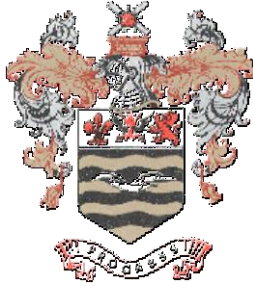


# Public Document Pack



**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL**

Friday, 26 February 2021

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 by Zoom on Monday, 8 March 2021 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.



Director of Governance and Partnerships

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## **Business**

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned 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 10 FEBRUARY 2021** (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February 2021 as a true and correct record.

**3 DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services is due to retire from the Council at the end of the month.

The Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders/ representatives will be invited to speak to show their appreciation to Mrs Booth for her service to the Authority.

**4 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/ 2022 TO 2023/ 2024** (Pages 9 - 18)

To consider the Executive's recommendation from its meeting on the 8 February 2021 regarding the Capital Strategy for 2021/ 2022 to 2023/ 2024 which incorporates the Property Investment Strategy for 2021/ 2022

**5 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2023/24** (Pages 19 - 28)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the 8 February 2021 regarding the 2021/21, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Capital Programme – which have been circulated to members under separate cover.

**6 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY REVIEW** (Pages 29 - 40)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the 8 February 2021 to the Council on varying its Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as a result of the review undertaken by Link Asset Services.

**7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/2022** (Pages 41 - 50)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 8 February 2021 regarding the Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2021/2022.

**8 COUNCIL TAX 2021/ 2022** (Pages 51 - 74)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget and the setting of a Council Tax for the 2021/ 2022 Financial Year.

**9 PAY POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW** (Pages 75 - 88)

Further to the decision of the Council on 10 February 2021, to reconsider the decision regarding the Pay Policy statement as the Government has withdrawn Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 and the supplementary HM Treasury Directions which form part of the Pay Policy statement.

**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](mailto:yvonne.burnett@blackpool.gov.uk)

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

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### **Present:**

Councillor Cross (in the Chair)

### Councillors

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

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Campbell, Hobson and Robertson declared personal interests in agenda item 10 'Proposed Rent Review 2021/22' as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2020 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **3 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE AND MINUTE'S SILENCE**

The Council noted the sad news of the deaths of Councillor Peter Callow, Councillor Lily Henderson MBE and former Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Hardy. The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the office holders and asked Council to note that following consultation with the Group Leaders, it would be asked to award the Blackpool Medal to former councillors Peter Callow and Lily Henderson MBE at a future Council meeting.

Councillors T Williams, G Coleman and Blackburn paid tribute to Councillor Peter Callow and Councillor Mrs Callow responded to the tributes made by the Council.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Councillors Taylor, Clapham and G Coleman spoke in respect of both Councillor Mrs Henderson MBE and Mrs Barbara Hardy. Councillor Hunter also spoke in respect of Councillor Mrs Henderson MBE.

The following resolution of condolence was then moved:

‘The Council sends its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Councillor Peter Callow, Councillor Mrs Lily Henderson MBE and former Mayoress Mrs Barbara Hardy for their loss and places on record its recognition of the dedication to office of these civic office holders’.

Council then held a minute’s silence as a mark of respect.

Note: Councillor Blackburn left the meeting following the item.

### **4 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements made.

### **5 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE REGARDING THE PANDEMIC**

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health was invited to address members of the Council on the latest development in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Rajpura reported upon the number of identified cases, testing figures, deaths attributable to Covid-19 and the vaccination programme and he responded to questions from members on his presentation.

### **6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT**

The Executive Lead Members for the meeting presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in the Corporate, Place and People portfolio areas. The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners.

Members also received a report from representatives of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority in relation to the work being undertaken by the authority.

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

Notes:

1. The Leader of the Council agreed to provide a written response to:
  - Councillor Galley with further details on the Council’s participation in the consultation on the Subsidy Control Rules
  - Councillor G Coleman on the reasons for using an external contractor to undertake the Citizens Assembly engagement on Climate Emergency rather than using Council officers

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

- Councillor Mrs Callow on how much commission had been paid in the last 12 months to the Audit and Overpayments Recovery Service
  - Councillor M Scott to clarify whether the costs for the Medical Advisor to the Adoption Panel outlined in the report were the overall costs or were reflective of Blackpool's proportion and if the latter, which services would be provided.
2. Councillor Kirkland agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Galley on whether all volunteers for the Corona Kindness campaign had been contacted and allocated tasks, and the post-COVID plans to engage with those people who had volunteered.
  3. In response to Councillor Mrs Callow, Councillor Hobson agreed to confirm when the trams on Talbot Road extension would be operational.
  4. Councillor Smith agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Galley as to whether there was a strategy to identify a tenant for the Houndshill (Debenhams) site.
  5. Councillor D Coleman left the meeting prior to consideration of the report from the Combined Fire Authority representatives.

### 7 PROPER OFFICER DESIGNATIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Members considered a report on proper officer changes in relation to the impending retirement of the current Director of Children's Services and the proposal to appoint an interim statutory Director of Children's services.

A number of constitutional changes were also proposed in relation to the Council's budget meeting, the annual Council meeting and continuation of the current Mayor's term of office.

**Motion:** Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- '1. To confirm the appointment of the current Assistant Director of Children's Services to the interim statutory Director of Children's Services position in accordance with Section 18 of the Children's Act 2004 and to authorise the Chief Executive to assign that responsibility to the successful candidate for the permanent position should they commence employment with the Council in between ordinary Council meetings.
2. To agree to amend Procedural Standing Order 3.3 in Part 4a of the Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committees, to allow Council to consider any decision making reports referred to it by a committee, the Executive, Council itself, or a Statutory Chief Officer at the annual Budget council meeting which cannot wait until the next ordinary Council meeting.
3. To move the date of the Annual Council meeting from 17 May until 24 May 2021, to take account of the possibility of by elections being held in early May 2021 and for the meeting to be held at 6pm.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

4. To agree that the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor be put forward to the Annual Meeting to continue in office for the 2021/2022 municipal year, as set out in paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 of this report.
5. To authorise the Director of Governance and Partnerships to make the necessary changes to the Constitution and proceed with arrangements for the Annual Meeting'.

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

### 8 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/2022

Members considered the recommendation from the Chief Officer's Employment Committee in relation to the Pay Policy Statement for the 2020/2021 financial year. The Statement set out policy on Chief Officer Remuneration, remuneration of its lowest paid employees including the definition used for this group, as well as the relationship between the chief officer remuneration and that of other staff.

The report highlighted the duty to report on the gender pay gap and Members noted that the Council fared favourably in terms of annual earnings of female employees.

Members also considered proposals for the Chief Executive in the role of Returning Officer to vary fees of staff employed at elections.

**Motion:** Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- '1. To approve the Pay Policy Statement, as submitted to the Chief Officers Employment Committee and attached as an appendix to the Council report.
2. To delegate to the Chief Executive in his role of Returning Officer, the revision of election fees to staff as set out in the report'.

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

### 9 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2021/2022

Members considered the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 7 December 2020 in relation to the approval of a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

It was proposed that the percentage reduction should be held at the same level as the previous year, with the exception of those that fell into the vulnerable or low income categories.

**Motion:** Councillor Brookes proposed (and Councillor L Williams seconded):

- '1. To agree the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/2022, as submitted with the Executive report on 7 December 2020.



## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

2. To agree that the reduction applied to working age claimants remains the same as the 2020/2021 Scheme agreed by Council on 12 February 2020 and that the main elements and method of calculating awards will be the same.
3. To agree that the Council continue to operate a Discretionary Discount Policy to be awarded in cases of exceptional hardship, as submitted with the Executive report on 7 December 2020'.

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

### 10 PROPOSED RENT REVIEW 2021/2022

Members considered the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 25 January 2021 in relation to the levels of rents and service charges for Housing Revenue Account dwellings proposed to be applied to the forthcoming financial year, as well as new charges for Housing Revenue Account Services and related Non-Housing Revenue Account properties.

Following debate on the proposals the following was proposed.

**Motion:** Councillor Brookes proposed (and Councillor L Williams seconded):

'To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting held on 25 January 2021 namely:

1. To agree that rents for all Housing Revenue account properties are increased by 1.5% in 2021/2022, following rent reductions in the four years to 2019/20.
2. That the minimum level of Housing Revenue Account balances remain protected at £1 million, as previously agreed.
3. To agree that Housing Revenue Account service charges (as detailed in Appendix B to the Executive report) and that other General Fund service charges (as detailed in Appendix 2d to the Executive report) are charged as outlined'.

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

### 11 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Council considered the recommendations from the Executive meeting of 25 January 2021 in relation to the Licensing Policy and associated cumulative impact assessment following prior consideration by the Licensing Committee.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 20 January 2020 regarding the levels of rents and service charges for Housing Revenue Account dwellings proposed to be applied to the 2020/2021 financial year, as well as new charges for Housing Revenue Account Services and related Non-Housing Revenue Account properties.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

**Motion:** Councillor Hobson proposed (and Councillor Hutton seconded):

1. To approve the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy, as submitted to the Licensing Committee and the Executive for the five years to 10 February 2026.
2. To approve the approve Cumulative Impact Assessment as submitted to the Licensing Committee and the Executive, for the three years to 10 February 2024'.

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

### 12 BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 2

Members considered a report from the Executive from its meeting on 25 January 2021 in relation to the adoption of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Publication Version (Proposed Submission) January 2021.

**Motion:** Councillor Smith proposed (and Councillor Hobson seconded):

'To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting held on 25 January 2021, namely:

1. To approve the Publication Version of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document (the Proposed Submission document) (as set out in Appendix A on the Executive report) and accompanying evidence base documentation; Publication Policies Map (as set out in Appendix B on the Executive report); Consultation Statement including the responses to the representations received to the Informal Consultation Paper (January 2019) (as set out in Appendix C on the Executive report); Sustainability Appraisal (as set out in Appendix D on the Executive report) and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening (as set out in Appendix E on the Executive report) and supporting documentation and give authority for its publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.
2. That should the person appointed to carry out the examination consider that the circumstances are as described in s20(7B) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to formally request that s/he recommend any necessary modifications to the Plan to make the Plan satisfy the appropriate requirements and soundness, pursuant to section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Act.
3. That the Head of Planning Strategy, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, be given delegated authority to propose minor amendments to improve the clarity of the documentation referred to under recommendation (1) and which do not alter the substance of the document when submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State (these amendments will be highlighted) and during the Examination process.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

4. To approve the draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (as set out in Appendix F on the Executive report), for consultation alongside publication of the Publication Version of the Local Plan Part 2; that the Head of Planning Strategy, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, be given delegated authority to make any amendments to the Statement of Common Ground where necessary in response to representations received; and to publish the final version as an evidence base document to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2'.

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

### **13 STANDARDS INDEPENDENT PERSONS AND INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL MEMBER**

Members considered proposals for an appointment to the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel and an appointment as an independent person for standards purposes and noted that a recruitment exercise had recently been undertaken in respect of those vacancies.

**Motion:** Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Benson seconded):

- '1. Pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011:
  - To appoint Mr Peter Clements to the role of Independent Person for a period of three years until 29 February 2024.
  - To extend the appointment of Mr Brian Horrocks and Mrs Helen Broughton as Independent Persons until 29 February 2024.
2. To appoint Mr Nigel Kilgallon to the Independent Remuneration Panel'.

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

### **14 TOURISM VAT OF 5% TO BE EXTENDED BEYOND 31 MARCH 2021**

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor Smith proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

'The Government introduced the temporary reduced rate of 5% on sales of services and products made between 15 July 2020 and 31 March 2021 for VAT registered businesses in the following sectors:

- hospitality
- hotel and holiday accommodation
- admissions to certain attractions

The following statement was also published on the HMRC website. "These changes are being brought in as an urgent response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to support businesses severely affected by forced closures and social distancing measures."

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021

With many businesses still currently closed and struggling financially, when they are eventually allowed to open and being able to trade, more likely will be under some restrictions with limited trading are going to need some financial support going forward.

All the business sectors listed above in Blackpool and nationally see the reduction in VAT to 5% as being one of the best ways to support their business during these struggling times.

The Chief Executive is therefore requested to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak MP to request the extension of the current reduction in VAT of 5% beyond 31 March 2021.

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

### Mayor

(The meeting ended at 9.50 pm)

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

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2021

## **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/ 2022 TO 2023/ 2024**

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

- 1.1 To consider the Executive’s recommendation from its meeting on the 8 February 2021 regarding the Capital Strategy for 2021/ 2022 to 2023/ 2024 which incorporates the Property Investment Strategy for 2021/ 2022.

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

- 2.1 To approve the recommendation of the Executive to Council from its meeting held on 10 February 2020, namely:

To approve the Capital Strategy 2021/ 2022 to 2023/ 2024 incorporating the Property Investment Strategy 2021/2022.

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

- 3.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy. The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implication for future financial sustainability. The Capital Strategy has been formulated to integrate with the Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become part of the Council’s new approved budget

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council priority is “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.”

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy to demonstrate that capital expenditure and investment decisions are taken in line with service objectives and take account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.

6.2 The Capital Strategy aligns with the priorities set out in the Council Plan and other key Council strategies. The strategy is integrated with the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy.

6.3 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021, in connection with the Capital Strategy [available via this link](#)

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4 (a) – Executive Decision Notice EX8/2021– Capital Strategy – 8 February 2021.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The Capital Strategy is set out in the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting 8 February 2021.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk Management considerations:**

10.1 The Capital Strategy includes the Council's Risk Appetite Statement in section 12 of the report.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 These are detailed in the report considered by the Executive on 8 February 2021.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX8/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 February 2021

## CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/22 TO 2023/24

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Capital Strategy for 2021/22 to 2023/24, attached at Appendix 3a, incorporating the Property Investment Strategy for 2021/22, attached at Appendix 3b.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend to the Council to approve the Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 incorporating the Property Investment Strategy 2021/22.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy. The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implication for future financial sustainability. The Capital Strategy has been formulated to integrate with the Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become part of the Council's new approved budget

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 None, as outlined at Paragraph 6.1 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy to demonstrate that capital expenditure and investment decisions are taken in line with service objectives and take account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.

6.2 The Capital Strategy aligns with the priorities set out in the Council Plan and other key Council strategies. The strategy is integrated with the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 3a: Report on the Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24  
Appendix 3b: Property Investment Strategy 2021/22

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 These are set out in the Capital Strategy attached at Appendix 3a.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The Capital Strategy includes the Council’s Risk Appetite Statement in section 12 of the report at Appendix 3a.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 21/2020

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

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

**16.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

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

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

Date informed: 28 January 2021      Date approved:

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

18.1 Councillor Brookes declared a personal interest as non-Executive director of Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited.

Councillor Benson declared a personal interest as her husband works for Blackpool Transport Limited.

Councillor Campbell declared a personal interest as both a non-Executive director of Blackpool Housing Company Limited and as a non-Executive director of Blackpool Airport Operations Limited.

Councillor Farrell declared a personal interest as a non-Executive director of Blackpool Airport Operations Limited.

Councillor Hobson declared a personal interest as a non-Executive director of Blackpool Housing Company Limited.

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest as a non-Executive director of Blackpool Operating Company Limited.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend to the Council to approve the Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 incorporating the Property Investment Strategy 2021/22.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 8 February 2021

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

21.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code requires local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy. The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and

treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implication for future financial sustainability. The Capital Strategy has been formulated to integrate with the Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 9 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Kirkland, Smith and Taylor

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2021

## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2023/24**

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

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the 8 February 2021 regarding the 2021/21, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Capital Programme – which have been circulated to members under separate cover.

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

- 2.1 To approve the recommendations of the Executive to Council from its meeting held on 8 February 2021 namely:
- 2.1.1 To approve the Capital Programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices A and B to the Executive report.
  - 2.1.2 To agree the Single Capital Pot approach as outlined in Section 4 with a top slice of 12.5% to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable (reference paragraph 4.2 of the Executive report).
  - 2.1.3 To approve the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix C to the Executive report.
  - 2.1.4 To agree that Executive approval will continue to be required for all Prudential Borrowing schemes (reference paragraph 3.1 of the Executive report).

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

- 3.1 To ensure delivery of the Council's key objectives. The Capital Programme 2021/ 2022 is consistent with that agreed for 2020/ 2021.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become part of the Council's new approved budget
- 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:  
None.
- 5.0 Council Priority:**
- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool."
- 6.0 Background Information**
- 6.1 The Council's 2021/ 2022 Capital Programme runs concurrently with the 2021/ 2022 General Fund Revenue Budget. Capital schemes usually extend over a number of years and for that reason the programme projects forward indicative spending for three years. This report updates the programme reported in last year's budget and seeks to ensure that capital expenditure is allocated to areas that will contribute to meeting the Council's priorities. The Capital Programme submitted for approval for 2020/ 2021 is £24.3m and over a three-year period is estimated at £135.8m
- 6.2 The Capital Programme now submitted is consistent with that agreed for 2020/21. It includes identified commitments for housing developments. The scale of these commitments means that there are very limited resources to deliver additional schemes that are not fully funded.
- 6.3 The 2021/ 2022 programme is submitted for approval. The 2022/ 2023 and 2023/ 2024 programmes have been drawn up based upon individual allocations and current proposals. These will be reviewed as part of the budget processes for 2022/ 2023 and 2023/ 2024 in the light of changing priorities and final funding levels that mean no commitments can yet be identified in respect of these schemes.
- 6.4 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021 in connection with the Capital Programme [available via this link](#)
- 6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No



**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX9/2021 – Capital Programme – 8 February 2021.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The draft Capital Programme is set out in the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting 8 February 2021. Once approved, capital budget monitoring will be reported to the Executive on a monthly basis with effect from Month 3 2021/ 2022.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 As outlined in the report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**10.0 Risk Management considerations:**

10.1 As outlined in the report to the Executive.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 As outlined in the report to the Executive.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 As outlined in the report to the Executive.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Internally with Capital Asset Management Group and the Corporate Leadership Team.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Individual scheme business cases and budget working papers.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX9/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 February 2021

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2023/24

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the 2021/21, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Capital Programme – circulated to members under separate cover.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To recommend to Council:

1. To approve the Capital Programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices A and B.
2. To agree the Single Capital Pot approach as outlined in Section 4 with a top slice of 12.5% to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable (reference paragraph 4.2).
3. To approve the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix C.
4. To agree that Executive approvals will continue to be required for all Prudential Borrowing schemes (reference paragraph 3.1).

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure delivery of the Council's key objectives. The Capital Programme 2021/22 is consistent with that agreed for 2020/21.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become part of the Council's new approved budget

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 None.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme runs concurrently with the 2021/22 General Fund Revenue Budget. Capital schemes usually extend over a number of years and for that reason the programme projects forward indicative spending for 3 years. This report updates the programme reported in last year's budget and seeks to ensure that capital expenditure is allocated to areas that will contribute to meeting the Council's priorities. The Capital Programme submitted for approval for 2021/22 is £24.3m and over a three-year period is estimated at £135.8m (See Appendix A and B).

6.2 The Capital Programme now submitted is consistent with that agreed for 2020/21. It includes identified commitments for housing developments. The scale of these commitments means that there are very limited resources to deliver additional schemes that are not fully funded.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Capital Programme Report  
Appendix A- Capital Programme Summary  
Appendix B- Capital Programme by Service  
Appendix C- The Prudential Code for Capital Finance- Prudential Indicators

(All circulated to members under separate cover)

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Once approved, capital budget monitoring will be reported to the Executive on a monthly basis with effect from Month 3 2021/22.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 As outlined in the report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 As outlined in the report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 As outlined in the report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 As outlined in the report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Internally with Capital Asset Management Group and the Corporate Leadership Team.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Individual scheme business cases and budget working papers.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 16/2020

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

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

**16.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

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

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

Date informed: 28 January 2021      Date approved:

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

18.1 None.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend to Council:

1. To approve the Capital Programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices A and B.
2. To agree the Single Capital Pot approach as outlined in Section 4 with a top slice of 12.5% to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable (reference paragraph 4.2).
3. To approve the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix C.
4. To agree that Executive approvals will continue to be required for all Prudential Borrowing schemes (reference paragraph 3.1).

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 8 February 2021

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

21.1 To ensure delivery of the Council's key objectives. The Capital Programme 2021/22 is consistent with that agreed for 2020/21.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 9 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Kirkland, Smith and Taylor

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2021

## MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY REVIEW

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the 8 February 2021 to the Council on varying its Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as a result of the review undertaken by Link Asset Services.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the recommendations of the Executive to Council from its meeting held on 8 February 2021 namely:

2.1.1 To approve the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2020/21 set out within Appendix 5b to the Executive report.

2.1.2 To agree that in approving the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Council endorses the following amendments which had been included in the document:

- i. The Council has accepted the principle that any capital receipts which it determines in future should be set aside in order to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability may, if desired, be taken to represent a debt liability reduction that has been made in lieu of a corresponding amount of prudent provision that would otherwise have been made in a particular financial year. Any such setting aside of capital receipts will not, however, apply to those capital receipts which represent the repayment of loan principal amounts in respect of loans made in earlier financial years which have been treated as capital expenditure, but not subjected to an Minimum Revenue Provision charge.
- ii. The policy changes reflected above will in future be represented as a new local Option for the ongoing determination of an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision which is considered each year to be prudent.
- iii. In respect of new capital debt liability incurred after 1st April 2008, the Authority's Policy continues to adopt the principles outlined in Option 3 (asset life method) that

are exemplified in the Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance, whereby the liability will be charged over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the new capital expenditure is estimated to provide a benefit to the Authority.

- iv. Any credit arrangements or expenditure treated as capital expenditure under Direction or Regulation will either have Minimum Revenue Provision determined under Option 3, or otherwise related to the estimated life of the underlying asset. For example, a loan granted to a third party towards “capital expenditure” will, where Minimum Revenue Provision is considered to be necessary, be related to the life of the asset towards which the financial assistance is being provided.
- v. Whether any charges are appropriate for this type of activity after taking account of the different powers available to it.
- vi. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged (voluntarily) on any Part II (Housing Revenue Account related) housing debt.
- vii. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged on loans made to wholly owned subsidiaries or other third parties where such loans are treated as capital expenditure in cases where there are satisfactory and supportable repayment obligations attached to those loans. Unlike other types of capital receipt, the capital receipts that will arise from these repayments will be set aside generally or specifically to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability in respect of these loans. The anticipated receipts will be kept under review on an annual basis in order to ensure that the deferment of Minimum Revenue Provision remains prudent.
- viii. Following the identification of savings in respect of financial years 2004/05 – 2018/19, totalling £23.808m, (in respect of an increase of £34.743m to Adjustment A, and earlier year revenue contributions to capital of £13.054m, (adjusted for alternate Minimum Revenue Provision liability)), the Council will determine for any subsequent financial year the extent to which they propose to reduce the amount of Minimum Revenue Provision liability that would have arisen, but for these savings. Additionally, the Council will continue to apply the higher amount of Adjustment A indicated above to have been identified.

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

- 3.1 To make the savings identified in the Minimum Revenue Provision review and to ensure that the Council’s Minimum Revenue Provision Policy remained fit for purpose.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 Alternative options have been outlined in detail within section 3 of the review report to the Executive.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to make a prudent annual revenue charge, termed the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which serves to reduce the amount of outstanding capital debt liability that has arisen from earlier unfinanced capital expenditure.

6.2 The original specified amount was set at 4% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for each financial year, less a specified adjustment in respect of housing debt liabilities. In 2008, the system was radically revised by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, which changed the Minimum Revenue Provision assessment basis from statutory regulation to guidance, whereby all subsequent capital debt liability would be assessed in a manner that each authority considers to be prudent, whilst being broadly based upon the period of benefit that the new types of debt liability are estimated to provide. These current regulations and different forms of Guidance issued provide authorities with significantly more discretion in deciding upon their annual amount of Minimum Revenue Provision. Statute (S.21 (1)(A) of LGA 2003) requires authorities to “have regard” to the Guidance and the recommendations within it. However, the extent to which such regard is had remains a matter for each authority to determine, according to its own particular circumstances.

6.3 The Guidance recommends that an annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy should be determined before the commencement of each financial year by the full Council, whilst recognising that it may be appropriate to vary it during the currency of any financial year.

6.4 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021 in connection with the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy review [available via this link](#)

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 6a: Executive Decision EX10/2021- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Review- 8 February 2021.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 As outlined in Appendix 6a.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 External consultation was undertaken with Link Asset Services and outcomes are detailed in the report.

Internal consultation was undertaken with the Treasury Management Panel.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX10/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2021

## MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY REVIEW

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 In 2020 the Council commissioned Link Asset Services to review the Council's existing Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy. The resulting review identified matters pertinent to the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision, which may appropriately be taken into account when formulating a revised Minimum Revenue Provision policy. The report has been produced in order to provide the necessary information to enable the Council to consider varying its Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To recommend that the Council approves the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2020/21 set out within Appendix 5b, to the Executive report.

2.2 To recommend to the Council that in approving the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Council endorses the following amendments which had been included in the document:

- i. The Council has accepted the principle that any capital receipts which it determines in future should be set aside in order to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability may, if desired, be taken to represent a debt liability reduction that has been made in lieu of a corresponding amount of prudent provision that would otherwise have been made in a particular financial year. Any such setting aside of capital receipts will not, however, apply to those capital receipts which represent the repayment of loan principal amounts in respect of loans made in earlier financial years which have been treated as capital expenditure, but not subjected to an Minimum Revenue Provision charge.
- ii. The policy changes reflected above will in future be represented as a new local Option for the ongoing determination of an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision which is

considered each year to be prudent.

- iii. In respect of new capital debt liability incurred after 1st April 2008, the Authority's Policy continues to adopt the principles outlined in Option 3 (asset life method) that are exemplified in the Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance, whereby the liability will be charged over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the new capital expenditure is estimated to provide a benefit to the Authority.
- iv. Any credit arrangements or expenditure treated as capital expenditure under Direction or Regulation will either have Minimum Revenue Provision determined under Option 3, or otherwise related to the estimated life of the underlying asset. For example, a loan granted to a third party towards "capital expenditure" will, where Minimum Revenue Provision is considered to be necessary, be related to the life of the asset towards which the financial assistance is being provided.
- v. Whether any charges are appropriate for this type of activity after taking account of the different powers available to it.
- vi. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged (voluntarily) on any Part II (Housing Revenue Account related) housing debt.
- vii. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged on loans made to wholly owned subsidiaries or other third parties where such loans are treated as capital expenditure in cases where there are satisfactory and supportable repayment obligations attached to those loans. Unlike other types of capital receipt, the capital receipts that will arise from these repayments will be set aside generally or specifically to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability in respect of these loans. The anticipated receipts will be kept under review on an annual basis in order to ensure that the deferment of Minimum Revenue Provision remains prudent.
- viii. Following the identification of savings in respect of financial years 2004/05 – 2018/19, totalling £23.808m, (in respect of an increase of £34.743m to Adjustment A, and earlier year revenue contributions to capital of £13.054m, (adjusted for alternate Minimum Revenue Provision liability)), the Council will determine for any subsequent financial year the extent to which they propose to reduce the amount of Minimum Revenue Provision liability that would have arisen, but for these savings. Additionally, the Council will continue to apply the higher amount of Adjustment A indicated above to have been identified.

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

- 3.1 To make the savings identified in the Minimum Revenue Provision review and to ensure that the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy remained fit for purpose.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes
- 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**
- 4.1 Alternative options have been outlined in detail within section 3 of the review report at Appendix 5a.
- 5.0 Council priority:**
- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".
- 6.0 Background information**
- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to make a prudent annual revenue charge, termed the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which serves to reduce the amount of outstanding capital debt liability that has arisen from earlier unfinanced capital expenditure.
- 6.2 The original specified amount was set at 4% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for each financial year, less a specified adjustment in respect of housing debt liabilities. In 2008, the system was radically revised by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, which changed the Minimum Revenue Provision assessment basis from statutory regulation to guidance, whereby all subsequent capital debt liability would be assessed in a manner that each authority considers to be prudent, whilst being broadly based upon the period of benefit that the new types of debt liability are estimated to provide. These current regulations and different forms of Guidance issued provide authorities with significantly more discretion in deciding upon their annual amount of Minimum Revenue Provision. Statute (S.21 (1)(A) of LGA 2003) requires authorities to "have regard" to the Guidance and the recommendations within it. However, the extent to which such regard is had remains a matter for each authority to determine, according to its own particular circumstances.
- 6.3 The Guidance recommends that an annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy should be determined before the commencement of each financial year by the full Council, whilst recognising that it may be appropriate to vary it during the currency of any financial year.
- 6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

- 7.1 Appendix 5a: Detailed report on review of Minimum Revenue Provision Policy  
Appendix 5b: Amended Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy 2020/21

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

- 8.1 As outlined in Appendix 5a, to the Executive report.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

- 9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

- 12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

- 13.1 External consultation was undertaken with Link Asset Services and outcomes are detailed in the report.  
Internal consultation was undertaken with the Treasury Management Panel.

**14.0 Background papers:**

- 14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

- 15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 13/2020
- 15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No



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

**16.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

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

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

Date informed: 28 January 2021      Date approved:

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

18.1 None.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To recommend that the Council approves the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2020/21 set out within Appendix 5b, to the Executive report.
2. To recommend to the Council that in approving the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Council endorses the following amendments which had been included in the document:
  - i. The Council has accepted the principle that any capital receipts which it determines in future should be set aside in order to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability may, if desired, be taken to represent a debt liability reduction that has been made in lieu of a corresponding amount of prudent provision that would otherwise have been made in a particular financial year. Any such setting aside of capital receipts will not, however, apply to those capital receipts which represent the repayment of loan principal amounts in respect of loans made in earlier financial years which have been treated as capital expenditure, but not subjected to an Minimum

Revenue Provision charge.

- ii. The policy changes reflected above will in future be represented as a new local Option for the ongoing determination of an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision which is considered each year to be prudent.
- iii. In respect of new capital debt liability incurred after 1st April 2008, the Authority's Policy continues to adopt the principles outlined in Option 3 (asset life method) that are exemplified in the Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance, whereby the liability will be charged over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the new capital expenditure is estimated to provide a benefit to the Authority.
- iv. Any credit arrangements or expenditure treated as capital expenditure under Direction or Regulation will either have Minimum Revenue Provision determined under Option 3, or otherwise related to the estimated life of the underlying asset. For example, a loan granted to a third party towards "capital expenditure" will, where Minimum Revenue Provision is considered to be necessary, be related to the life of the asset towards which the financial assistance is being provided.
- v. Whether any charges are appropriate for this type of activity after taking account of the different powers available to it.
- vi. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged (voluntarily) on any Part II (Housing Revenue Account related) housing debt.
- vii. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged on loans made to wholly owned subsidiaries or other third parties where such loans are treated as capital expenditure in cases where there are satisfactory and supportable repayment obligations attached to those loans. Unlike other types of capital receipt, the capital receipts that will arise from these repayments will be set aside generally or specifically to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability in respect of these loans. The anticipated receipts will be kept under review on an annual basis in order to ensure that the deferment of Minimum Revenue Provision remains prudent.
- viii. Following the identification of savings in respect of financial years 2004/05 – 2018/19, totalling £23.808m, (in respect of an increase of £34.743m to Adjustment A, and earlier year revenue contributions to capital of £13.054m, (adjusted for alternate Minimum Revenue Provision liability)), the Council will determine for any subsequent financial year the extent to which they propose to reduce the amount of Minimum Revenue Provision liability that would have arisen, but for these savings. Additionally, the Council will continue to

apply the higher amount of Adjustment A indicated above to have been identified.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 8 February 2021

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

21.1 To make the savings identified in the Minimum Revenue Provision review and to ensure that the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy remained fit for purpose.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 9 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Kirkland, Smith and Taylor

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2021

## TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/2022

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 8 February 2021 regarding the Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2021/2022.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the recommendations of the Executive to Council from its meeting held on 8 February 2021, namely:
  - 2.1.1 To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/ 2022 including both the Borrowing and Investment Strategies which are set out in Annex C and Annex D to the Executive report.
  - 2.1.2 To adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the three key principles and four clauses taken from CIPFA's Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 Edition) and set out in Annex B to the Executive report.
  - 2.1.3 To approve the revised Prudential Indicators and limits for 2020/ 2021 and the new Prudential Indicators and limits for 2021/ 2022 – 2023/ 2024 which are set out in Annex E to the Executive report.
  - 2.1.4 To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2021/ 2022, which will ensure a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision charge in the annual statement of accounts. The policy is set out within Annex D to the report to the Executive.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 A feature of the 2017 edition of the CIPFA Code of Practice on treasury management activities is the annual approval of strategy and reporting of performance information. The Executive report previously circulated to members under separate cover sets out the Council's proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/ 2022.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? Yes – however, when approved this strategy will replace the current Treasury Management Strategy.
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes
- 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:  
None.
- 5.0 Council Priority:**
- 5.1 The relevant Council priorities are “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool” and “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.
- 6.0 Background Information**
- 6.1 The Council is required by statute to publish an annual Treasury Management Strategy incorporating its Investment Strategy.
- 6.2 In essence, the Treasury Management Strategy is an annual plan of how Blackpool Council will manage its investments and cashflows. It identifies the Council’s borrowing needs and shows how it will invest temporary surplus cash balances and how it will control its banking, money market and capital market transactions.
- 6.3 The Scale of Operations at Annex A of the report to the Executive shows the levels of capital expenditure, long-term borrowing and temporary investments and the impact that spending on new capital schemes has on average Council Tax levels.
- 6.4 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021, in connection with the Treasury Management Strategy [available via this link](#)
- 6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX11/2021 – Treasury Management Strategy – 8 February 2021.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Detailed in the report and Annexes A, B, C and D, which were circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8 February 2021.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The key risks are outlined in the report and Annexes, circulated under separate cover, and can be summarised in the following categories:

1. Liquidity Risk (accessibility and/or running out of cash)
2. Market Risk (movements in interest rates – yield)
3. Credit Risk (investment counterparties might default – security)
4. Legal Risk (transactions and actions legal/within regulatory limits)
5. Operational Risk (adequacy of internal processes)

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation has previously taken place with the Council’s Treasury Management Panel.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX11/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2021

## TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT 2021/22

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider The Treasury Management Strategy Report 2021/22 and its annexes A, B, C, D, E and F.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend to the Council:

1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 including both the Borrowing and Investment Strategies which are set out in Annex C and Annex D to the Executive report.
2. To adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the three key principles and four clauses taken from CIPFA's Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 Edition) and set out in Annex B to the Executive report.
3. To approve the revised Prudential Indicators and limits for 2020/21 and the new Prudential Indicators and limits for 2021/22 – 2023/24 which are set out in Annex E to the Executive report.
4. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2021/22, which will ensure a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision charge in the annual statement of accounts. The policy is set out in Annex F to the Executive report.

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

3.1 A feature of the 2017 edition of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management Activities is the annual approval of strategy and reporting of performance information. The report to the Executive at Appendix 6a sets out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

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

### **4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 None.

### **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

### **6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Council is required by statute to publish an annual Treasury Management Strategy.

6.2 The objectives of the Treasury Management Strategy are as follows:

- To set the framework for the Council's treasury management operations
- To manage the Council's investments and cashflows
- To control banking, money market and capital market transactions
- To plan and secure appropriate borrowing in order to finance the requirements of the Capital Strategy at the lowest overall cost to the Council
- To achieve the best rates of return from investment of temporary surplus cash balances commensurate with risk, subject to the overriding principle of maintaining an acceptable level of security
- To monitor and control effectively the risks associated with these transactions
- To comply with appropriate codes and regulations including the International Financial Reporting Standards as they apply to Treasury Management.

6.3 In delivering the above objectives, the Council is required to:

- Determine its own borrowing limits taking into account its financial situation, long-term plans and in particular what it thinks affordable now and sustainable in the future

- Monitor its borrowing limits using performance measures called prudential indicators
- Consider annual and six-monthly reports on Treasury Management which contain prudential indicators.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 6a: Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22  
 Annex A – Scale of Operations  
 Annex B – Treasury Management Policy Statement 2021/22-2023/24  
 Annex C – Borrowing Strategy  
 Annex D – Investment Strategy 2021/22-2023/24  
 Annex E – Prudential Indicators 2021/22-2023/24  
 Annex F – Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy 2021/22-2023/24

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Please see the Report at Appendix 6a and its Annexes A to F

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1
- Liquidity Risk (accessibility and/or running out of cash)
  - Market Risk (movements in interest rates – yield)
  - Credit Risk (investment counterparties might default – security)
  - Legal Risk (transactions and actions legal/within regulatory limits)
  - Operational Risk (adequacy of internal processes)

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 With Council's Treasury Management Panel

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 20/2020

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? N/A

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

**16.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

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

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

Date informed: 28 January 2021 Date approved:

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

18.1 None.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend to the Council:

1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 including both the Borrowing and Investment Strategies which are set out in Annex C and Annex D to this report.
2. To adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the three key principles and four clauses taken from CIPFA's Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 Edition) and set out in Annex B to this report.
3. To approve the revised Prudential Indicators and limits for 2020/21 and the new Prudential Indicators and limits for 2021/22 – 2023/24 which are set out in Annex E to this report.
4. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2021/22, which will ensure a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision charge in the annual statement of accounts. The policy is set out in Annex F to this report.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 8 February 2021

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

21.1 A feature of the 2017 edition of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management Activities is the annual approval of strategy and reporting of performance information. The report to the Executive at Appendix 6a sets out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 9 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Kirkland, Smith and Taylor

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2021

## COUNCIL TAX 2021/ 2022

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget and the setting of a Council Tax for the 2021/ 2022 Financial Year.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meetings on the 8 February 2021 and on 25 February 2021, as summarised in Appendix 8(c).

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become part of the Council's new approved budget

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

A different makeup of the Revenue budget could be applied. The eight guiding principles of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy are referred to in the report to the Executive of 8 February 2021 and 25 February 2021 and how they have been balanced.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council Priorities are ‘The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool’ and ‘Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.’

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 The purpose of this report is to determine the overall level of net expenditure to be included in the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2021/ 2022 and to identify a budget savings plan that will ensure a balanced Budget.

6.2 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021, in connection with the General Fund Revenue Budget [available via this link](#). Attached at Appendix 8(a) is the decision notice from the meeting of the Executive on 8 February 2021. A copy of the Executive agenda for the 25 February 2021 meeting was also sent to all members on Wednesday 17 February 2021 and is [available via this link](#). Attached at Appendix 8(b) is the decision notice arising from the 25 February 2021 meeting of the Executive.

6.3 Following the Executive meeting on 25 February 2021, a copy of the recommendations from that meeting together with a summary Appendix 8(c) detailing the full recommendations to Council has been produced.

6.4 In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)( Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council is asked to note that a recorded vote is required on all budget decisions taken by Council including any amendment to it.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 8(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX12/2021 – General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/2022 – Monday 8 February 2021.

Appendix 8(b) – Executive Decision Notice EX14/20221– Council Tax 2021/2022- Thursday 25 February 2021.

Appendix 8(c) – A summary document detailing all the recommendations for Council to consider relating to the setting of a Council Tax in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix 8(d)- An extended order of proceedings for the Council Tax report- to be circulated separately.



**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 As outlined in the Budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8 February 2021 and the Council Tax report circulated with the Executive agenda for the meeting on 25 February 2021.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 It is a Council function to determine the level of Council Tax and to set a budget.

9.2 Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for a Councillor in Council Tax arrears (with at least two months unpaid bills) to vote at a meeting of the Council, a Committee or of the Council's Executive where financial matters relating to Council Tax are being considered. It is also an offence if any such Councillor present, who is aware of the arrears, fails to disclose that they are in arrears of Council Tax of at least two months.

**10.0 Risk Management considerations:**

10.1 As outlined in the Budget, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8 February 2021.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 An Equalities Analysis forms was produced for the budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8 February 2021.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None directly from the report.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Details of the consultation undertaken is listed within the Council Tax report circulated with the Executive agenda for the meeting on 25 February 2021.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Budget working papers.

Resident Budget Engagement – comments.  
Stakeholder Budget Engagement – comments.

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<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX12/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2021

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the proposal for Blackpool Council's draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 as outlined in the report circulated to Members under separate cover.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 of **£149,062,000** (ref. paragraph 6.2).
- 2.2 To recommend to Council a level of budget savings of **£20.3m** (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2).
- 2.3 To recommend to Council that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1).
- 2.4 To recommend to Council that the target level of working balances remains at **£6m** (ref. paragraph 10.4).
- 2.5 To consider any further facts, information and stakeholder feedback which may emerge and report the details to the meeting of the Executive on 25th February 2021.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To enable progression to the next stage of the budget process.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become the Council’s new approved budget.

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

As outlined in the Budget report.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council Priorities are both:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 The purpose of this report is to determine the overall level of net expenditure to be included in the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and to identify a budget savings plan that will ensure a balanced budget in-year.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

- Report
- Appendix 1- General Fund Budget
- Appendix 2- Savings Summary
- Appendix 3 – Equality Analysis
- Appendix 4 – Resident Budget Engagement
- Appendix 5 – Stakeholder Budget Engagement
- Appendix 6 – Report from Scrutiny Leadership Board Budget January 2021
- Appendix 7 - Assessment of Significant Financial Risks

(All circulated to members under separate cover)

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 As outlined in the Budget report, circulated to members under separate cover. Human Resources considerations are outlined in the budget report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk Management considerations:**

10.1 As outlined in the Budget report circulated to members under separate cover. Appendix 7 forms an Assessment of Significant Financial Risks to Substantiate Target Level of Unearmarked Working Balances. As outlined in the Budget report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 As outlined in the Budget report, circulated to members under separate cover.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None directly from the report.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 In line with last year's engagement the Council has undertaken two exercises to seek initial comments and ideas on the Budget, prior to more formal consultation on any proposals leading to significant service impacts or changes. The first was aimed at individual residents and staff, which received 1,629 engagements on Facebook leading to 290 responses (reference Appendix 4 – Resident Budget Engagement), whilst the second was aimed at stakeholder organisations and received 15 (reference Appendix 5 – Stakeholder Budget Engagement). The surveys, which were widely publicised via the Council's social media channels, included questions which asked for opinions about Council priorities and services at a broad level, but also sought comments on ways in which the Council could save or generate money. This year additional questions were included seeking views on the importance of the Climate Emergency and the Council's response to the Covid pandemic in the budget-setting process.

- 13.2 Consultation with the Trade Unions with regards to staffing issues has been embedded into normal working practices and has also met all formal consultation requirements.
- 13.3 The Scrutiny Leadership Board considered the key budget pressures, savings required and the budget engagement feedback at its informal meeting on 14 January 2021 and has produced a report attached at Appendix 6 for consideration by the Executive.

**14.0 Background papers:**

- 14.1 Budget working papers.
- 14.2 Resident Budget Engagement – comments.  
Stakeholder Budget Engagement – comments.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

- 15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:
- 15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

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

Date informed: 28 January 2021 Date approved:

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

18.1 Councillor Kirkland declared a prejudicial interest in decision 1 the nature of the interest being that she was a Council appointed non-Executive director of Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco. Councillor Kirkland left the meeting for this part of the decision and took no part in the voting or discussion.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

- a) To recommend to the Council the savings of £350,000 identified in Appendix 2 of the General Revenue Budget 2021/22 papers through service improvements and efficiencies by the integration of Environmental and Cleansing services into Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco.

(Councillor Kirkland having declared a prejudicial interest left the room during consideration of this decision.)

1. To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 of **£149,062,000** (ref. paragraph 6.2)
2. To recommend to Council a level of remaining budget savings of **£19.95m (£20.3m minus £350,000 already approved in decision 1)** (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2)
3. To recommend to Council that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1)
4. To recommend to Council that the target level of working balances remains at **£6m** (ref. paragraph 10.4)
5. To consider any further facts, information and stakeholder feedback which may emerge and report the details to the meeting of the Executive on 25th February 2021.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 8 February 2021

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

21.1 To enable progression to the next stage of the budget process.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 9 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Smith and Taylor

Councillor Kirkland having declared a prejudicial interest left the meeting for decision 1 and the voting and discussion thereon. Councillor Kirkland was present for decisions 2 to 6.

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1 Neil Adams, Branch Secretary Unison Blackpool Local Government branch made representations to the meeting. Mr Adams highlighted concerns about the review of the Council's equalities function which he believed had been linked to the savings outlined in Appendix 2. He emphasised the importance of such a function in addressing the needs of a diverse town and the previous commitments made by the Council.

In response, Councillor L Williams explained that the review had been proposed along with other services within the Resources directorate, no decisions had yet been made and the Trade Unions would obviously be part of such a review. She also emphasised the Council's continuing commitment to equality and diversity. She extended an invitation to Mr Adams to discuss the issue further in an appropriate meeting.



<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX14/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 February 2021

## COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider proposals for Blackpool Council's level of Council Tax for 2021/22 and the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 8 February 2021 including the Final Settlement Funding Assessment announced on 4 February 2021 and to determine whether or not to confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22.
- 2.2 To recommend to Council approval of a level of Blackpool Council's Council Tax for the year 2021/22 of £1,699.13 at valuation band D equivalent (an increase of 4.99% including the 3% Adult Social Care Precept).
- 2.3 To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 of £149,062,000.
- 2.4 To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2021/22 at valuation band D equivalent was due to be agreed on 22 February 2021 and will be reported verbally at this meeting
- 2.5 To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will meet on the morning of 22 February 2021 to set its precept for the financial year 2021/22. This again will be reported verbally at this meeting.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Executive is required to consider the outcome of consultation meetings and surveys before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? NO

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable – the report once approved will become the Council's new approved Budget

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

Although one of the eight guiding principles of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy 2016/17 – 2021/22 is "to keep Council Tax levels as low as possible", Government funding reductions alongside increasing service demands and inflationary pressures on the Council's Budget in 2021/22, prevent a Council Tax level any lower than the capped level being prudent or practicable.

The council tax level recommended balances all eight principles with the need to fund and maintain core services. Although the level of Council Tax at valuation band D that is recommended is £1,699.13, the profile of hereditaments in Blackpool with bands A and B comprising 74% of the total means that the average Council Tax payable per dwelling in 2021/22 is estimated at £892 or £1,052 gross of precepts.

#### 5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The report covers both of the Council priorities:

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

#### 6.0 Background Information

6.1 At its meeting on 8 February 2021, the Executive considered a report of the Director of Resources that recommended to Council approval of a net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget of £149,062,000 that would result in a level of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 of £1,699.13 at valuation band D equivalent. This is an increase of 4.99% including the 3% Adult Social Care Precept.

- 6.2 The Final Settlement of Blackpool Council's 2021/22 Settlement Funding Assessment was announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 4 February 2021. There were no changes to the Provisional Settlement Funding Assessment of £63,420,000 for 2021/22.
- 6.3 As part of the final Local Government Finance Settlement, the threshold for 'excessive' Council Tax increases for 2021/22 was confirmed at 5%, an increase of 5% or more requiring a local referendum to be held. This 5% threshold includes the additional 3% allowed for expenditure on Adult Social Care and 2% for other expenditure. The level of Council Tax recommended in this report will not invoke this requirement.
- 6.4 Besides the ongoing dialogue with the trade unions throughout the budget-setting process, the Council has also undertaken two engagement exercises to seek comments and ideas on the Budget, one aimed at individual residents and staff, which attracted 290 responses, and the other aimed at stakeholder organisations, which received 15 responses. Both sought views on Council priorities and services at a broad level and asked for comments on ways in which the Council could save or generate money. This year additional questions were included seeking views on the importance of the Climate Emergency and the Council's response to the Covid pandemic in the budget setting process. Wider consultation has taken place via the Council's extensive corporate communication methods, which include media briefings. In addition, the Scrutiny Leadership Board considered the key Budget pressures, savings required and the Budget Engagement feedback at its informal meeting on 14 January 2021.
- 6.5 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2021/22 at valuation band D equivalent was due to be agreed on 22 February 2021 and will be reported verbally at this meeting.
- 6.6 The Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will meet on the morning of 22 February 2021 to set its precept for the financial year 2021/22. This again will be reported verbally at this meeting.
- 6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 7.0 List of Appendices:**
- 7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 As outlined in this report.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 There is a duty for major precepting authorities to issue a precept for 2021/22 before 1 March 2021. For other local authorities including Blackpool Council there is a duty to set 2021/22 budgets before 11 March 2021.

9.2 Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for a Councillor in Council Tax arrears (with at least two months unpaid bills) to vote at a meeting of the Council, a Committee or of the Council's Executive where financial matters relating to Council Tax are being considered. It is also an offence if any such Councillor present, who is aware of the arrears, fails to disclose that they are in arrears of Council Tax.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 A Risk Analysis was produced for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 report to the Executive on 8 February 2021 - this remains applicable.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 Equalities considerations were outlined in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 report.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None directly although the setting of a balanced budget underpins the Council's sustainability agenda.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation with the trade unions with regards to staffing issues has been embedded into normal working practices and has also met all formal consultation requirements.

13.2 Once specific proposals were published in January 2021, detailed consultations with all affected stakeholders - amongst them staff, service users and communities of interest/equality groups – have begun to take place.

13.3 Wider communication has also taken place via the Council's extensive corporate communication methods, which include website, social media, media briefings, press statements and interviews.

13.4 The broad budget position facing the Council has been reported to the community equality groups.

**14.0 Background papers**

14.1 Budget working papers and above consultation minutes and feedback.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 18/2020

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

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

**16.0 Call-in information:**

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

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

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

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

Date informed: 17 February 2021 Date approved: N/A

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

18.1 Councillor Kirkland declared a prejudicial interest in decision 1 the nature of the interest being that she was a Council appointed non-Executive director of Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco. Councillor Kirkland left the meeting for this

part of the decision and took no part in the voting or discussion.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council on 8 February 2021 to agree the savings of £350,000 identified in Appendix 2 of the General Revenue Budget 2021/2022 papers through service improvements and efficiencies by the integration of Environmental and Cleansing services into Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco.

(Councillor Kirkland having declared a prejudicial interest left the room during consideration of this decision.)

2. To confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council on 8 February 2021 to agree the remaining budget savings of £19.95m (£20.3m minus £350,000 already approved in decision 1) (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2 of the General Fund Revenue Budget Papers )
3. Having considered all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 8 February 2021 including the Final Settlement Funding Assessment announced on 4 February 2021, to confirm all other Executive recommendations to Council regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22.
4. To recommend to Council approval of a level of Blackpool Council's Council Tax for the year 2021/22 of £1,699.13 at valuation band D equivalent (an increase of 4.99% including the 3% Adult Social Care Precept).
5. To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 of £149,062,000.
6. To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2021/22 at valuation band D equivalent was agreed on 22 February 2021 and reported verbally to the Executive meeting as £226.45 an increase of 7.09%
7. To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority met on the morning of 22 February 2021 to set its precept for the financial year 2021/22. This again was reported verbally at the Executive meeting as £72.27 at valuation band D an increase of 1.99%.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 25 February 2021

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

21.1 The Executive is required to consider the outcome of consultation meetings and surveys before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2021.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 26 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members present:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Smith and Taylor

Councillor Kirkland having declared a prejudicial interest left the meeting for decision 1 and the voting and discussion thereon. Councillor Kirkland was present for decisions 2 to 6.

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1

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**COUNCIL MEETING  
8 MARCH 2021**

**Council Tax 2021/22 - Summary Document**

**1 Background**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2021/22.

1.2 The Localism Act 2011 includes amendments to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and requires billing authorities in England to calculate a Council Tax Requirement for the year.

1.3 The precept levels of other precepting bodies have been confirmed. These are as follows:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire

1.4 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has set the precept for the financial year 2021/22 at £226.45 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

1.5 Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has set their precept for the financial year 2021/22 at £72.27 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent.

**2 Recommendations**

- a) To agree the savings of £350,000 identified in Appendix 2 of the General Revenue Budget 2021/22 papers through service improvements and efficiencies by the integration of Environmental and Cleansing services into Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco.
- b) To agree a remaining level of budget savings of £19.95m (£20.3m minus the £350,000 already approved in a) (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).
- c) To agree the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 of £149,062,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).
- d) That the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).

- e) That the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).
- f) To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 8 (c) (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £62,618,000 and a Council Tax Base of 36,853.
- g) To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out at Appendix 8 (c) (Annex 1 and 2).
- h) To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2021/22 of £1,699.13 at valuation Band D equivalent (a 4.99% increase including the 3% Adult Social Care Precept but excluding the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority).
- i) To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2021/22 is £226.45 (a £15.00 increase, equivalent to 7.09%) for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2021/22 is £72.27 for a Band D Tax equivalent (a 1.99% increase).
- j) To confirm that should recommendation h) above be approved, the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as below:

VALUATION BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BLACKPOOL	1,006.55	1,174.31	1,342.07	1,509.83	1,845.35	2,180.87	2,516.38	3,019.66
ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	126.20	147.23	168.27	189.30	231.37	273.43	315.50	378.60
BLACKPOOL TOTAL CTAX	1,132.75	1,321.54	1,510.34	1,699.13	2,076.72	2,454.30	2,831.88	3,398.26
POLICE	150.97	176.13	201.29	226.45	276.77	327.09	377.42	452.90
FIRE	48.18	56.21	64.24	72.27	88.33	104.39	120.45	144.54
COUNCIL TAX 2021/22	1,331.90	1,553.88	1,775.87	1,997.85	2,441.82	2,885.78	3,329.75	3,995.70

**There is a requirement under the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England Amendment) Regulations 2014 to take recorded votes when voting on any motion relating to the setting of the Council Tax by the full Council.**

**Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for a Councillor in Council Tax arrears (with at least two months unpaid bills) to vote at a meeting of the Council, a Committee or of the Council's Executive where financial matters relating to Council Tax are being considered. It is also an offence if any such Councillor present, who is aware of the arrears, fails to disclose that they are in arrears of Council Tax of at least two months.**

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**COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET 2021/22**


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**The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:**

1. That it be noted that on 29 January 2021, the following amount was approved by the Leader of the Council as the Council's Council Tax Base for the financial year 2021/22
  - (a) 36,853 for the whole Council area [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
  
2. That the Council Meeting approve the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding precepts) as being £62,618,000
  
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - (a) £484,094,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act (Annex 2).
  
  - (b) £421,476,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act (Annex 2).
  
  - (c) £62,618,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act). (Annex 2).
  
  - (d) £1,699.13 being the amount at 3(c) above, all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
  
  - (e) £0.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act.
  
  - (f) £1,699.13 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount for Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in its area.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2021/22 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

**Valuation Bands**

Authority	£							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Blackpool Council	1,006.55	1,174.31	1,342.07	1,509.83	1,845.35	2,180.87	2,516.38	3,019.66
Adult Social Care Precept	126.20	147.23	168.27	189.30	231.37	273.43	315.50	378.60
Blackpool Council Total	1,132.75	1,321.54	1,510.34	1,699.13	2,076.72	2,454.30	2,831.88	3,398.26
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	150.97	176.13	201.29	226.45	276.77	327.09	377.42	452.90
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	48.18	56.21	64.24	72.27	88.33	104.39	120.45	144.54

**AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
All parts of the Council's area	1,331.90	1,553.88	1,775.87	1,997.85	2,441.82	2,885.78	3,329.75	3,995.70

6. Blackpool Council's Council Tax includes a charge for Adult Social Care functions.
7. To note that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE AMOUNTS UNDER SECTION 31A OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992

	2021/22 GROSS EXPENDITURE	2021/22 GROSS INCOME	2021/22 NET EXPENDITURE
	£000	£000	£000
Blackpool Council	483,639	417,029	66,610
Add Levies by Other Organisations:			
- Environment Agency	70	-	70
- Apprenticeship Levy	385	-	385
Add Appropriations to Reserves:			
- General Fund Balances	-	-	-
- Housing Revenue Account Reserve	-	1,460	(1,460)
- Earmarked Reserves	-	2,987	(2,987)
<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>484,094</b>	<b>421,476</b>	<b>62,618</b>

Note 1

Note 2

**Note 1:** This figure represents the aggregate of the amounts estimated for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**Note 2:** This figure represents the aggregate of the amounts estimated for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**Note 3:** All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Linda Dutton, Head of Human Resources and Workforce Development
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2021

## PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/2022

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Further to the decision of the Council on 10 February 2021, to reconsider the decision regarding the Pay Policy statement as the Government has withdrawn Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 and the supplementary HM Treasury Directions which form part of the Pay Policy statement. Following this reconsideration, the Pay Policy Statement has to be published by 31 March 2021.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To set aside the decision of the Council on 10 February 2021 relating to the Pay Policy Statement and approve the updated Pay Policy Statement, attached at Appendix 8(a).
- 2.2 To delegate to the Chief Executive the authority to reflect changes in legislation or decisions made from time to time by or on behalf of the authority and republish the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/ 2022.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

The Council has a duty to agree a pay policy statement and the proposed one is consistent with the guidance from the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This version is the same as Council agreed on 10 February 2021

without the reference to the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 and the supplementary HM Treasury Directions.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

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

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 The Council is required to produce a pay policy statement, which must be in place for the financial year 2020/ 2021 and have received full Council approval before the start of that financial year.

6.2 The statement must set out the Council’s policy on:

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

6.3 The guidance from the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government was reported at the last meeting and has been referenced in the statement.

6.4 The decision made on 10 February 2021 by Council included reference to all employees including Chief Officers being entitled to redundancy payments and pension release in accordance with the Council’s Redundancy and Retirement Procedure. Where the proposed severance package was more than £95,000, the Exit Cap legislation introduced a concept of mandatory and discretionary waivers which required approval by full Council prior to approval by relevant Government departments including Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

6.5 On 12th February 2021, the Government revoked, with immediate effect, the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 and the supplementary HM Treasury Directions (which only came into force on 4th November 2020).



6.6 The Government announced that the Regulations, which limited exit payment most public sector employees could receive in connection with loss of employment to a maximum of £95,000, may have “unintended consequences” and should, therefore, be withdrawn.

6.7 The Council in agreeing the statement on 10 February 2021 was not aware that this decision was due to be made by Government and it is considered reasonable and opportune to ask Council to review its previous decision. This change has now been updated in the Pay Policy statement and the updated version is attached at Appendix 9 (a). There is no other changes to the document agreed by Council at the last meeting.

6.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 9(a) - Proposed Pay Policy Statement and Gender Pay Gap Report.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 No changes to the Council’s financial arrangements have been made as a result of this statement.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

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

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

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

10.2 While it is not normal practice to revisit previously agreed decisions of Council, so soon, it is considered that in the circumstances, this decision should be reviewed. It is also recommended that should there be any legislative changes in year then the Chief Executive be authorised to make those changes and republish the statement.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 11.1 The Council's pay review process introduced two robust job evaluation schemes, which are designed to ensure fairness and equity in pay. These schemes and the desire to ensure fairness and transparency around pay form the basis of the Council's Pay Policy Statement. The Council complies with the recommended practice for Local Authorities on data transparency already.
- 11.2 The desire to ensure fairness and transparency around pay form the basis of the Council's Pay Policy Statement.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

- 12.1 None directly.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 13.1 Consultation has previously taken place with Trade Union Representatives on the policies referred to in the pay policy statement. Any new areas, which could be added to the statement, would be discussed with the Trade Union representatives.

**14.0 Background papers:**

- 14.1 None.

## **Appendix 9 (a) Blackpool Council - Pay Policy Statement**

### **Summary Statement**

Blackpool Council is committed to paying all its employees appropriately and fairly using recognised job evaluation schemes that have been tested to ensure that they are free of gender and any other bias.

The pay scales for employees at all levels are in the public domain and the Council complies with requirements to publish data on senior salaries together with its entire pay scale in the interests of transparency.

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

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

### **Basic Pay**

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

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

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

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

### **Scope**

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

## **Review**

The pay policy statement will be kept under review and developments considered in the light of external best practice and legislation. The Council will ensure the pay policy statement is updated on an annual basis in line with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011. The annual pay policy statement will be submitted to Chief Officers Employment Committee and then full Council by 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year.

## **Real Living Wage**

As an accredited employer to the Living Wage Foundation and in order to support the lowest paid workers in the Council, the Real Living Wage supplement is applied for Council employees whose total hourly rate is currently less than £9.30 (£9.50 from 1st April 2021).

The normal job evaluation processes will continue to determine the grade of posts in the Council. This will not include employees in maintained schools, where pay is a matter for the relevant Governing Body.

## **Market Forces Supplements**

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

## **Incremental Progression**

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

## **New Appointments**

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

All Chief Officer appointments are dealt with by the Chief Officer Employment Committee, using the normal recruitment procedures. Posts with a remuneration package of more than £100,000 must be ratified by full Council.

## **Overtime and Additional Hours Payments and Premium Payments**

In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the following applies:

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

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

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

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

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

### **Honoraria Payments**

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

### **Bonus Payments and Earn Back Schemes**

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

### **Relationship between the Highest and the Lowest Paid**

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

### **Relationship between the Highest Paid Employee and the Median Salary**

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

### **Charges, Fees and Allowances**

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

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

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

Chief Officers do not receive additional allowance payments.

### **Pension**

When employees become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme representing a percentage of the pensionable remuneration due under the contract of employment of that employee. The rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising the Lancashire Pension Fund and reviewed on a triennial basis in order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded. The employer contribution rates are set by statute and are available from the Payroll Team.

### **Flexible Retirement**

The Council's LGPS Employee Discretions Policy provides the ability for an employee to have their pension benefits released subject to the current policy and relevant approvals.

### **Electoral Fees**

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

For a local by-election the Returning Officer's fee is 10% of the fee for a full local election, with a higher fee applied should there be four or more by-elections taking place at the same time, as set out in the fees agreed by the Council. Other fees paid to employees appointed by the Returning Officer for a local election are paid by the Returning Officer, against fees set by the Council.

### **Redundancy Payments, Severance Payments and Retirement**

All employees including Chief Officers are entitled to redundancy payments and pension release in accordance with the Council's Redundancy and Retirement Procedure. Where the proposed severance package is more than £100,000, the decision will be ratified by full Council.

### **Termination Payments**

In exceptional circumstances the Council may make a termination payment to an individual under a Settlement Agreement. Such agreements protect the Council where there is a risk of high financial impact and/or damage to the Council's business or reputation. Payments are authorised by the Chief Executive or his delegated Officers.

In the event a settlement agreement involving the Chief Executive or a Chief Officer where the payment exceeds £100,000 the decision would be made by the Council based on a recommendation from the Chief Officers Employment Committee.

### **Re-employment/Re-engagement of Former Employees**

The Council has an obligation to ensure that it is managing public monies responsibly. It will not re-engage (into the same or a very similar role) ex-employees who have left their prime employment with the Council on the grounds of voluntary or compulsory redundancy, efficiency release or employer consent retirement (where there is a cost to the Council) for a period of 12 months with effect from the date of leaving. This does not cover those employees who access their pension via the Council's Flexible Retirement Scheme.

In addition any proposal to re-engage an ex-employee, who was Graded H3 or above (or equivalent salary) will require the agreement of the Chief Executive following consultation with relevant chief officers.

### **Gender Pay Gap Information**

In accordance with regulations introduced in 2017, the Council will publish gender pay gap information alongside all other pay policy related data on its website and update this on an annual basis. Please see below.

## Gender Pay Gap Report - 2020

### 1.0 Introduction

From April 2017, all organisations that employ over 250 employees are required to report annually their gender pay gap. The gender pay gap is defined as the differences in the average earnings of men and women over a standard period of time, regardless of their role seniority.

**A positive pay gap** indicates that men are paid on average a greater hourly rate; **a negative pay gap** indicates that women are on average a greater hourly rate.

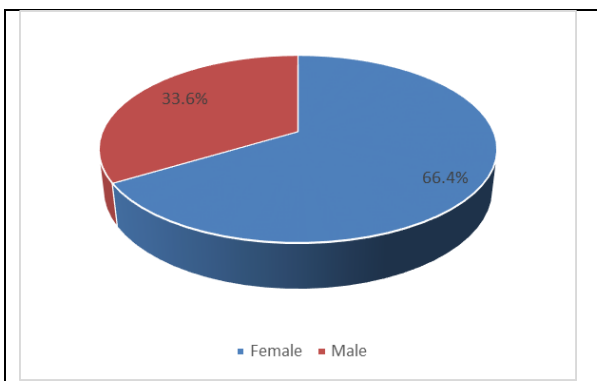
### 2.0 Context

Blackpool Council is committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging equality and diversity in our workforce. This approach is endorsed in our Council Plan which includes an assurance of equality and fairness in respect of gender.

Our equality objectives aim to get more people to tell us they experience fair treatment by Council services; to make our workforce representative of our communities, with more people from diverse backgrounds involved in decision-making at every level; that equality and diversity is embedded in staff culture; and that we celebrate growing diversity and increase respect and understanding for all.

Blackpool Council is a unitary authority, which provides around 150 services to 142,000 Blackpool residents. All our employees are remunerated according to job evaluation and set pay scales.

Our workforce is currently 2851 employees, in the scope of the Gender pay gap of whom two thirds are female (66.4 %).





What are we required to report?

Mean gender pay gap	The difference between the mean hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees
Median gender pay gap	The difference between the median hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees
Mean Bonus Gap	The difference between the mean bonus pay paid to male relevant employees and that paid to female relevant employees
Median Bonus Gap	The difference between the median bonus pay paid to male relevant employees and that paid to female relevant employees
Quartile pay bands	The proportions of male and female full-pay relevant employees in the lower, lower middle, upper middle and upper quartile pay bands

The overall gender pay gap is defined as the difference between the median (actual midpoint) or mean (average) basic annual earnings of men and women expressed as a percentage of the median or mean basic annual earnings of men.

### 3.0 Data

Blackpool's Gender Pay Gap - Based on a snap shot date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

1	Mean Pay Gap	<b>-0.77 %</b>												
2	Median Pay Gap	<b>-5.40 %</b>												
3	Mean bonus gender pay gap	<b>Not applicable</b>												
4	Median bonus gender pay gap													
5	Proportion of males /females receiving a bonus payment													
6	Proportion of males and females in each quartile pay band													
	<p>Quarter 1 Lowest</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Gender</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Female</td><td>64.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Male</td><td>35.4%</td></tr> </table>	Gender	Percentage	Female	64.6%	Male	35.4%	<p>Quarter 3</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Gender</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Female</td><td>70.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Male</td><td>29.6%</td></tr> </table>	Gender	Percentage	Female	70.4%	Male	29.6%
Gender	Percentage													
Female	64.6%													
Male	35.4%													
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Female	70.4%													
Male	29.6%													
	<p>Quarter 2</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Gender</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Female</td><td>61.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Male</td><td>38.6%</td></tr> </table>	Gender	Percentage	Female	61.4%	Male	38.6%	<p>Quarter 4 Highest</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Gender</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Female</td><td>69.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Male</td><td>31.0%</td></tr> </table>	Gender	Percentage	Female	69.0%	Male	31.0%
Gender	Percentage													
Female	61.4%													
Male	38.6%													
Gender	Percentage													
Female	69.0%													
Male	31.0%													

#### **4.0 Findings**

You will see in **Figure 1** below that the Mean Gender Pay Gap data of **-0.77 %** and the Median Gender Pay Gap **-5.40 %** are consistent over the last 4 reporting years.

Fig 1

	<b>To March 2017</b>	<b>To March 2018</b>	<b>To March 2019</b>	<b>To March 2020 This year</b>
<i>Published by</i>	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21
Mean	0.7 %	-1.0%	-0.94%	-0.77%
Median	-6.0 %	-5.8%	-6.69%	-5.40%

These figures also fair favourable with the national picture which reports that the gender pay gap for all employees was 15.5% in 2020, - Source : Office of National statistics  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/genderpaygapintheuk/2020>

Although these figures are favourable for the Council, we are not complacent and will continue to monitor our performance, along with initiatives that we have in place which have contributed to these results such as:

- Family friendly
  - ✓ Actively supporting parents returning to work from maternity leave, shared parental leave or adoption leave by offering job share, career break or part time opportunities.
  - ✓ Provision of job/career opportunities.
  - ✓ Flexible working (Flexitime) in many locations including the opportunity Agile/homeworking in many Council roles
  - ✓ Voluntary Reduced Hours, Job Share and Career Break Schemes.
  - ✓ Signposting Childcare Information.
  - ✓ Compassionate/Special Leave arrangements including the introduction of Parental Bereavement leave about the statutory minimum level.
  
- Learning and Development
  - ✓ Annual and interim appraisals for all staff to allow the opportunity to discuss key work objectives and learning and development needs.
  - ✓ Mandatory Equalities E-learning for all.
  - ✓ 360-degree feedback process for managers.
  - ✓ Development of Coaching and mentoring programmes.
  - ✓ Annual staff conference and awards ceremony.
  - ✓ menopause –staff support group established and a development of a managers training package

- Leadership
  - ✓ Maintaining a Strategic Equality and Diversity Manager who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
  - ✓ Introducing a Directorate Equality self-assessment supported by the Equality Manager
  - ✓ Introducing Development programmes for aspiring managers.
  - ✓ Audit undertaken to review resilience and governance given continuing staff reductions.
  - ✓ Introduction of a Leadership Charter and Survey.
  
- Recruitment and retention
  - ✓ An established on line jobs portal, where all jobs are advertised.
  - ✓ The use of both structured and unstructured interviews in the recruitment processes
  - ✓ Establishment and maintenance of a job evaluation system using nationally recognised NJC and Hays schemes.
  - ✓ Salary Scales clearly showing incremental progression and related criteria.
  - ✓ Established Foundation living wage.
  - ✓ Monitoring of recruitment data as part of workforce equality monitoring.
  - ✓ Relaxation of childcare/caring support rules when employee are homeworking

Finally, despite the relaxation of the rules in reporting Gender pay gap data due to Global pandemic, the Council has continued to report its data through this time.

### **5.0 Agreement**

I confirm that Blackpool Council is committed to the principle of gender pay equality and has prepared its 2020 gender pay gap results in line with mandatory requirements.

Signed:



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Neil Jack Chief Executive

**Publication Date:**

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