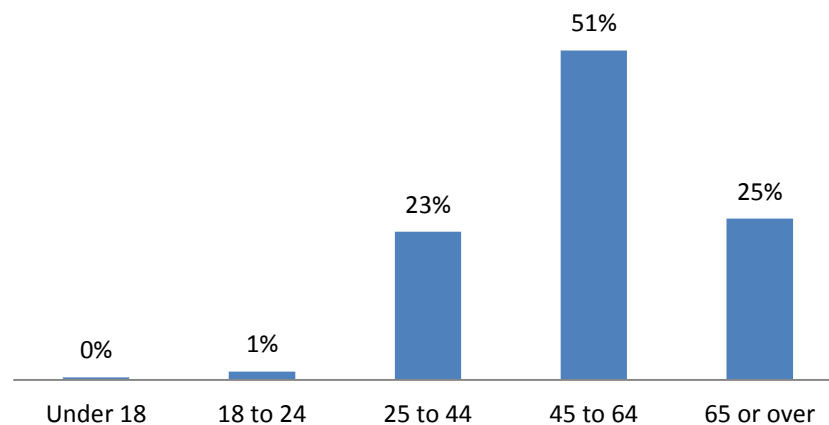
More male residents than female residents responded to the consultation.

Figure 3.3: What is your gender? (Q9, base – 1288)



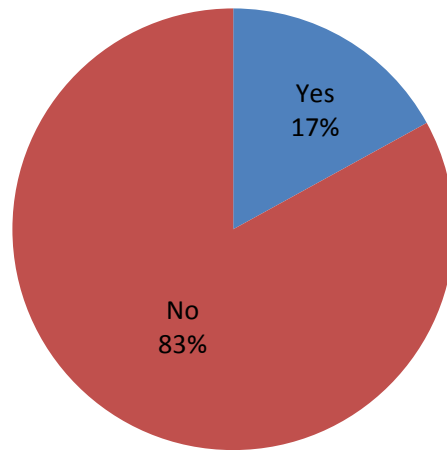
Around half of residents who responded to the consultation were aged between 45 and 64. One in four were aged 65 or over and 23% between the ages of 25 and 44.

Figure 3.4: Which age group do you belong to? (Q10, base – 1304)



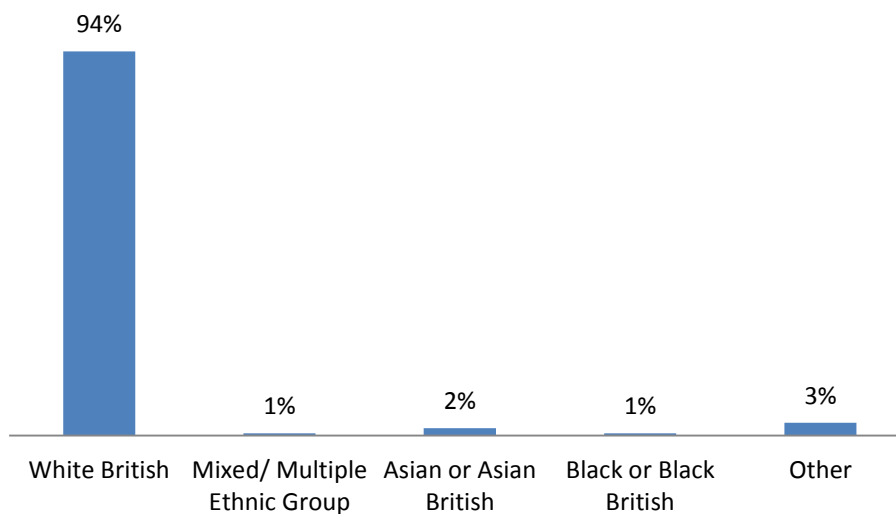
17% of local residents who responded to the consultation indicated that they have a long standing illness or disability.

Figure 3.5: Do you have a long standing illness or disability? (Q11, base – 1272)



The majority of residents responding to the consultation indicated that they are of White British ethnicity.

Figure 3.6: What is your ethnic origin? (Q12, base – 1279)

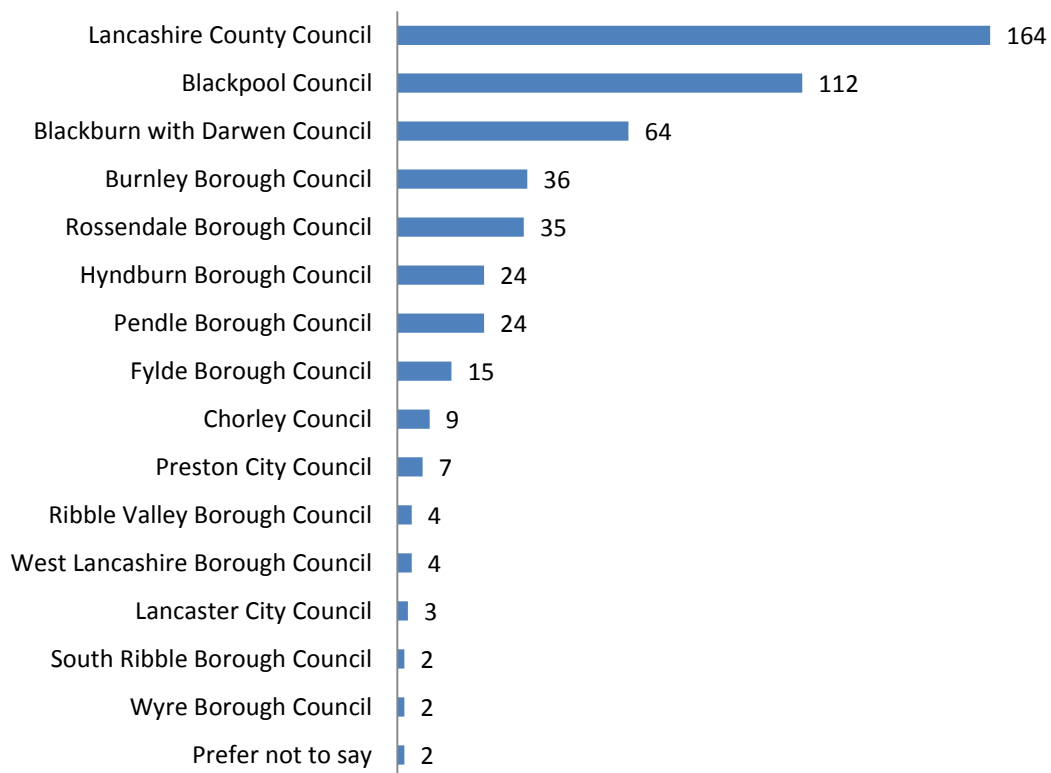


3.2 Local authority employees

Nearly a third of local authority employee responses to the consultation came from those working at Lancashire County Council.

The unitary councils of Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen cumulatively account for a further 35% of the local authority employee responses.

Figure 3.7: Which local authority do you work for? (Q1c, base – 507)



3.3 Businesses and organisations

Of the 35 businesses and organisations who provided their details, either through the survey or via direct written response, 15 came from private businesses across the county. 12 responses to the consultation came from representatives within the voluntary and third sector. This included an enterprise trust and a number of local community groups. A further 8 were from public services representatives covering sectors including health, universities, police and an already established combined authority.

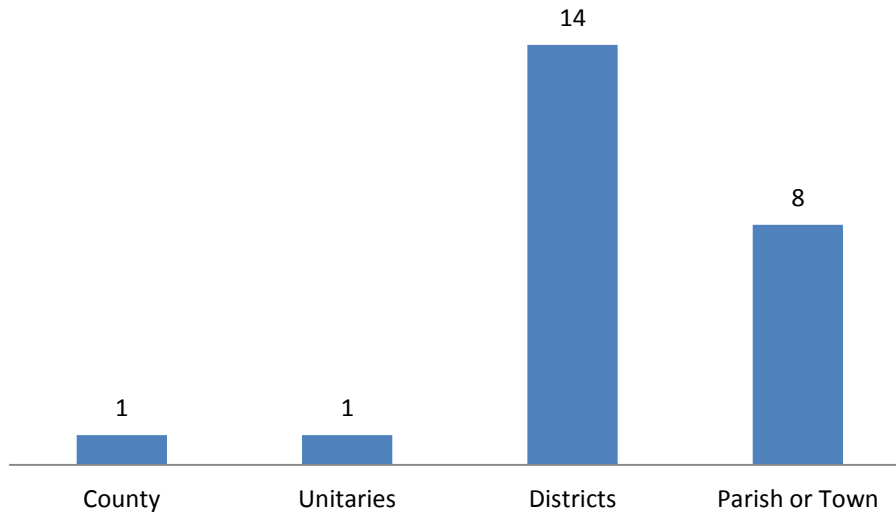
Figure 3.8: Which business or organisation do you represent? (Q1a, base – 35)



3.4 Local councillors

Of the 24 local councillor respondents who indicated the authority they are at, 14 came from district councils across Lancashire and 8 responses were from local parish or town councillors. Note that some parish councillors responded as 'other' which is why the base total exceeds the response level from councillors in Q1.

Figure 3.9: Where are you a councillor at? (Q1d, base – 24)



Moreover, one written response was received from a local Member of Parliament which expressed overall support for the proposal to establish a Combined Authority in Lancashire.

4 Main Findings

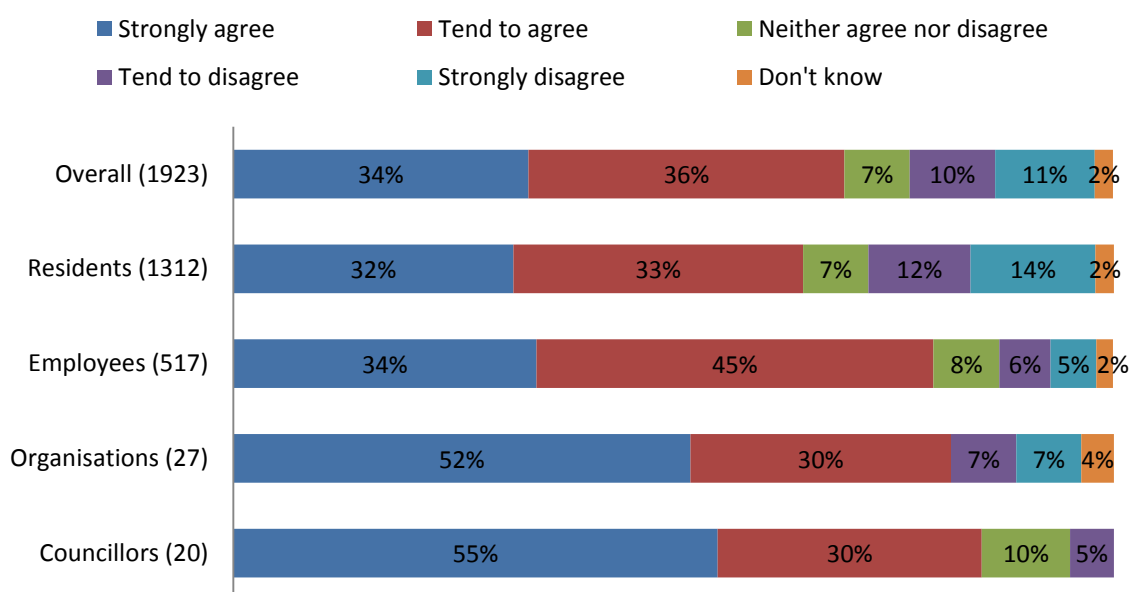
4.1 Working in partnership

74% of consultation respondents strongly or tend to agree that councils in Lancashire working together with businesses and other partners to drive forward transport, economic development and skills in the area is important.

This level of agreement is highest amongst local authority employees in Lancashire (83% strongly or tend to agree).

70% of local residents strongly or tend to agree that this partnership approach is important in Lancashire, 19% strongly or tend to disagree.

Figure 4.1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that this partnership approach is important in Lancashire? (Q2, bases in brackets)



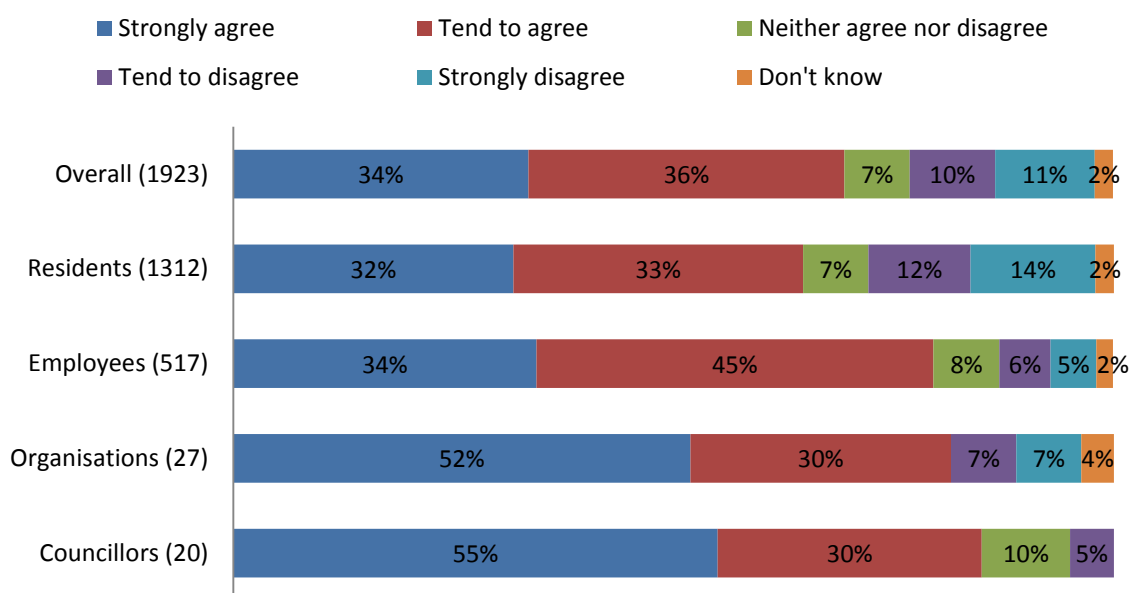
4.2 Proposal to establish a Combined Authority

After setting out the proposal to establish a Combined Authority in Lancashire, 70% of respondents strongly or tend to agree with this proposal. Additionally, each of the 8 written responses from organisations including local CCGs, a University and an existing Combined Authority supported the proposal, with some further comments on partnership working and the focus of the Combined Authority.

The level of agreement is highest amongst local authority employees (79%) and organisations or businesses (82%).

65% of local residents strongly or tend to agree with the proposal to establish a Combined Authority in Lancashire, 26% strongly or tend to disagree. This level of disagreement rises to 34% in the FY postcode area.

Figure 4.2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with establishing a Combined Authority in Lancashire? (Q3, bases in brackets)



Of those who disagree with the proposal to establish a Combined Authority in Lancashire, the main reasons appear to be:

- A view that this would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy in local government and public services and become 'distant' from residents
- Some concern that parts of the county would get more than others in any combined arrangement, either with resources focused on larger populations or those areas considered more 'in need'
- A belief that the local needs and profiles of different areas would not be adequately addressed through a combined authority
- A perception that this would result in reduced services for local residents due to redundancies and consolidation of services
- Some concern that decision making and processes could be slowed down by centralising through a combined authority
- Some queries around what impact it would have on local Council Tax rates across the county
- Not having enough detailed information about the proposed Combined Authority to make a judgement

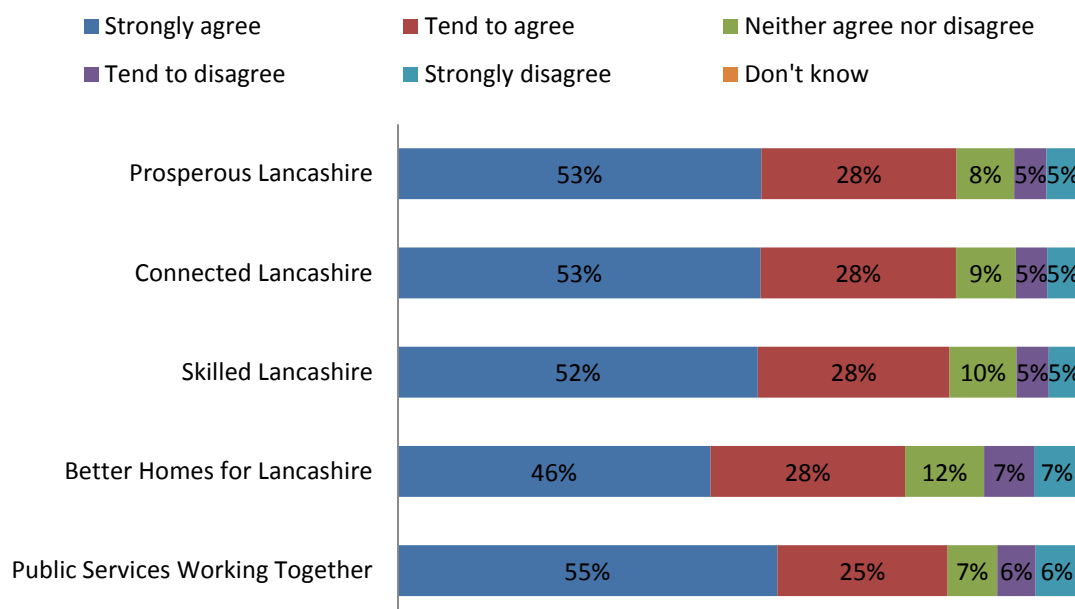
4.3 Key objectives

Five key objectives for the proposed Combined Authority were set out in the consultation:

- A **Prosperous Lancashire** that is recognised as a destination of choice, to do business in, live or visit.
- A **Connected Lancashire** with digital and transport connectivity across the county and to neighbouring areas.
- A **Skilled Lancashire** which can meet the demands of employers and future business growth, supporting employment opportunities for residents.
- **Better Homes for Lancashire** where residents have better living standards with good quality homes and a wide housing offer.
- **Public Services Working Together** with integrated public services.

Generally, the level of agreement was high with the identified objectives for the proposed Combined Authority. 81% agree with a Prosperous and Connected Lancashire, 80% agree with a Skilled Lancashire and Public Services Working Together and 74% with Better Homes for Lancashire.

Figure 4.3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives identified for the proposed Combined Authority? (Q5, base – 1909)



People responding to the consultation were also given the opportunity to set out any other objectives they think the proposed Combined Authority should have. In addition to reaffirming some of the objectives above, the main suggestions include:

- A 'Greener Lancashire' with more focus on the environment and green spaces, reducing pollution, increasing energy efficiency and sustainability and creating a cleaner county with less litter
- A 'Healthy Lancashire' where local health services are joined up, there is more focus on wellbeing and mental health, vulnerable people are protected and people are happier
- An 'Equal Lancashire' with a commitment to tackling social, regional and health inequalities
- A 'Listening Lancashire' with customer focus which is responsive and with more emphasis on democratic accountability and transparency, particularly at a local level, communicating and listening to residents
- An 'Educated Lancashire' with better education systems and performing schools to meet demand
- A 'Safer Lancashire' with lower levels of crime and more safeguarding for children, young people and other vulnerable residents

4.4 Final comments and feedback

Finally, the consultation invited any other comments on the proposal to establish a Combined Authority in Lancashire. Specifically, respondents were asked to think about how the proposed Combined Authority might impact on the identities and interests of local communities and securing effective and convenient local government, as well as views on the constitutional arrangements and functions within the draft scheme and how it can work together with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

874 comments were received on a range of topics and issues, including:

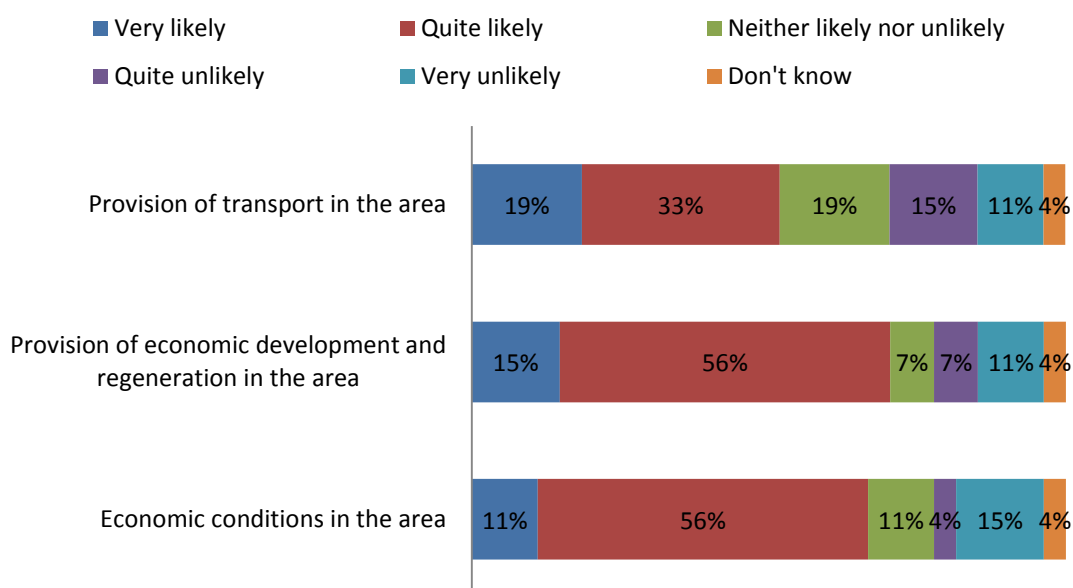
- The importance of maintaining local identity, local decision making and fair spend across localities under any combined arrangement
- A number of different suggestions around the structure and administration, including merges, a unitary Lancashire authority and combinations on different footprints
- General supportive comments for the proposal, with a sense that it would reduce duplication and ensure service delivery is more efficient
- Some hope that the proposed Combined Authority would give Lancashire a stronger, louder voice, particularly on key strategic issues
- Some concern around potential impact on job losses and as a result reduced capacity to deliver local services

4.5 Specific feedback from businesses and organisations

In addition to the core questions within the consultation, businesses and organisations were asked whether they thought the proposed Combined Authority would improve transport and economic development in Lancashire.

Of the 27 businesses or organisations who responded to the question, 71% feel it is very or quite likely that the Combined Authority would improve the provision of economic development and regeneration in the area. Just over half (52%) feel it is very or quite likely that the proposal would improve provision of transport in Lancashire.

Figure 4.4: How likely or unlikely do you consider it that the proposed Lancashire Combined Authority would improve...? (Q13, base – 27)



Some businesses and organisations had comments to make about their response to the above question. A range of comments were made, including the need for effective communication and processes to help businesses and some risks around the distribution of resources and the impact it could have on rural areas with transport cited as an example.

A mix of views were expressed when asked how the proposed Combined Authority might impact on the identities and interests of local communities. Some feel it will enhance Lancashire's influence regionally and nationally, restore the 'proud name of Lancashire' and help share best practice across the county. Some feel it will be a challenge to bring different areas together where demographics and socio-economics vary, as well as a perception that less populated areas may be neglected through any arrangement.

Businesses and organisations were then asked how the proposed Combined Authority might impact on securing effective and convenient local government. A number of comments centred on creating a single, unified voice incorporating other public services who act together on big strategic issues. At the same time any arrangement should remain accessible to local people and any sharing of departments should be efficient and effective.

A range of comments were made in relation to how the proposed Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) could work together. Suggestions included allowing the LEP to vote on some Combined Authority matters, the LEP acting as a sub-committee of the Authority, a role of the Combined Authority to shape the agenda of the LEP and a shared strategy for supporting and developing small businesses.

Final comments made by businesses and organisations included reiterating support for the proposal and the positive impact it could have on Lancashire if implemented successfully, suggestions around the management and structure of the proposed Combined Authority, effective support for businesses across the county and ensuring issues such as health and rurality have a higher profile in Lancashire.

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2016

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Council's Proposed Pay Policy Statement.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Proposed Pay Policy Statement, as recommended by the Chief Officers Employment Committee.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Council has a duty to agree a pay policy statement before 31 March each year.

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:

The Council has a duty to agree a pay policy statement and the proposed one is consistent with the guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Council is required to produce a pay policy statement, which must be in place for the year 2016/ 2017 and have received full Council approval before the start of that financial year.

5.2 The statement must set out the Council's policy on:

- i. Chief Officer Remuneration (at recruitment, salary, bonus, performance related pay, charges, fees, allowances, benefits in kind, enhancement to pension at termination).
- ii. Remuneration of its lowest paid employees (elements as above), the definition used for this group and the reason for adopting that definition.
- iii. The relationship between chief officer remuneration and that of other staff. This however is a minimum requirement and Councils can do more if they so wish.

5.3 The guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government has added that they expect the policy statement to cover:

- i. The opportunity for full Council to vote on senior remuneration packages with a value over £100,000 prior to an offer of appointment being made.
- ii. Policies should explain the planned relationship between Chief Officer remuneration and that of other staff and the ratio between the highest paid and median salary that the authority aims to achieve and maintain.
- iii. The value of the system of earn back pay with an element of their basic pay at risk each year to be earned back through meeting pre-agreed objectives.
- iv. Any decision that the Authority takes in relation to the award of severance to an individual Chief Officer.
- v. An explicit statement on whether or not they permit an individual to be in receipt of a pension in addition to receiving a salary.
- vi. Policies to deal with those who may have returned to the authority under a contract of service of any type having already received a severance or redundancy payment.

5.4 In addition to this guidance, it should be noted that the recommended practice for Local Authorities on data transparency states that the Council should disclose publicly:

- i. Employees salaries (that earn £50,000 and above). This includes disclosing their names, details of their remuneration, a list of responsibilities, for example, the services and functions they are responsible for, budget held and number of staff.
- ii. An organisation chart.
- iii. The pay multiple, which is the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median average salary of the whole authority's workforce.

5.5 The Proposed Pay Policy Statement is attached at Appendix 11(a). Central to the statement is recognition that it is acknowledged that jobs have a value in terms of scope, specialist skills and knowledge, size and impact and the Council uses equality tested job evaluation schemes to ensure that this is done correctly and applied to an appropriate pay scale. Beyond that, the Council's employee benefits policies are universally applied wherever possible and the financial arrangements for all employees leaving the organisation for whatever reason are based on the same principles regardless of grade.

5.6 It is likely that a revision to this policy will be required during the municipal year 2016/ 2017 in light of a number of changes proposed by the Government to the terms and conditions of public sector workers. The appropriate changes to the policy will be applied when further guidance is provided and the statement represented to Council.

5.7 The Proposed Pay Policy Statement was considered by the Chief Officers Employment Committee at its meeting on 15 February 2016 and the Committee recommended them to Council for approval.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 11(a) – Proposed Pay Policy Statement.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 All legal duties concerned with this matter have been included in the Statement

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 The Council's Pay Policy statement covers various human resource considerations and sets out the Council's position with regard to these.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The Council has gone through a pay review process and as part of that review, it has introduced two robust job evaluation schemes, which are designed to ensure fairness and equity in terms of pay. These schemes and the desire to ensure fairness and transparency around pay form the basis of the Council's Pay Policy Statement. The Council complies with the recommended practice for Local Authorities on data transparency already.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 No changes to the Council's financial arrangements have been made as a result of the introduction of this statement.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The most significant risks around pay relate to the increased costs of employment and balancing the need to pay an appropriate salary that will mean that the roles the Council needs to fill to discharge its duties as a Local Authority can be filled by skilled, appropriately qualified staff. To mitigate against the first risk the Council ensures that its budgets are managed effectively and to deal with the second risk, there is a policy to deal with market supplements if they can be objectively justified.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The Council's values of accountability are important in this report in that the Council is stating its pay rationale.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has previously taken place with Trade Union Representatives on the policies referred to in the pay policy statement.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

Blackpool Council - Pay Policy Statement

Summary Statement

Blackpool Council is committed to paying all its employees appropriately and fairly using recognised job evaluation schemes that have been tested to ensure that they are free of gender and any other bias. The pay scales for employees at all levels are in the public domain and the Council complies with requirements to publish data on senior salaries and its entire pay scale in the interests of transparency.

In determining the pay and remuneration of all its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes legislation such as the Equality Act 2010; Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000; and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations.

As far as possible all Council policies that relate to employment benefits are universally applied unless there is a specific contractual or business reason why they should be limited to a certain group of employees.

Basic Pay

All employees including Chief Officers basic pay is based on job evaluation processes that use the NJC scheme for posts graded at G and below and the Hay scheme for posts graded H1 and above.

Both of these schemes have been tested to ensure that they are free from gender and any other bias and the use of these schemes has been agreed with the relevant recognised trade unions.

Job evaluation panels made up of trade union and management representatives, sit on a regular basis to evaluate posts which in turn produces a score and a grade. At the cross over of the two schemes there is a protocol for assessing whether the post should be dealt with under the Hay or the NJC scheme. Periodically, the Council uses the services of experts in the two schemes to assist with the evaluation of posts, provide training for staff and monitor the appropriateness of the senior pay line relative to the market.

The Council adopts the national pay bargaining arrangements in respect of the establishment and revision of the national pay spine, for example, through any agreed annual pay increases negotiated with joint trade unions.

Living Wage

In order to support the lowest paid workers in the Council, from April 2013, the Council introduced the Joseph Rowntree Living Wage supplement for Council employees whose total hourly rate is currently less than £7.85. The Council, as an accredited employer to the Living Wage Foundation, has taken into account that the hourly rate will rise from £7.85 and to £8.25 in 2016. The normal job evaluation processes will continue to determine the grade of posts in the Council. This will not

include employees in maintained schools where pay is a matter for the relevant Governing Body.

Apprentices are paid at the National Living Wage during their apprenticeship period.

Market Forces Supplements

Market forces supplements are only paid to employees including chief officers in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the strict controls in the Council's Market Forces Policy. Any such payments are reviewed annually to ensure they remain valid.

Incremental Progression

Progression through the grade for permanent and temporary employees is only possible upon completion of satisfactory service and in line with the NJC Terms and Conditions as described in the Green Book. Chief Officers are required to demonstrate that they have achieved or exceeded their objectives in order to progress through the grade and a scheme is in place to monitor that.

New Appointments

Appointment to new posts are usually made at the bottom of the grade except in exceptional circumstances where the most suitable candidate can evidence that such an offer would not reasonably be acceptable to them and the Council is satisfied that market conditions require the appointment to take place at a higher point than the minimum.

All Chief Officer appointments are dealt with by the Chief Officer Employment Committee, using the normal recruitment procedures and options with appointments made to posts with a remuneration package of more than £100,000 being ratified by full Council.

Overtime and Additional Hours Payments and Premium Payments

Contractual overtime and additional hours are paid in accordance with the NJC Terms and Conditions as described in the Green Book.

Non contractual, voluntary overtime, additional hours payments are paid in accordance with the Council's Pay Review Booklet.

To meet specific operational requirements it may be necessary for an individual to temporarily take on additional duties to their identified role. The Council's arrangements for authorising any additional remuneration, e.g. honoraria, ex-gratia, 'acting up', relating to temporary additional duties are set out in the Council's Pay Review Booklet

Chief Officers are not paid overtime, additional hours payments or premium payments.

All other pay related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having being determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining machinery or through contractual changes.

Honoraria Payments

Subject to certain conditions, employees, with the exception of the Chief Executive and Chief Officers, who are temporarily required to undertake some or all of the duties of a higher graded post are eligible to be paid an honorarium. Details of the scheme can be found in the Council's Honoraria Procedure.

Bonus Payments and Earn Back Schemes

No employees, including Chief Officers in the Council are in receipt of bonus payments or subject to earn back schemes where employees give up some salary to earn it back upon completion of agreed targets.

Relationship between the Highest and the Lowest Paid

The Council is committed to paying employees based on the recognised job evaluation schemes detailed above. It is the application of these schemes that creates the salary differentials. Pay rates for each grade are published on the Council's website.

Relationship between the Highest Paid Employee and the Median Salary

The relationship between the highest paid employee and the median salary will be calculated on an annual basis and published on the Council's website alongside the information provided regarding senior managers salaries.

As part of its overall and ongoing monitoring of alignment with external pay markets, both within and outside the sector, the Council will use available benchmark information as appropriate, for example Epaycheck. In addition, upon the annual review of this statement, the Council will monitor any changes in the relevant 'pay multiples' and benchmark against other comparable local authorities.

Charges, Fees and Allowances

The Travelling, Subsistence and Related Expenses Policy apply to all employees including Chief Officers.

The reimbursement of professional fees for certain occupational groups is covered by the Personnel Code and applies to all relevant employees regardless of grade.

All other allowances paid to employees regardless of grade are detailed in the Council's Pay Review Booklet.

Chief Officers do not receive additional allowance payments.

Pension

Where employees have exercised their statutory right to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme representing a percentage of the pensionable remuneration due under the contract of employment of that employee. The rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising the Lancashire Pension Fund and reviewed on a triennial basis in

order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded. The employer contribution rates are set by statute and are available from the Payroll Team.

Electoral Fees

The Chief Executive is the Council's appointed Returning Officer and is personally (not corporately) liable for the management of elections and referendums. The fee payable to the Returning Officer for a European, UK Parliamentary and any other election or referendum organised nationally is set and paid for from Central Government. The fee payable to the Returning Officer for a local election, (which is held every four years) is the same as the fee set nationally for an equivalent election/ referendum, which is run on the local authority boundary.

For a local by-election the Returning Officer's fee is 10% of the fee for a full local election. Other fees paid to employees appointed by the Returning Officer for a local election are paid by the returning Officer, against fees set by the Council.

Redundancy Payments, Severance Payments and Retirement

All employees including Chief Officers are entitled to redundancy payments and pension release in accordance with the Council's Redundancy and Retirement Procedure. Where the proposed severance payment, including salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlement, holiday pay and any other fees or allowances paid to an employee, is more than £100,000, the decision will be ratified by full Council.

Termination Payments

In exceptional circumstances the Council may make a termination payment to an individual under a compromise agreement. Such agreements protect the Council where there is a risk of high financial impact and/or damage the Council's business or reputation. Payments are authorised by the Chief Executive or his delegated Officers. In the event a compromise agreement involved the Chief Executive or a Chief Officer, where the payment exceeds £100,000, the decision would be made by the Council based on a recommendation from the Chief Officers Employment Committee

Scope

This Pay Policy Statement applies to all Council employees. Employees whose terms and conditions of employment have been retained following a TUPE transfer (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) and are subject to the TUPE Regulations may be excluded from this policy.

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Meeting	30 March 2016

STREET COLLECTIONS REGULATIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider amendments to the Street Collection Regulations for Blackpool.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to the amended regulations as submitted and to authorise the Chief Executive to forward these draft regulations to the Secretary of State for formal approval, as recommended by the Licensing Committee.

2.2 Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, to undertake the necessary advertising as required under Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916, as recommended by the Licensing Committee.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Regulations were previously approved in 1996 and a review has been undertaken to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

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:

The regulations could remain as approved in 1996 but it is clear that these regulations are no longer fit for purpose.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is “The economy – maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Street Collection Permits are issued under section 5 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916. This Act permits a local authority to make regulations in respect of places where and conditions under which persons may be permitted to collect money for charitable or other purposes.

5.2 The Charitable Collections (Transitional Provisions) Order 1974 details how regulations can gain approval and provides a set of model street collection regulations.

5.3 The current street collection regulations were approved in 1996, therefore the opportunity has been taken to review them and ensure that they are fit for purpose.

5.4 The draft proposed regulations are at Appendix 6a of the Licensing Committee agenda.

5.5 The main changes proposed are as follows:

- a) Regulation 7 - amended to clarify that collections may only take place on footpaths, however the Council may permit collections on the carriageway in certain circumstances, including the illuminations collections;
- b) Regulation 9 – to make it clear that collectors must not approach people asking them to donate money, instead they should wait for the member of the public to approach them;
- c) Regulation 16 – to delete the requirement to publish details of the amounts collected in a local newspaper due to the cost of advertising. Instead details of the returns made will be published online on the Council’s website. The regulation is also amended to require collections in excess of £1,000 to be certified by a qualified accountant.

5.6 These draft regulations must be approved by Council. They can only take effect once they have been confirmed by the Secretary of State and they have been advertised in accordance with a direction made by the Secretary of State.

5.7 The proposed Street Collection Regulations were considered by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 1 March and the Committee recommended them to Council for approval.

5.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

6.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 12(a) – Proposed Street Collection Regulations

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 For the regulations to take effect once approved, they must be confirmed by the Secretary of State and advertised in such manner as required by the Secretary of State.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 There are no Human Resources considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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**BLACKPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULATIONS MADE BY BLACKPOOL COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO STREET COLLECTIONS**

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 5 of the Police, Factories etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916, as amended by Section 251 of the Local Government Act 1972, and Schedule 29 to that Act, Blackpool Borough Council hereby makes the following Regulations with respect to the places where and the conditions under which persons may be permitted in any street or public place within the Borough of Blackpool to collect money or sell articles for the benefit of charitable or other purposes:-

1. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires –
 - “collection” means a collection of money or a sale of articles for the benefit of charitable or other purposes and the word “collector” shall be construed accordingly;
 - “promoter” means a person who causes others to act as collectors;
 - “permit” means a permit for a collection;
 - “contributor” means a person who contributes to a collection and includes a purchaser of articles for sale for the benefit of charitable or other purposes;
 - “collecting box” means a box or other receptacle for the reception of money from contributors.
2. No collection, other than a collection taken at a meeting in the open air, shall be made in any street or public place within the Borough of Blackpool unless a promoter shall have obtained a permit from Blackpool Council.
3. Application for a permit shall be made in writing not later than one month before the date on which it is proposed to make the collection; provided that Blackpool Council may reduce the period of one month if satisfied that there are special reasons for so doing.
4. No collection shall be made except upon the day and between the hours stated in the permit.
5. Blackpool Council may, in granting a permit, limit the collection to such streets or public places or such parts thereof as it thinks fit.
6. (1) No person may assist or take part in any collection without the written authority of a promoter.

- (2) Any person authorised under paragraph (1) above shall produce written authority forthwith for inspection on being requested to do so by a duly authorised officer of Blackpool Council or Lancashire Constabulary.
7. Collections must take place on footpaths (where they are provided) not the carriageway of any street; provided that Blackpool Council may, if it thinks fit; allow a collection to take place on the said carriageway where:
- (i) Such collection has been authorised to be held in connection with a procession, fun run or similar activity, or where traffic has been prohibited from using the carriageway during the period that the collection is permitted; or
 - (ii) Such collection is undertaken as part of an authorised collection on behalf of the Illuminations fund.
8. No collection shall be made in a manner likely to inconvenience or annoy any person.
9. No collector shall importune any person to the annoyance of such person. For the avoidance of doubt collectors must not approach members of the public to ask for donations.
10. While collecting –
- (a) A collector shall remain stationary; and
 - (b) A collector or two collectors together shall not be nearer to another collector than 25 metres; provided that Blackpool Council may, if it thinks fit, waive the requirements of this Regulation in respect of a collection which has been authorised to be held in connection with a procession, fun run or similar activity.
11. No promoter, collector or person who is otherwise connected with a collection shall permit a person under the age of sixteen years to act as a collector, provided that Blackpool Council may permit persons of fourteen years of age or more to act as collectors where it is satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances of a particular collection and that collectors under sixteen years of age will be accompanied by an adult.
12. (1) Every collector shall carry a collecting box.
- (2) All collecting boxes shall be numbered consecutively and shall be securely closed and sealed in such a way as to prevent them being opened without the seal being broken.

(3) All money received by a collector from contributors shall immediately be placed in a collection box.

(4) Every collector shall deliver, unopened, all collecting boxes in his possession to a promotor.

13. A collector shall not carry or use any collecting box, receptacle or tray which does not bear displayed prominently thereon the name of the charity or fund which is to benefit or any collecting box which is not duly numbered.

14. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) below a collecting box shall be opened in the presence of a promoter and another responsible person,

(2) Where a collecting box is delivered, unopened, to a bank, it may be opened by an official of the bank,

(3) As soon as a collecting box has been opened, the person opening it shall count the contents and shall enter the amount with the number of the collecting box on a list which shall be certified by that person.

15. (1) No payment shall be made to any collector.

(2) No payment shall be made out of the proceeds of a collection, either directly or indirectly, to any other person connected with the promotion or conduct of such collection for, or in respect of, services connected therewith, except such payments as may have been approved by Blackpool Borough Council.

16. (1) Within one month after the date of any collection the person to whom a permit has been granted shall forward to Blackpool Borough Council:

(a) A statement in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations, or in a form to the effect, showing the amount received and the expenses and payments incurred in connection with such a collection, and certified by that person;

(b) A list of the collectors;

(c) A list of the amounts contained in each collecting box;

and shall, if required by Blackpool Borough Council, satisfy it as to the proper application of the proceeds of the collection.

(2) In the event that in excess of £1,000.00 is raised as a result of the collection the certificate referred to in 16 (1) (a) above shall be completed and signed by a qualified accountant

(3) Blackpool Council may, if satisfied there are special reasons for doing so, extend the period of one month referred to in 16 (1) above.

(4) For the purposes of this Regulation a “qualified accountant” means a member of one or more of the following bodies:-

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales;

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland;

The Association of Certified Accountants;

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

17. These Regulations shall not apply:-

(a) In respect of a collection taken at a meeting in the open air; or

(b) To the selling of articles in any street or public place when the articles are sold in the ordinary course of trade.

These Regulations shall come into operation upon the expiration of the period of one month beginning with the date on which they are confirmed by the Secretary of State and all other Street Collection Regulations having effect within the Blackpool Borough are hereby repealed with effect from the date on which these Regulations come into force.

The Secretary of State this day confirmed the foregoing Regulations and directed that the same should be published by the insertion of an announcement in two successive issues of two newspapers circulating in the Blackpool Borough stating that such Regulations have been made and confirmed and that copies can be obtained on application to Blackpool Borough Council, PO Box 77, Town Hall, Blackpool FY1 1AD.

GIVEN under the Common Seal of Blackpool Borough Council on

THE COMMON SEAL OF Blackpool)

Borough Council was hereunto)

Affixed in the presence of:-)