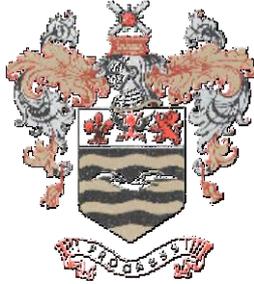


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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 17 September 2019

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Lady Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Blackpool Council** to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Blackpool on Wednesday, 25 September 2019 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.



Director of Governance and Partnerships

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 either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

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 26 JUNE 2019 (Pages 1 - 10)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 June 2019 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION - PUBLIC SPEAKER (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive representations from members of the public in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.

5 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION - PETITION SCHEME (Pages 13 - 16)

To consider a petition submitted as part of the Council's Petition Scheme.

6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS, COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD (Pages 17 - 48)

To consider the attached reports to Council from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council (Place and Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs) and the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children) and Statutory Lead Member for Children's Service, the Combined Fire Authority report and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.

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 25 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 25 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 and Scrutiny Leadership Board.

7 MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS (Pages 49 - 52)

To consider an extension to the period of six consecutive months as the period of non-attendance at Council related meetings for Councillor Mrs Henderson MBE.

8 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Pages 53 - 56)

To consider proposals to extend the responsibilities of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

9 MOTIONS AT COUNCIL (Pages 57 - 58)

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

Venue information:

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

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477034, e-mail yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk

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

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Present:

Councillor Cross (in the Chair)

Councillors

Baker	Collett	Kirkland	Smith
Blackburn	Cox	Matthews	Stansfield
Brookes	Critchley	Mitchell	Taylor
Burdess	Galley	O'Hara	Walsh
Mrs Callow JP	Hobson	Owen	L Williams
Campbell	Hugo	Robertson BEM	T Williams
Clapham	Hunter	Roberts	Wilshaw
D Coleman	Hutton	D Scott	Wing
G Coleman	Jackson	R Scott	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Clapham declared a personal interest in agenda item 4c, Report from the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children) in relation to the Blackpool Area Opportunity Programme, as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for Blackpool Sixth Form College.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2019

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 May 2019, be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor congratulated Ella Penswick, from the Resources Directorate, who had won the 'Apprentice of the Year' award at the recent Blackpool and the Fylde College awards.

The Mayor thanked those members who had attended the flag raising ceremony that had marked the start of the Armed Forces week and to Councillor Derek Robertson who had led the ceremony.

4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council (Place and Tourism) presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in their own portfolio area and those portfolios under their responsibility. The Leader of the Council also presented the report on behalf of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children). 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) In response to a request from Councillor T Williams, the Leader of the Council agreed to provide a directory of businesses that operated within the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.
- (2) The Deputy Leader (Place and Tourism) confirmed that written responses would be provided to:
 - Councillor Walsh to clarify the cost of the ten trees that had been planted on Cookson Street
 - Councillor T Williams on the reason why five trees had been cut down in the town centre and whether that was due to disease or to make way for developments
 - Councillor Mrs Callow on details of the collection rate for the Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering, graffiti and flyposting and confirmation of the methods used to ensure collection.

5 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel that had undertaken a full four-yearly review of the Members' Allowances Scheme, following the recent local elections.

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

- '1. That the new Members Allowances Scheme be implemented from the date of the Annual Council Meeting on 22 May 2019, subject to the provision of the payment of the Basic Allowance from the fourth day after the elections.
2. That the basic allowance for members should be set at £10,200 per annum and backdated to the fourth day after the local election (Monday 6 May 2019).
3. That the special responsibility allowances for members should be as set out as recommended in the table following paragraph 4.6 of the Independent Remuneration Panel Report and commence from the current date of appointment for the councillor concerned (except for the positions of Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor).

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

4. That the special responsibility allowances for the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor should remain at their current level for the rest of this Municipal year, but be as set out in the table following paragraph 4.6 of the Independent Remuneration Panel Report from the date of the annual meeting in 2020.
5. That the criterion for the payment of two SRAs be added to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in section 17 of the Independent Remuneration Panel Report and that the position of Deputy Mayor also be paid (if applicable) as an allowed second allowance.
6. That the 'other' allowances as set out within the scheme should be set as recommended at paragraph 18 of the Independent Remuneration Panel Report.
7. That the Parental Leave of Absence Policy at Appendix 1 to the Report be agreed and added to the published Members' Allowances Scheme.
8. That in relation to mileage allowances, the rate for members should continue to be the same as staff rates and uprated at the same time when staff rates are amended (annual uprating in line with NJC pay award therefore will not apply).
9. That for clarification purposes the list of approved duties be amended as set out in paragraph 18.3 of the Independent Remuneration Panel Report.
10. That the annual uprating to be applied to the Members' Allowances Scheme continue to be in accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Service pay award.
11. That in relation to the seven wholly owned Council companies, the non-executive Chairs receive an allowance of £5,000 per annum and the other non-executive directors on each company receive £2,500 per annum and the allowances/remuneration be reviewed in May 2021.
12. That the payments for the Chairs and non-executive directors for the Transport and Airport companies be paid via the Members' Allowances Scheme, with the payments to the other companies paid by the companies themselves.
13. That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members' Allowances Scheme accordingly'.

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

6 APPOINTMENT OF POSITIONS

Members were asked to consider an alternative appointment to the position of Vice-Chair of the Appeals Committee to allow Councillor Hugo to focus on her appointment as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

Members were asked to consider the continued appointment of Mr A Mozley, Mr B Horrocks and Mrs H Broughton as statutory independent persons for standards matters pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011, pending the Government's response to the report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life on review of the standards framework.

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

1. That Councillor Allan Matthews be appointed Vice Chair of the Appeals Committee to replace Councillor Jane Hugo.
2. That Mr Mozley, Mrs Broughton and Mr Horrocks, the three statutory Independent Persons pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011, be appointed for a further 12 months from 30 September 2019 to 30 September 2020'.

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

7 FIXED INTEGRAL SPRINKLER SYSTEM

The Council noted that Councillor T Williams had withdrawn the motion.

8 FREE PERSONAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor Mitchell proposed (and Councillor Hobson seconded):

'The Council notes that over a million older people in England are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that in light of an ageing population bold changes are needed to deliver a long term funding solution for social care.

The Council believes that it is fundamentally unfair that to access basic care many older people face catastrophic costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, wipe out a lifetime of savings and force families to sell their homes.

The Council also believes that England's care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use.

The Council therefore calls for the introduction of free personal care for all older people in England, alongside a new social care contribution to fund fully the policy on a sustainable basis.

The Council calls on the Government to take the necessary steps to implement such a policy as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Blackpool. The Chief Executive is instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care accordingly'.

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

9 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor G Coleman proposed (and Councillor D Coleman seconded):

‘At present there is no Council policy relating to what actions should be taken by the Monitoring Officer in respect of a councillor who is the subject of an initial assessment/ investigation into a breach of the Members Code of Conduct when the councillor is ill or has a medical note signed by a doctor.

Currently a councillor may find themselves in a position where they are unable to continue to defend themselves or continue with the process as a result of ill health. This can result in the councillor having to make a life changing decision when they are not in a fit and proper state to do so.

The Council feels that this is not a satisfactory practice and calls on the Standards Committee/ Monitoring Officer to introduce a policy that provides adequate assurance that an unwell councillor is not discriminated against when they are subject to an initial assessment/ investigation’.

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

For the motion: Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Cox, Galley, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, R Scott, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing - **total 16.**

Against the motion: Councillors Blackburn, Brookes, Burdess, Campbell, Collett, Critchley, Cross, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, O’Hara, Owen, Smith, Taylor, L Williams – **total 20.**

Abstentions: None

Motion carried: The motion was therefore lost.

10 FREE TV LICENCES

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor Hunter proposed (and Councillor O’Hara seconded):

‘This Council calls on the Conservative led Government to stand by their 2017 Election manifesto promise and protect the free TV licences for the over 75s. Scrapping the free TV licences for the over 75s will hit approximately 6,620 households across Blackpool. This will leave many over 75s of modest means more than £150 worse off and will risk them being cut off from the outside world if they lose their access to the TV. People living on their own, particularly those with severe mobility issues or housebound, will be the ones most penalised by the decision to scrap the free TV licence to the over 75s. The Conservative led Government has drastically cut the funding for the BBC since 2010 and

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

have disgracefully shifted the responsibility and costs of the licence concessions to the BBC. This is in stark comparison to the last Labour Government who properly funded the BBC and ensured all TV licences for the over 75s were free.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with the above concerns and asking the Government to take steps to protect the future of the free TV licences for the over 75s'.

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

For the motion: Councillors Blackburn, Brookes, Burdess, Campbell, D Coleman, G Coleman, Collett, Critchley, Cross, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Smith, Taylor, L Williams – **total 22**.

Against the motion: Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Clapham, Cox, Galley, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, R Scott, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing - **total 14**.

Abstentions: None

Motion carried: The motion was therefore carried.

11 DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Collett seconded):

'The Council notes:

- That that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

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The Council therefore commits to:

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030;
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030;
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure that all Council led leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- Request that Council Scrutiny Committees consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across Blackpool, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
- Request that the Council and partners - not least the Council's wholly owned companies, take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- Request that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change convene a Citizens' Assembly before the end of the calendar year, in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop its own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
- Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following four years, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/ 2021 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
- Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;
- Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;

- Furthermore, this Council makes clear its fundamental opposition to the practice of fracking. The Council will not allow its land to be used for fracking; and
- Finally, via the Local Government Association, the Council will invite in a group of experts to advise on what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on air quality, modal shift away from private cars, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the Councils activities are sighted on the need to preserve Blackpool's ecological and environmental heritage'.

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

12 REMOVAL OF FREE TV LICENCE TO THOSE OVER AGE OF 75

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor T Williams proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

'This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC asking (him) to reverse the corporation's decision to remove the free TV licence offer to those over the age of 75.

The decision to take away this privilege will bring further hardship to those already living on limited funds and will also affect the health and wellbeing of those unable to afford to pay this fee by causing more social deprivation and isolation'.

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

For the motion: Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Cox, Galley, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, R Scott, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing - **total 16.**

Against the motion: Councillors Blackburn, Brookes, Burdess, Campbell, Collett, Critchley, Cross, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Smith, Taylor, L Williams – **total 20.**

Abstentions: None

Motion carried: The motion was therefore lost.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 8.43 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Tel: 01253 477127

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

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Council:
25 September 2019

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION - SPEAKER

NAME	SUBJECT
1. Ms Caroline Wolf	Ms Wolf wishes to speak on the following issue: “I wish to speak on behalf of UNISON's members affected by the changes to Children's Centre provision within Blackpool. I will be raising concern at the reduction of locations designated as Children's Centres, the potential loss of jobs and the impact on staff morale, their families and their wellbeing. I will also raise concerns for the effect these changes will have on our local communities and the families and children who use these centres”.

Response to be given by the relevant Cabinet Member

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

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	25 September 2019

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION - PETITION SCHEME

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider a petition submitted as part of the Council's Petition Scheme.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the submission of the petition and whether to take a view as a Council and/ or make a recommendation to the Executive.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The submitted petition has reached the threshold of 1,500 signatures (from the Fylde coast area) which triggers a debate at Council.

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 options available to Council are set out in paragraph 5.4 of this report.

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 On 22 September 2010, the Council approved a Petition Scheme, in line with its then requirements under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. One part of the scheme relates to petition to be reported to and debated

at Council and those that would qualify for this option must contain at least 1,500 signatures.

- 5.2 The Council's Petitions Officer has received a petition with over 8,000 signatures and of those 2,700 are listed with an FY postcode area. The petition is called 'Joint Petition to Save Stanley Park Golf Course'.

The Petition statement used is as follows:

"Blackpool Council propose to lease off the land and management of Blackpool Park Golf Club in Stanley Park, the only municipal golf resource in the area offering affordable golf to all residents across the Fylde. The proposal is to reduce the course to 9 holes on the west side and build yet another tourist attraction on the east side of the course, between Victoria Hospital and Salisbury Woodland Garden.

Our aim, as was Blackpool Council's in their Blackpool Local Plan (2001-2016, section 8.5), is *"to maintain and improve open land and natural environments within the Borough through protecting and enhancing landscape quality and nature conservation value"*. This historic golf course has been cherished by thousands of Blackpool residents, golfers and non-golfers alike. To develop and build on this landscape would be sacrilege. It would have a devastating environmental impact and be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the community it serves.

EVERYONE should care about this. Please sign up".

- 5.3 Ms Christine Parker is listed as the petition organiser and she has been invited to the Council meeting to address Council with regards to the petition statement.
- 5.4 In line with the procedure for public representations generally, the relevant Cabinet Member will be invited to address the petition on behalf of the Council first. Other Councillors will then be able to debate the issue. Normal rules of debate will apply, in accordance with Procedural Standing Order 14 (e.g. mover of a motion has five minutes, other speakers three minutes, members only speak once etc.).
- 5.5 The Council's Constitution states at Procedural Standing Order 9 (Representations, Petitions and Questions by the Public).

9.9 Petitions for debate at Council Meeting

9.9.1 Petitions which meet the requirements of the Council's Petitions scheme and as part of that have at least 1,500 signatures will be debated at an ordinary Council meeting.

The following procedure will apply:

(i) Petition organisers have the opportunity to present their petition and a maximum of five minutes will be allowed for that purpose.

(ii) A maximum of 20 minutes will then be allowed for discussion of the matter by councillors. The time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Mayor, if considered appropriate.

(iii) The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. It may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to request further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee. Where the issue is one on which the Council's Executive is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to help inform that decision.

5.6 This petition was started following the decision of the Executive on 15 July 2019, titled 'Contracts for the Provision of Stanley Park Golf Course Concession' decision number EX31/ 2019. If as a result of the debate Council wished to change the decision of the Executive then it would need to pass a resolution to recommend the Executive accordingly. If the Council did not wish to change the decision of the Executive then it could pass a resolution to that effect, or if no resolution was passed at the end of the debate, then the Executive decision would still stand.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

6.0 List of Appendices:

6.1 None.

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 The Council's Petition Scheme and consequently its Constitution state that any petition received with over 1,500 signatures must be put forward for debate at Council.

8.0 Human Resources considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Equalities considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Financial considerations:

10.1 None – if the petition question was supported it would be down to the Executive to consider.

11.0 Risk management considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Ethical considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

Executive Member Report to the Council
25 September 2019

AGENDA ITEM 6(a)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR SIMON BLACKBURN

All major strategic, corporate cross-cutting, financial reputational and commercially sensitive issues covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Ivan Taylor (Cabinet Member for Projects and Partnerships)
- Councillor Lynn Williams (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health)

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

Corporate Issues

Financial Monitoring: Local Government Viability at the Crossroads

The consequences of almost a decade of savage cuts to local government are now impossible to ignore, not just for Blackpool, but also for almost every area of our country. The Council is facing very significant in-year financial pressures and I explain this more fully in the paragraphs below. However, the truth, in short, is that the Council is no longer adequately funded to cover the basic cost of delivery of its core services.

The current situation facing the sector is desperately sad for the Council, its residents, Local Government as a whole and the communities it serves.

As has been reported to Executive, estimated working balances are forecast to fall by £6,956,000 against the budgeted position over the year. This fall is in the context of unaudited working balances at the start of the year of £7,057,000, an erosion of 99%. Councillor Cain's report sets out how Children's Services continue to face severe demand pressures and this is once again the primary challenge facing the Council and is by far the Council's biggest financial risk and pressure.

Excluding Children's Services, all other services are showing an aggregated net underspend of £1,107,000. The growth in demand pressures for Children's Services is not just a local problem; it is a national contagion. Indeed, as recently as 27 August an analysis by the Local Government Association (LGA) reported that English local authorities had overspent by some £770m on Children's Social Care during 2018/ 2019 with a projection that this will double to £1.4bn next year, with further LGA research revealing that 71% of the cost drivers of Children's Social Care fall outside the control of councils.

The chair of the LGA Children and Young People Board was quoted that "In order to keep children at most risk safe, councils up and down the country have been forced to find savings

from non-statutory or discretionary budgets, which includes valuable early intervention and prevention support that can stop children and families reaching crisis point. This is not sustainable". This is most definitely the experience here in Blackpool.

The forecast £7.8m overspend on Children's Social Care represents a variance of +25% on its gross budget of £31.2m. This pressure will be difficult enough to manage in-year using working balances and reserves, but if repeated (as the trajectory of demand indicates) then without significant Government investment, as recommended by the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee in its report on the funding of local authorities' children's services in May 2019, the position will serve to undermine the financial viability of the Council. This is also the position of most other upper tier authorities with social care responsibilities.

Without the demand growth in Children's Services, the Council's overall forecast outturn would be a break-even position, further emphasising that this situation is caused by factors not directly within the Council's control. The Council can demonstrate that it has maintained working balances of circa £6m over the long term; that its level of earmarked reserves has remained relatively stable and at appropriate levels, indeed increasing them in 2018/ 2019 by £5m at the request of the external auditor to re-designate some provisions and it has improved its income collection for the last three years in succession.

The Council, like much of the entire sector, is now at a financial crossroads where the unavoidable costs of Children's Social Care can only be met from:

- one-off use of finite working balances and reserves;
- drastic further service cuts elsewhere; and/or
- significant additional external funding.

It is the case the Spending Round 2019 announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 4 September included an additional £1bn for Adult and Children's Social Care in 2020/ 2021. If this were to be allocated on the same basis as the Social Care Grant 2019/ 2020, then Blackpool's share should be £3.7m. This represents approximately one third of the underlying pressure in Blackpool's Children's Social Care, even assuming that Adult Services continues to break even and requires no call against this. This is not a solution.

I am of course aware that the Council continues to benefit from capital funding opportunities and these are welcome. However, I want to put this firmly in context and extinguish any suggestion that it somehow makes good the situation. If the Council adds up all the capital monies it has fought for and won in recent years for the tramway, conference centre, quality corridors, other schemes and even add on the tens of millions that may be secured via the Future High Street Fund and a Town Deal, the total figure is still less than one year's worth of the cuts the Council has had to make.

The Council is now £153m a year worse off than it was in 2010. I urge the Government to place the financing of local services on a sensible footing. Tens of millions of people across the country are depending on it.

Spending Round 2019 (SR19)

The Government previously stated its intention to hold a new Spending Review in 2019, covering the period 2020/ 2021 to 2022/ 2023. However, with the current political turbulence around Brexit, it was announced that a one-year Spending Round would be provided, covering the financial year 2020/ 2021 and that this would be followed in 2020 by a full Spending Review, reviewing public spending as a whole and setting multi-year budgets.

The Spending Round 2019 was published on 4 September 2019 and included an additional £1bn for Adult and Children's Social Care in 2020/ 2021. A technical consultation on this years' Local Government Finance Settlement will be issued shortly, which will set out further details. This will be followed by the detailed allocation of funding on a local authority by local authority basis in the provisional Local Government finance settlement later this year.

Reforms to Business Rates retention and fairer funding (Review of Relative Needs and Resources) that are planned for the local government finance system have been delayed until 2021/ 2022.

Due to the uncertainties and challenges ahead, in particular clarity still needed over the Council's settlement and the strong possibility of a general election this calendar year, I have asked the Council's Statutory Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to look at alternative dates for the Executive and Council meetings from January onwards. The aim being to give us as much time as possible to agree the Budget for 2020/ 2021. When these have been identified Members will be notified accordingly.

Council Tax/ Business Rates Collection: Continued Improvement

So far, an additional £0.6m Council Tax income (excluding Police and Fire precepts) has been collected this year compared with last. At the end of month 3, £14.9m had been collected with a collection rate of 26.3%, which compares to £14.3m and 26.2% collected by the same point in 2018/ 2019. This extra amount is mainly due to increases in both the Council Tax rate and base.

At the end of month three, the amount collected for Business Rates was £12.7m and the collection rate was 25.7%, which compares to £12.7m and 25.4% at the same point in 2018/ 2019. The amount to be collected has been impacted by new reliefs from 1 April 2019, which are offset by S31 grants.

Blue Badge Changes

With effect from 30 August 2019, the Government extended the Blue Badge disabled parking eligibility criteria to people who have less visible disabilities in order to make journeys more accessible. Applications are already being received from residents under the new criteria and

will be processed in due course although additional information may need to be requested to support applications.

Strategic Issues

Toward a Blackpool Town Deal

As Members are aware the Council has been working very closely with partners, in particular the Blackpool Pride of Place Partnership, in lobbying the Government for the development of a Blackpool Town Deal. Our view is that a Town Deal can be used to cement a new kind of working relationship with Government to deliver lasting and sustainable regeneration.

I am therefore very pleased to report that the Council's work in this regard is beginning to pay off – and not just for Blackpool - with the announcement by Government earlier this month that Blackpool will be one of 100 places working with them to draw up plans to improve economic growth via a Town Deal. This could be worth up to £25m of capital funding for Blackpool in real terms in the first instance, with the resultant economic benefit to the town far exceeding this.

The Council believes it is in a strong position to advance the case for a Town Deal. Crucially – and unlike many places – the Council knows what it wants to deliver and its private, public and voluntary partners are supportive. The Council has already set out its ambitions and plans with its partners in the Blackpool Town Prospectus. This puts the Council well ahead of many areas, and I am confident that this platform will ensure that the Council are at the forefront of negotiations. I will be taking further steps to ensure that the Government keeps up with the pace the Council has set around this agenda. In the meantime, the Council has been promised funding to develop capacity this year and next and have gained a commitment that the communities should be at the heart of shaping how this investment benefits the town.

Blackpool Central Progress

The negotiations with Developers Nikal and Media Invest are now at an advanced stage with Heads of Terms close to being agreed for the lease of the land in relation to the £300m Blackpool Central project.

The Council is now progressing towards agreement of the legal documents with its Commercial and Legal Advisers and the Developer, with a view to having the deal completed during the autumn so that work on the submission of a planning application can commence. These discussions are slightly behind the schedule presented in December, which may cause some delay in commencement of the initial phases on site, but it remains important that the Council secure the best deal it possibly can, whilst ensuring the scheme is both deliverable and viable.

With regards to the Blackpool Magistrates and County Courts, the Council has commissioned a number of studies and reports over recent months, which are now drawing to their conclusion. These studies will form the part of future dialogue with HM Courts and Tribunals Service in the

effort to encourage their relocation to an alternative site within the town and the Council would expect to apply pressure to them on this via the coming Town Deal negotiation.

Brexit Preparedness

The Council is ramping up its business continuity planning should the UK leave the European Union (EU) on 31 October under a no-deal arrangement. The Council's nominated Brexit Lead Officer is Steve Thompson, Director of Resources, who has direct communication channels with the Department for Exiting the EU, MHCLG, the Home Office, the Regional Lead Chief Executive and the Local Resilience Forum among others.

The Council's Brexit Task and Finish Group now meets on a weekly basis and has co-opted colleagues to deal with issues such as the registration of EU and European Economic Area (EEA) nationals in the Council's, its partners' and providers' workforce on the Government's EU Settlement Scheme; supply chain management including food, medicines and fuel; information and data governance; and liaison with local businesses on such matters as export health certificates and other regulatory activities.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the plans and processes in place for added Council assurance, noting that whilst the Council could not alleviate all the risks associated with Brexit, it can prepare for the potential implications of them and produce prioritised action plans as required. The Council has received specific funding from Central Government of £315,000 to address the planning and possible consequences of this event, which is being held in contingency to be used if required.

Transforming Services

Airport Update

As part of the Council's agreed strategy for moving forward with the airport, the two principal roles of Air Traffic Control and Aerodrome Management are currently out to tender with a new contract expected to be in place by April 2020. Work continues to replace and upgrade the Airport's operational systems with a new Instrument Landing System (ILS) now commissioned, with work underway to replace taxiway lighting and further navigational aids in the process of delivery.

Blackpool Airport Operations Limited, the wholly owned council operating company, is continuing the process of preparing medium and longer-term business plans. Architects are also to be instructed to undertake a feasibility study on the provision of new aircraft parking, apron, aircraft hangars, a new control tower, fire station and administration facility.

Working with Partners

Internet Connectivity on the Enterprise Zone (EZ)

Work continues to support the installation of the new transatlantic optic fibre telecommunications cable, part of the North Atlantic Loop, which is being developed by

Aquacomms. Fylde Council has granted planning consent for the base station at the Airport and construction is now complete. Cable ducting has been laid from the landing point and additional cable ducting has been laid across the Enterprise Zone estate, with a further expansion of the network under the local Fast Fibre programme at the planning stage. The new transatlantic cable is due to come ashore in October. Discussions are also underway with Wyre Borough Council to extend the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) link to Hillhouse Enterprise Zone in Thornton via the Tramway.

Presence of the new optic fibre link will provide fast communication links with timings of less than 64 milliseconds to transmit data from Blackpool Airport to New York, some 11 milliseconds faster than the best current connections to London and thus providing a competitive advantage. The new connection will open up the possibility of securing investment in the provision of data centre facilities at the EZ and securing possible investment from data driven industries. A study to confirm the potential for data centre and related development has been commissioned from Danish specialist consultants COWI with their report and recommendations due in late September. This report may well recommend the acceleration in the planned delivery of enhanced EZ utility capacity.

Sea Change Conference

I am pleased to report that on 4 September, Blackpool Council welcomed 60 speakers from 13 different countries to an international conference on Climate Change and Heritage at Blackpool Winter Gardens. This conference forms part of the work the Council are jointly undertaking with the World Monuments Fund to look at how to cope with the climate change challenges faced by the three piers and how the Council can work with owners, statutory agencies and Central government to secure a more sustainable future for them.

The conference was a huge success and Blackpool has been invited to attend and participate in the launch of the Climate Heritage Network, an organisation designed to mobilise local government and the third sector to increase pressure for greater action on Climate Change and its impact on communities and heritage. The Council welcomes this, as it puts Blackpool at the heart of the debate and shows how the local authority is taking the lead regionally on this important issue. I am particularly keen that the measures taken to address climate change as part of our Climate Change Emergency declaration account for the Council unique collection of heritage buildings.

Pier Pressure Reports

Related to the above, I can confirm that the Council has just received the first drafts of two significant pieces of work commissioned with funding from the Coastal Revival Fund. The first is report on the sustainable future of Blackpool's three piers. It contains new market research based on residents and visitors, which highlights the reputational and economic contribution of the piers to Blackpool and its cultural identity. It highlights which activities on the piers are most popular and what visitors and locals would like to see improved.

The second report is in effect a toolkit applicable to all piers, which looks at how to achieve improved financial sustainability. It examines the differences between ownership models and how ownership (and the impact that has on the ability to draw in funding) affects success factors. The report also examines issues like location, transport, community and visitor demographics as well as heritage values in measuring success.

The drafts are currently being reviewed before final drafting, at which point they will be presented to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Coastal Communities Team and wider publication. There is already some interest from Historic England in the Toolkit and it is hoped that the project will provide a format for other seaside resorts to follow.

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DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (PLACE AND TOURISM) – COUNCILLOR GILLIAN CAMPBELL

The 'Places' area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Neal Brookes (Housing and Welfare Reform)
- Councillor Fred Jackson (Environment, Transport and Climate Change)
- Councillor Mark Smith (Business, Enterprise and Job Creation) and
- Councillor Maria Kirkland (Community Cohesion and Leisure)

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

Securing a Wonderful Part of our Heritage: Olympic Gold Medalist Lucy Morton

I am extremely pleased to confirm that the Council has bought the first Olympic gold medal ever won by a British female swimmer, together with other memorabilia. Lucy Morton grew up in Blackpool and went on to set world records for the 150 yard backstroke and 200 yard breaststroke before achieving Olympian glory in Paris at the 1924 Olympics.

The collection was at risk of being dispersed entirely, but the Council was able to secure 18 lots in total, with other items relating to her incredible swimming career including action photographs, swimming certificates, books, letters, programmes and newspaper articles. The total hammer price for all lots including the Gold Medal was £12,255 and was partially funded by a grant from Blackpool Civic Trust.

The archive will now be housed at the History Centre at Blackpool Central Library, which preserves and gives access to Blackpool's incredible heritage collections. The Blackpool Museum Project, which is developing Blackpool's first museum will also feature Lucy's story. She is an inspirational figure, who came back to Blackpool to teach local children to swim after her retirement and I hope these artifacts can inspire others to follow in her wake.

Contracts Awarded

I can report the award of the following contracts since the last meeting:

Contract	Provider (Locations)	Term (Including Extensions)	Contract Value	No. of initial bids	No. Of Bidders with an FY postcode
Corporate Car Leasing Scheme	NHS Fleet Solutions (Newcastle)	4 years	Income of £500 per car per annum	Direct award	0
Practice Development Work with the Resilience Revolution	BoingBoing CIC (Hove)	2 years	£180,000	1	1
Water – Automated Meter Reading	HWM Water Ltd (Gwent)	5 years	£100,000	4	0
Coordination of the Time to Change Hub	Empowerment Charity Lancashire (Blackpool)	1 year	£17,000	1	1
Opportunity Area – Teach Blackpool – Coaching and Leadership Coaching (2 Lots)	Lot 1 – Ambition Institute (London) Lot 2 – Princes Teaching Institute (London)	1 year	Lot 1 - £137,999 Lot 2 - £74,830	4	0
Rate Review of Police Headquarters	Avison Young (Birmingham)	1 year + (1 year)	£15,000	Direct award	0
Exploring Opportunities for the Provision of Residential Care for Children and Young People	Hexagon Care Services Ltd (Preston)	Ad-hoc 8 weeks	£16,000	7	3

Contract	Provider (Locations)	Term (Including Extensions)	Contract Value	No. of initial bids	No. Of Bidders with an FY postcode
Exploring Opportunities for the Provision of Fostering / Family Based Placements for Children and Young People	Barnardo's (Essex)	Ad-hoc 8 weeks	£9,000	4	1
Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Water Sampling	Waterman Environmental Services Ltd (Lichfield)	2 years + (1 + 1)	£20,000	6	0
Purchase of ICT Hardware Devices	Centerprise International Ltd (Basingstoke)	2 years + (2 years)	£400,000	5	0
Supply of Gas	Corona Energy Retail 4 Ltd (Watford)	3 years + (2 years)	Half-hourly charges – value dependent upon consumption	Direct award	0
Provision of a Council Radio System	Pennine Telecomm Ltd (Manchester)	5 years	£56,000	Direct award	0
Supply of Office Paper	Kingswood (Blackpool)	1 year + (1 year)	£80,000	Direct award	1
Consultant to Develop a Specification for Financial Management Information System / HR and Payroll Tender	Socitm Advisory Ltd (Northampton)	Ad-hoc 3 months	£34,000	11	0
DA MASH Triage Specialist Support	Fylde Coast Women's Aid (Blackpool)	Ad-hoc 18 months	£79,264	3	2

Contract	Provider (Locations)	Term (Including Extensions)	Contract Value	No. of initial bids	No. Of Bidders with an FY postcode
Lightning Protection System	Central (High Rise) Ltd (Nottingham)	3 years + (1 + 1)	£13,370	9	0
Proposed Residential Design and Build Project for Troutbeck Crescent	RP Tyson Construction Ltd (Blackpool)	Ad-hoc 18 months	£10,000,000	3	1

Quality Corridors Taking Shape

Members are aware that over the last two years significant highways and public realm improvements have taken place in parts of Church Street, Counce Street, Cookson Street, Dickson Road and Talbot Road in conjunction with the planned tramway works. Works are now on-site in Edward Street with Deansgate, Topping Street and Leopold Grove set to follow in the next year.

Local businesses and property owners in priority streets have also been assisted with capital grants to transform the external appearance of their properties and to encourage take up of vacant space. I am sure Members have seen this for themselves, but there are some excellent examples including Café Continental and the Mortgage Shop on Topping Street and Sunseekers, Deansgate Kitchens and Asia's Finest on Deansgate. Other property schemes are on-site with a pipeline of around 20 further properties that will be assisted from the Property Improvement Fund.

The Lancashire Growth Deal and the Council's Local Transport Fund funded the £7.34m Quality Corridors Project. Further information is available on the Council's website -

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Creating-a-better-Blackpool/A-better-Blackpool.aspx>

Switch On

I was very pleased to welcome Coronation Street actor Lucy Fallon back to her hometown to switch on the 2019 Illuminations. Lucy, 23, pulled the switch in front of thousands of people on the Tower Festival Headland to become the youngest ever Switch-On star. The Switch-On was part of a four-hour concert, delivered in association with MTV and featuring performances from Busted, Diversity, Becky Hill, Nina Nesbitt, Sigma and R3Wire and Varski. There were also special guest appearances by the Flakefleet Children's Choir, who captured the public imagination with their joyous performances on Britain's Got Talent and by Sooty, the UK's most enduring children's TV character who was "discovered" in Blackpool and who, this year, has his

own sponsored section in the Illuminations display. Coverage of the Switch-On event spanned more than 150 media titles across the UK including extensive coverage in several national newspapers and on ITV news channels.

Lightpool

Our award-winning Lightpool Festival is returning this October half term with two weeks of free entertainment. The festival, which will take place between 11 and 26 October, will provide a mix of live performance and light-based art installations including a replica planet Earth in The Tower Ball, the world premiere of a large-scale Sun in the Winter Gardens and a display of giant illuminated seesaws. The programme also includes the return of the Carnival of the Lights; illuminated children's football tournament; fire and light-based shows; 3D projections on to the front of The Tower building and a town centre art trail.

The Heart of Blackpool

I am pleased to confirm that our wonderful Blackpool Tower has a brand new illuminated heart in its 125 birthday year. The giant heart on the front of the structure was rebuilt and re-fitted with new-style light nodes in time for the 2019 Illuminations Switch-On. It is part of a gradual replacement of the lighting on the Tower legs aimed at reducing the number of faults caused by exposure to extreme weather conditions and salt air. For the current Illuminations season, the west face of the Tower "stick" will be illuminated along with the Tower top and the heart. The replacement of lighting on all faces of The Tower will follow from next year subject to successful testing of the new nodes on the heart over the coming months.

Strategic Issues

Future High Street Fund: We are Through to Phase 2

Following the submission of an Expression of Interest bid into the Government's Future High Street Fund earlier this year, I am delighted to report to Council that Blackpool has now been shortlisted for the next phase of assessment, which involves the development and submission of a business case.

Council and local partners were asked to describe the key challenges facing their respective town centres and outline an indicative strategic approach to how they would reverse their fortunes with and without funding support. The Council's bid set out some of the issues facing the town centre including comparatively high levels of vacant units; a prevalence of low-value discount stores; a lack of higher quality independent restaurants and national chains and a poor-quality physical environment that deters new investment in some areas.

The submission followed consultation with a variety of public, private and community organisations including Blackpool BID, the Pride of Place Board and private sector companies. Within the submission, a range of additional interventions were outlined, which would support the major investment programme currently transforming Blackpool town centre through

projects such as the Talbot Gateway development, the tram extension, new hotels and Blackpool Central.

The further interventions are focused around:

- Fast tracking a development in the heart of the town centre with the potential to increase footfall and strengthen the night-time economy.
- Acquisition and land assembly to deliver high-impact schemes.
- Investment in physical infrastructure to radically reduce the number of vacant units in the town centre and introduce high-quality public realm and green infrastructure.
- Adapting the High Street for changing technology.
- Improvements to car parking and pedestrian access.

Discussions will now take place with Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to develop the business cases and there will be further consultation later this year. The fast-track scheme, which is being finalised currently, can be submitted in line with the deadline for “shovel-ready” business cases on 30 November, with the other elements to be developed as the basis for the second part of the business case being submitted on 30 April 2020.

The Future High Street Funds (FHSF) can only be used to develop schemes, which help to achieve the regeneration of the town centres and on the basis of the bid the Council submitted. As the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government confirmed in their offer letter:

“The Future High Streets Fund will renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that drives economic growth and sustainability and improves living standards. In progressing to this next phase of assessment you will need to develop a full business case for capital investment by the FHSF in your proposal”.

Historic England Heritage Action Zone Funding Success!

Due to the hard work of the Council’s Growth and Prosperity team in partnership with Built Heritage, I am delighted to confirm that the Council has just had confirmation of the success of the bid for funding to Historic England under the Heritage Action Zone funding programme. The confirmed grant is just under £600,000 and must be used to improve historic high streets. As per our bid the money will be used to improve the street frontages of the Winter Gardens and Grand Theatre onto Church Street as well as a programme of activities to bring culture out of both buildings onto the street and encourage more people into the venues to experience two of the town’s finest listed buildings.

Community groups in the form of the Winter gardens Trust, Civic Trust and Friends of the Grand will all play key roles in the governance of the project and match funding will come from both Blackpool Council and The Grand Theatre. This is part of how the Council puts its communities at the heart of the heritage led regeneration programme in Blackpool and will pave the way for continued partnership and shared responsibility for preserving these unique buildings.

Stanley Park Golf Course

Following the completion of the procurement process and their being announced as preferred bidder, Holmes Investment Properties (HIP) issued a press release detailing their proposals for Stanley Park Golf Course. These include improvements to the West side of the course to deliver a new golf offering, and development of the East side with a new indoor and outdoor family entertainment, multi activity David Lloyd Adrenalin World and up to 250 family lodges to enhance the offer for both residents and visitors.

We now expect to receive a planning application for the development later this year, which will be presented to the Planning Committee for consideration after appropriate consultation. As well as discussions with the golf club HIP also intend to hold discussions with the hospital who have expressed an interest in creating a memorial park on part of the site, and also with the adjacent Zoo regarding any potential to further enhance their facilities.

It is the Council's intention to contribute the money from sales over and above the recovery of costs toward a multi-million pound investment in our open space, focused on Stanley Park. This will include investment in the bandstand, lake, sports arena, children's play and security.

Transforming Services

Progress on New Council Homes at Hoyle House and at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside

I am pleased to confirm that the development of 19 new flats, houses, and bungalows on the site of the old Hoyle House at Argosy Avenue, Grange Park has now been completed. The new Council homes will include eight one bedroom assisted living flats to help people with learning disabilities live independently and a mixture of bungalows and family homes.

Members may have noticed that the demolition of the old flats and bedsits at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside is now underway to enable the construction of 75 new Council homes, all of which will be managed by Blackpool Coastal Housing and let at Affordable Rents. The development will comprise of 19 one-bedroom flats with their own front doors and storage/utility rooms on the ground floor and the rest of the accommodation on the first floor. As well as nine two-bedroom dormer bungalows, 27 two-bedroom houses and 20 three bedroom houses, of which two will be designed with a bedroom and wet room on the ground floor to accommodate households where one of the family members has restricted mobility.

Grant funding has been secured from Homes England and local building contractor, RP Tyson, has been appointed to build the new homes. Tyson's will be taking possession of the site in October, with construction work over two years providing opportunities for training and employment of local tradespeople.

Domestic Waste

As Members will recall, the newly formed arm's length company of the Council Blackpool Waste Services Limited brought domestic waste under the umbrella of the Council from 1 July 2019, trading as ENVECO North West Environmental Services. This has allowed us to bring in a state-

of-the-art vehicle fleet with improved in-cab technology, whilst ultimately looking to deliver a more efficient service. I am delighted with the way this project has been managed over the last year, which has also involved the transfer of staff into the Council, along with investment and development of Layton Depot.

The delivery transition from Veolia Environmental Services the previous contractor to Blackpool Waste Services was seamless and I am confident our Company will go from strength to strength as they seek to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Working with Partners

Blackpool Enterprise Week

Timed to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week, the Council is once again facilitating a week of inspiration and advice for would-be entrepreneurs from the 18 to 22 November 2019. The week of events, entitled "Ignite Your Entrepreneurial Spirit", is coordinated by the Council's Business Support Team and aims to offer a series of free events for new and start-up businesses.

Workshops revolve around familiar, but essential topics such as business and financial planning, raising start up finance and creating an effective digital presence. Supported by Lloyds Bank and Google, participants will also hear from successful local businesses. Well over 200 people attended a similar programme in 2018 and we hope for a similarly positive turnout at venues including Blackpool Enterprise Centre and Central Library. Details can be found at <https://www.blackpoolunlimited.com/blackpool/enterprise/week>

Tourism Awards

I am pleased to report that Blackpool is to host the 2019 Lancashire Tourism Awards later this year. The event, which will bring in more than 400 attendees, will be staged by Marketing Lancashire at the Pleasure Beach Arena on Thursday 7 November and marks the latest in a series of major business award events hosted here this year. The Be Inspired Business Awards (BIBAs) once again attracting around 1,000 attendees from businesses across the region to the Tower Ballroom on 13 September.

Strictly Highways

The Strictly Highways National Highways conference returned to Blackpool on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 September 2019, with in excess of 70 authorities and more than 240 delegates. The conference was first held in Blackpool last year organised by the Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG). The conference is now the largest of its kind in the UK for Highways and supported by the Department for Transport (DFT). The Head of Highways for the DFT awarded a surprise special outstanding achievement award to Will Britain, Head of Highways and Traffic Management in Blackpool, for his contribution to the sector, in particular for setting up LCRIG, which is growing from strength to strength with member authorities from across the UK.

Last, but certainly not least.....it's official, Stanley Park is the Best in the UK!

I am very proud to report on an amazing evening on 12 September 2019, when I was with members of our Parks Team and the Friends of Stanley Park when the Fields in Trust announced that Stanley Park had been voted and awarded 'UK Park of The Year 2019'!

This is a huge achievement with Stanley Park up against 364 parks, with an unprecedented 36,832 votes cast for parks and green spaces across the UK. I would like to congratulate the amazing work and effort put in by our Parks Team and the Friends of Stanley Park who keep Stanley Park looking so fantastic for residents and visitors to enjoy alike. Long may this continue.

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DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CHILDREN) AND STATUTORY LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICE – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

The 'People' area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Kathryn Benson (Schools, Education and Aspiration)

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 and Strategic Issues

Control and the Improvement Journey for Children's Social Care

OFSTED / Commissioner Update

In June I updated Members on the role and remit of Helen Lincoln, Independent Commissioner for Children's Services. As Members will recall, the Commissioner's task was to assess the capacity of Blackpool Council and crucially its leadership, to drive improvement in our services. As such, the Commissioner was tasked by the Department of Education to make a recommendation on whether the Council should retain control of Children's Services, or whether an alternative delivery model should be pursued (as has been the case elsewhere).

Helen Lincoln began her work in March 2019. Helen and her team worked closely with the Council for three months to carefully and rigorously assess the capacity of the leadership to deliver the change necessary to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people. Helen submitted her findings to the Secretary of State for Education, which were published on the 22 July.

I am extremely happy to formally confirm to Members that the Commissioner's unambiguous view is that the Council has the necessary capacity and skills necessary to drive positive change and therefore Helen recommended that the Council retain operational control of Children's Services. This view was accepted and endorsed by the Secretary of State. A revised direction has been issued to the Council and the Commissioner will report further on our progress in delivering and sustaining improvements in December 2019 and June 2020.

There is a long journey ahead, but I would like to thank all our staff and partners who worked so hard to achieve this outcome. There is no greater responsibility for a Local Authority than the protection and care of vulnerable children and I am delighted that Government has confirmed its confidence in our ability to continue to deliver this responsibility in Blackpool.

On the 14 and 15 August, OFSTED visited Children's Social Care to undertake their first Monitoring Visit after the inspection. They focused their scrutiny on the front door of social care, reviewing the impact of change in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Assessment and Support Teams (AST). The inspectors noted the substantial additional investment made by the Council in developing the service and emphasised the need to embed further the positive changes they had seen, both in terms of recruitment of permanent staff into roles and in developing good practice across the wider service.

Their report comments further on the progress the Council has made and I would like to share some of their observations with you:

- "The Local Authority has been effective in addressing some of the shortfalls identified in the inspection regarding the initial response that children and families receive at the front door";
- "A single point of entry for all contacts to Children's Services has been developed";
- "Systems and processes for all contacts and referrals have been reviewed and enhanced to ensure that there is appropriate consideration of children's histories";
- "Thresholds (for social care intervention) are applied consistently, reviewed by managers at key decision-making points and the rationale for next steps is evidenced clearly"; and
- "Children are signposted promptly to appropriate levels of help and support, including those who require an early help service".

OFSTED also reported that "careful consideration is given to obtaining parental consent, but there is still more to do to ensure that partners seek consent from families prior to contacting MASH". The Council will continue to work with its partners so they understand the importance of this issue and I have already agreed a pan-Lancashire approach to working through the issues of consent with them.

The Department for Education has appointed an advisor to support Blackpool in its improvement journey. They will co-ordinate with the Council's Partners in Practice and sector-led improvement from Stockport, Essex and Leeds in the coming months, to support the Council's commitment to holistic practice improvement and achieving positive change in the lives of Blackpool children and families.

Recruitment and Retention

I am pleased to report that in Children's Services the average monthly turnover of Social Workers had fallen to just over 3% on average for the period from January to August 2019. Since January, the Service has had 19 social workers new to the Council join as permanent employees and a further 13 have been appointed and a start date set. The Service has created new management posts at Assistant Director, Head of Service, Service Manager and Team Manager level. The Service has made seven appointments from outside the Council in to these posts, with a further seven people recruited, but not yet in post.

Caseloads currently average 20 across frontline social work services, with more consistency across individual worker caseload levels than seen in the past, which will also help the Council retain staff. Positively, OFSTED noted during their recent monitoring visit that caseloads in the Assessment Teams are manageable and allow workers to engage in direct work with families. However, the number of children's cases being overseen by Team Managers in the Supporting and Strengthening Families Teams remains a challenge, given the breadth, complexity and volatility of the work.

Performance in Children's Social Care

Since Christmas, the Council has invested heavily in our ability to draw together and analyse service and demand data. The Council has a vastly improved understanding of what is driving current levels of demand in Blackpool, both now and over the longer term. Indeed, recent analysis clearly demonstrates that the current position has been at least a decade in the making. As at 11 September 2019, 587 children are in the Council's care.

Demand for Children's Social Care intervention in Blackpool remains high – whether from partner agencies, the Council's own services, or the wider community and families. This is unlikely to change swiftly. Current levels of demand reflects the culture of the locality, the long-time practice of agencies and the ineffectiveness of work with families in the past, which can only be addressed by the sustained, consistent implementation of new approaches.

The changes made to create a single entry point into the Service mean that demand can be dealt with more consistently and effectively. The recent monitoring visit by OFSTED confirmed that entry into the Children's Social Care system is now safer, more robust and the application of threshold is appropriate. This means that more work is held within Children's Social Care, initially within the assessment teams, but increasingly in the teams focused on longer term child in need work and child protection work.

The statistics monitored show evidence of change in the performance pattern of the service, with a greater proportion of incoming work involving cases, which have already been open and closed within the past year. The Service has also noticed that a growing proportion of those becoming subject to child protection plans have previously had plans, although not generally in the recent past.

More positively, there is evidence of resilience in the Service:

- Indicators of timeliness continue to improve across assessment and child protection processes;
- The assessment teams and MASH are coping with the presenting volumes of work; and
- There is also early evidence of positive practice improvement, including more recorded oversight and supervision, greater currency in visits to children and families and fewer very short or very long child protection plans.

The challenge for the remainder of the year will be to maintain and build on the positive steps in the early parts of people's journey within Children's Social Care, while beginning to transform the longer-term work undertaken with children and families.

Summary

The Council has come a long way since the OFSTED judgement at the end of last year and has successfully convinced an independent Commissioner and the Government that it has the capacity to improve and have now had the first OFSTED visit that went well. Experience elsewhere suggests that the Council has a long and perhaps bumpy road ahead on the improvement journey, but is ready for the challenge and has made a very positive start.

The Council has truly pulled together to work very hard on the Children's Services challenge. Across Children's Services and key corporate support services like HR, Finance, Legal, Policy and Performance, everyone continues to work tirelessly in support of the significant scrutiny of Children's Social Care, whilst also delivering improvements in the way that we work with families.

Caseloads of Social Workers are now coming down as more permanent workers join Blackpool and our reliance on the work of agency employed workers is reducing. The Council is expanding its work with its partners, which has been effective in delivering improvements in the front door and in the Youth Offending Services in to the services for Supporting and Strengthening Families. There is much sustained effort and momentum required in the coming months and years to deliver the scale of change and to see it having a real impact on the town's children and families, but the work that has been done over the past eight months since the inspection stands the Council in good stead.

Transforming Services

Children and Young People (CYP) Now Awards

It is my pleasure to report that we are celebrating a double in the CYP Now awards, with two projects shortlisted despite being up against some very tough competition! The awards recognise and showcase the best organisations, teams, individuals and initiatives in the UK, shining a light on the hard work, innovation and dedication of those working with children, young people and families.

The Talbot and Brunswick (TaB) Family Hub trial has been shortlisted for the Early Intervention Award. Led by the Council's Targeted Intervention Services and driven by a multi-agency partnership, the trial aims to ensure services have a greater focus on local needs. The partnership has introduced a range of positive activities and preventative services to children, young people and families on their doorstep, developed a 'community budget' to determine spend on family activities and supported young people to develop activities which prevent them being involved in anti-social behaviour.

More people are now accessing the Family Hub for the first time. Parents are benefitting from a wider support network and services. A range of local improvements have been delivered including improvements to the local sports barn and community green, provision of a free meal for young people this summer to reduce 'holiday hunger', collaboration with Blackpool Transport Services to provide summer trips within Blackpool for residents and all whilst helping people to access support services earlier, when they can have a greater impact.

Meanwhile, Language that Cares has been shortlisted in the Children in Care Award. This is a joint project with several Children in Care Council's led by adoption and fostering charity TACT and has led to the production of a glossary of alternative words and terms and the banning of jargon when talking with children and families! Blackpool's justuz Children in Care Council played a major part and as a result, words like "placement" "siblings" and "Looked After Children" are all now banned in favour of less formal ways of speaking such as "our home", "our brothers and sisters" and "our children". I hope that I can report on a double celebration after the awards ceremony in November!

Working with Partners

Summer Results: Primary, Secondary and 'A' Level

I will provide Members with a more comprehensive report in due course, but I thought it useful to detail some headlines from the results that were announced in August.

There is clear evidence that Blackpool primary schools have once again exceeded the national average in terms of progress at Key Stage 2. This is extremely good news and represents a very significant achievement, especially when relative under-achievement at Key Stage 1 is factored in. However, it is disappointing that early indications from provisional GCSE data show no improvement in overall aggregate performance across the town this year. There is clear evidence of improvement at some of our secondary schools, but this offset by falls at others. Although results at this stage are still provisional and will be firmed up over the coming months, it is unlikely that the gap to the national average or similar local authorities will have narrowed this year.

As yet, the Council does not have a full dataset of the 'A'-level results to draw meaningful conclusions from. That said, Blackpool is typically strong in terms of Key Stage 5 performance and the expectation is that this will have continued.

Toward a Blackpool Children and Families Partnership

One of the Independent Commissioner's recommendations was the creation of a strategic partnership to drive and oversee positive change for all Blackpool children and families, not just those in receipt of support from Social Care. It is the intent to pursue this recommendation into the winter and beyond.

Blackpool Children and Families Partnership will bring together organisations working to help families thrive in Blackpool, ensuring there is a common set of principles, priorities and desired outcomes. The partnership will start this work at its first meeting later this year. By looking beyond the Council at the wider system, it will complement the Getting to Good Board, which has a focus on the improvement journey within Children's Social Care and which is focussed on delivering clear, measurable and sustained impact across the quality of practice evident in our assessments, plans and work with families.

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS JACKSON, BLACKBURN 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 18 February, 29 April and 17 June 2019. 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)
18 FEBRUARY 2019**

1. Collaboration

The Authority noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had met with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on 22 January 2019 where they received assurance of his intention not to proceed with any changes to the fire governance arrangements at this time. During the meeting, the potential for further collaboration was discussed which required further consideration and included: i) the delivery of Police Public Order Training from Service Training Centre – this work had in part already been initiated which had been observed by Home Office officials at a visit the previous week; ii) the potential for the relocation of Service Headquarters to Hutton and iii) the formation of a small Board of eight with four representatives from the Police (two from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and two from the Constabulary) and four from Fire (two Members and two Officers). However, as the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) was the decision-making body, the Chairman was in discussions with the Chief Fire Officer and the Clerk on how this might be constituted.

The Authority remained committed to deliver the best outcomes for the public in Lancashire and the Service continued to work collaboratively with the Police. The Chairman stated his gratitude to all Members of the CFA for their support in maintaining current governance arrangements. He confirmed that he would be thanking all Members of Lancashire County Council (LCC) on behalf of the Authority at the next Full Council meeting and he had already written to MPs and Lancashire Leaders. County Councillor O'Toole acknowledged the cross-party support received from Members of the CFA and LCC colleagues and commended the Chairman for his determination in opposition of the proposal.

2. Pay Policy Statement For 2019/2020

The Director of People and Development presented a report informing the Authority that in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 a pay policy statement for 2019/2020 had been prepared. The pay policy published data on senior salaries and the structure of the workforce and demonstrated the principles of transparency. The pay policy statement set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to: the remuneration of its chief

officers; the remuneration of its lowest paid employees; and the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and that of other employees who are not chief officers.

The Chairman announced that he had received the Chief Fire Officer's notice of intention to retire with effect from 30 April 2019 and that the appointment of a successor had begun.

3. Revenue Budget 2019/ 2020 - 2023/ 2024

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2019/ 2020 of £56.5m. This allowed for the increase in pay costs arising from forecast pay awards and revised pension contributions all of which was partly offset by the identification of £1.2m of efficiency savings/ budget reductions.

The Authority considered council tax options for 2019/ 2020, which met the requirements to deliver a balanced budget and maintain an adequate level of reserves and determined a 2.99% increase (£2.02 per annum) resulting in a council tax of £69.48 for a Band D property.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 29 APRIL 2019

1. Chairman's Welcome And Introduction

The Chairman and Members of the Combined Fire Authority thanked Mr Kenny, Chief Fire Officer for his leadership and dedication to the Service and the communities of Lancashire, expressing sincere wishes for his retirement at the end of April 2019.

2. Proposed Governance Arrangements Of The Blue Light Collaboration Programme With The Police And Crime Commissioner

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority presented a report that detailed the proposed governance arrangements of the Blue Light Collaboration Programme, which outlined the role of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) and the provision for dealing with input from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner whilst ensuring that the CFA retained ultimate decision-making responsibilities. It was agreed that a bi-annual Collaborative Working Group (CWG) with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner be held. This would be attended by the Chairman and the Clerk to the Authority on behalf of the CFA, together with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer as strategic lead from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and the Deputy Chief Constable on behalf of Lancashire Constabulary. The CWG meeting would provide oversight of the collaboration activity. It would also ensure the relevance to the business of the respective organisations and ensure alignment in the core roles of both organisations. A report of the discussions from the CWG would be made available to the Authority's Planning Committee.

3. Annual Service Plan

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented this year's Annual Service Plan (updated to be effective from 1 May 2019). The Annual Service Plan continued to provide Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) with the platform to highlight the priority activities that the Service intended to deliver over the coming year. LFRS was leading improvements and innovation in

the fire sector with some of the best firefighting equipment and training facilities in the country and a highly skilled and motivated workforce. The year ahead would build on achievements by staying focussed on continuous improvement that made the people of Lancashire safer, particularly the most vulnerable members of our communities. Many priorities were extensive, long-term initiatives that would transform the way we worked and bring lasting benefits. For the first time, this year's Annual Service Plan would be published alongside the Strategic Assessment of Risk. First published in 2016, this document had been refreshed for the 2019/ 2020 year and branded to mirror the 2019/ 2020 Annual Service Plan that it supported by capturing the dynamic picture of risk in Lancashire.

This year's Annual Service Plan was endorsed by the Planning Committee at its meeting held 18 March 2019. As part of an engaging communications strategy a short video had been commissioned, which would summarise the salient aspects of the Annual Service Plan in a succinct format. It was anticipated that the digital format would enable us to engage directly with a larger section of Lancashire's communities. The video was expected to be published on internal medial channels and the external website the following month.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) - 17 JUNE 2019

1. Combined Fire Authority Annual Meeting

The meeting held 17 June was the Authority's Annual Meeting and Members appointed County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively for 2019/ 2020. The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Vice-Chairman, County Councillor Parkinson had been awarded Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his political service in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

2. Composition Of The Combined Fire Authority

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2019/ 2020 included two new Members from Lancashire County Council; County Councillor Hasina Khan had replaced County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and County Councillor John Fillis had replaced County Councillor Lorraine Beavers.

3. Re-Appointment Of Independent Person

As required by the Localism Act 2011, the Authority had a duty to promote and maintain high standards of Members, which included the appointment of one or more Independent Persons. Following consideration, the Authority re-appointed Mrs Hilary Banks as its Independent Person for a further period of two years until the CFA Annual Meeting in June 2021.

4. Executive Board Succession Arrangements

The Authority had appointed Mr David Russel as Deputy Chief Fire Officer on 7 May 2019 and the post of Assistant Chief Officer was in the process of being recruited to. In the meantime, Area Manager, Mr Ben Norman would be acting in the post.

5. Annual Safety, Health And Environment Report 2018/ 2019

The Authority noted that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. Since initial certification in November 2011, annual surveillance visits had been conducted with re-certification every three years to maintain external certification of the Health and Safety and Environment Management Systems. In February 2019, the auditor from British Assessment Bureau carried out a surveillance audit for ISO 14001:2015 and they carried out an audit against a new health and safety standard ISO 45001:2018. The scope for both standards was 'The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire'. Continued certification was granted without any non-conformance or opportunities for improvement identified. During the audit, process complimentary comments had been received. During 2018/ 2019, there had been 73 accidents, 109 near misses and 10 RIDDOR events. A comparison against previous performance showed the continued reduction of accidents and positive increase in near miss reporting.

The Carbon Management Plan agreed by the Resources Committee in March 2009 included a visionary target of 40% carbon emission reduction by March 2020. The Service had achieved an overall reduction of 23% by March 2019, which equated to 989 tonnes of CO₂; this delivered savings to date of £672,000. Work would continue to improve this area. The report also detailed key safety, health and environmental priorities for 2019/ 2020, which included: the implementation of revised National Guidance, the maintenance of certification standards, reducing energy and waste and the continued review of Health and Wellbeing arrangements.

CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD'S REPORT TO COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR MRS MAXINE CALLOW

Culture

At Annual Council in May 2019, a new structure for scrutiny was approved creating a Scrutiny Leadership Board to co-ordinate the scrutiny function at the council, raise the profile of scrutiny and undertake a series of specific scrutiny activities. This is the first report back to council, following the changes, on the progress and work of the new scrutiny function.

Many of the changes being implemented were identified through North West Employer's (NWE) review of scrutiny and a number relate to the importance of the culture of the authority in promoting effective scrutiny, something which has been strongly supported by the new Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in May 2019. The guidance highlights that:

- The prevailing organisational culture, behaviours and attitudes of an authority will largely determine whether its scrutiny function succeeds or fails.
- Creating a strong organisational culture supports scrutiny work that can add real value by, for example, improving policy making and the efficient delivery of public services. In contrast, low levels of support for and engagement with the scrutiny function often lead to poor quality and ill-focused work that serves to reinforce the perception that it is of little worth or relevance.

I am pleased to say that the new scrutiny guidance strongly supports what we are aiming to achieve with our scrutiny function at Blackpool and gives further weight to the recommendations of the review carried out by NWE. The culture of the organisation is key in making improvements to the way we carry out scrutiny.

Workplanning

A key function of the Scrutiny Leadership Board is to have an overview of the workplans of each scrutiny committee ensuring that they are widely consulted upon and that there is co-ordination across the committees. The workplanning process at Blackpool put in place for 2019/ 2020 is more robust than ever, with each committee holding a workshop to ensure all committee members have an opportunity to contribute and feed in the views of residents. Contribution has also been sought from Executive Members, Senior Officers and external partners into, not only the agenda item to be received, but also the timescale for consideration and the type of review to be carried out. The Leadership Board has also engaged with the Leader and Deputy Leaders in order to ascertain their vision and key priorities for the upcoming

twelve months and has provided feedback to each committee on its workplan through the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each committee, all of whom sit on the Leadership Board.

The results are focused and highly prioritised workplans which reflect the key priorities of the council, the concerns of residents and the important policies being reviewed or developed over the next year. It has been acknowledged that scrutiny functions cannot consider everything and the new statutory guidance highlights this further, stating that 'prioritisation is necessary, which means there might be things that, despite being important, scrutiny will not be able to look at.' It is furthermore an intention of the scrutiny function to move away from overview reports that cover a wide range of issues to key single topic items that allow for value to be added by the scrutiny function.

It is my view that workplanning is a key determinant in carrying out effective scrutiny and that the right topics being identified for consideration at the right time will allow for the greatest opportunity for worthwhile scrutiny. To ensure our workplans are robust we will be reviewing them regularly and it is imperative that the Executive, Senior Officers and partners have an ongoing opportunity to feed in suggestions and involve scrutiny at the right time in the development and review of policy.

Relationship between Scrutiny and the Executive

The first informal meeting of the Scrutiny Leadership Board was held on 11 July 2019, during which we made the first steps in developing the relationship between the Executive. We invited the Leader and Deputy Leaders to the meeting in order to discuss their vision and priorities for the next twelve months. The need to ensure early and regular engagement between the executive and scrutiny is also highlighted in the new scrutiny guidance. I have therefore had an initial discussion with the Leader and am encouraging the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny to set up regular one to ones with relevant Executive Members in order to promote engagement and improved relationships. It is imperative that the Executive values the input that scrutiny can have and plays its part in developing the relationship and involving scrutiny at the right stage of the decision making process. The Scrutiny Leadership Board will also engage directly with the Executive as appropriate through its informal meeting.

To this end, we are in the process of revising the Protocol on Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Cabinet Member Relations and will be forwarding a new and improved version of the protocol to Council for consideration in due course. This is the first of many scrutiny policies procedures that the Leadership Board will be reviewing over the next year.

Training and Development

Another key role of the Leadership Board is to lead on the training and development needs for scrutiny members. I am pleased to say that the introduction sessions carried out for new and existing members on scrutiny have been very well attended. Unfortunately the specialised training for scrutiny chairs, vice chairs and the Executive provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny was very poorly attended and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the

importance of attending scrutiny training for both the scrutiny members and Executive. A key recommendation in the NWE review highlighted the importance of cabinet member attendance at scrutiny training to ensure that their knowledge of scrutiny and the Executive's role in scrutiny continues to be established and improved.

Scrutiny Review Work

It has been long recognised that scrutiny can often add the most value from a 'deep dive' review into a specific topic area rather than a report on a committee agenda. It is a key priority this year to correctly identify topics for scrutiny outside of committee meetings, whilst also ensuring that the democratic accountability of the scrutiny process is upheld. In order to ensure effective scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership the Tourism, Economy and Communities Committee will be holding an in depth review into the performance of the partnership and priorities for the next year. This is a statutory duty for the committee and a full account of the review meeting will be provided to the Committee detailing the considerations and findings. Undertaking work in this way not only allows for more time to be spent analysing information but also ensures that the committee meetings can be focussed and used more effectively for strategic items. Other in depth reviews that have been identified and that will take place over the coming months include Housing Strategy and Homelessness, Healthy Weight and Channel Shift.

Conclusion

We are at the start of a very long process to improve scrutiny at Blackpool. As mentioned, the importance of culture at the authority cannot be underestimated and we need to move away from any fear of scrutiny to one of active engagement whereby the positive contribution that can be made by scrutiny is understood and valued. The review carried out by NWE has stood us in good stead for the publication of the new statutory guidance and there are many key themes that run through both documents that we are ahead of the game in implementing, such as this first report to Council. We have ambitions to improve the profile and understanding of scrutiny both internally and externally and are taking steps to ensure that the value added by scrutiny can be evidenced and demonstrated.

I look forward to presenting the Scrutiny Annual Report to you in June 2020.

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Date of Meeting	25 September 2019

MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider an extension to the period of six consecutive months as the period of non-attendance at Council related meetings for Councillor Mrs Henderson MBE.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the extension of the six-month consecutive period for Councillor Mrs Henderson with regard to her non-attendance at a Council related meeting, to run up to an including the Annual Council meeting on 11 May 2020.
- 2.2 That it is noted that the reason for this extension is due to Councillor Mrs Henderson's MBE current illness.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 A decision is required at this Council meeting, as retrospective approval cannot be given when the six-month period has expired.

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 appointments proposed in this report will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The law states that where a Council member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance at a Council related meeting then subject to certain provisions, he/ she ceases to be a member, unless the failure was due to some reason approved before the expiry of that period.

5.2 Councillor Mrs Henderson's last attendance was at the Annual meeting held on 22 May and her six-month period would therefore expire on 22 November 2019. As members are aware, Councillor Mrs Henderson MBE has recently undergone an operation and this has meant she has been unable to attend any meeting since that date and Council is therefore requested to extend her six-month period up to and including the Annual Council meeting on 11 May 2020.

List of Appendices

None

6.0 Legal considerations

6.1 A decision is required at this Council meeting, as retrospective approval cannot be given when the six-month period has expired.

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 considerations in this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations

10.1 There are no risk management considerations

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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Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting	25 September 2019

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider proposals to extend the responsibilities of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the functions of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee are extended to include the appointment of joint health scrutiny committees.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To allow the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee to establish (as well as appoint members to) a joint committee, as preparations are underway to establish a joint committee on a Lancashire wide basis.

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:

For the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee to retain its current responsibilities.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priority is 'Communities, creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Discussions are currently taking place on an informal basis with the four upper tier local authorities (Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Lancashire County Council, and Cumbria County Council) to establish a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee across the South Cumbria and Lancashire Integrated Care System (ICS) region.
- 5.2 The arrangements would allow scrutiny to take place of services provided and commissioned at an ICS level that affect the whole of the Lancashire area, more effectively and without duplication across the individual authorities.
- 5.3 This would mean that the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee would be able to focus on performance of providers in Blackpool, latest CQC inspections and action plans of Blackpool hospitals and services that are provided on a local basis such as availability of GP appointments, dental provision and the work of the Council's own Adult Social Care Services.
- 5.4 The proposals in this report would extend the functions of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee to include the establishment of a joint committee. This would help to progress arrangements when the discussions across Lancashire and South Cumbria have been finalised.

List of Appendices

None

6.0 Legal considerations

- 6.1 Upper tier authorities have a duty for scrutiny of local health services in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2001, S190 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

7.0 Human Resources considerations

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 considerations in this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations

10.1 There are no risk management considerations.

11.0 Ethical considerations

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken

12.1 Consultation has taken place on an informal basis with representatives of the three upper tier authorities. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee are also aware of the intention to establish a joint committee.

13.0 Background papers

13.1 None.

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Notice of Motion

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

a) Illuminations Switch On. Councillor T Williams to propose

For the last few years there have been issues regarding the free VIP tickets to the Illuminations Switch On and subsequent party in relation to allocation and guest tickets etc. Providing free VIP tickets to this event and other similar occasions to serving councillors is considered totally unnecessary. Elected members are no different from the general public and they are paid an allowance for the duties they perform, so it is questionable as to why they are provided with free tickets for themselves and a partner guest.

The face value of illuminations VIP tickets is £69.50 for an adult and £35 for under 14s, therefore if every councillor accepted one of these tickets for themselves and a guest, the cost would be circa £5,800.

The Council is therefore asked to request the Deputy Leader (Place and Tourism) and the Director of Communication and Regeneration when compiling the guest list, to no longer offer free tickets to serving councillors for the Illuminations Switch On, but that as a recognition of their service, tickets should be allocated to councillors who make a discounted donation of £50 per ticket to the Mayor's charity. The Mayor and a guest in a civic role capacity to be the only consideration for complimentary tickets.

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