

Blackpool Council

1 September 2020

To: Councillors Burdess, G Coleman, Galley, Hobson, Hugo, Mitchell, Owen, Walsh and Wilshaw

The above members are requested to attend the:

TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 9 September 2020 at 6.00 pm
in Via Zoom Meeting

A G E N D A

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 5 FEBRUARY 2020 (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 February 2020 as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

To consider any applications from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS (Pages 9 - 38)

To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions within the remit of the Committee, taken since the last meeting.

5 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 39 - 44)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, September 2020 – December 2020, within the remit of the Committee.

6 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE (Pages 45 - 74)

To consider an update on the progress of Town Centre regeneration projects.

7 LEISURE SERVICES UPDATE (Pages 75 - 102)

To consider an update on the work undertaken, future plans and performance of Leisure Services.

8 CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION RESPONSE (Pages 103 - 120)

To consider an update on activity undertaken to address issues raised in the Climate Emergency Declaration.

9 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN (Pages 121 - 142)

To consider the Workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 18 November 2020, commencing at 6pm.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Advisor, [Tel: 01253 477229](tel:01253477229) , e-mail john.greenbank@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.

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2020

Present:

Councillor Mitchell (in the Chair)

Councillors

Burdess

Galley

Owen

Walsh

G Coleman

Matthews

R Scott

In Attendance:

Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform

Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change

Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure

Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

Councillor Mrs Maxine Callow JP, Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Clare Nolan Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments

Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager

Andrew Duckett, Service Manager Energy and Sustainability

John Paul Lovie, Waste Services Manager

John Greenbank, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser (Scrutiny)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2020

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the 8 January 2020 meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Communities, Scrutiny Committee represented a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee noted that there were no applications to speak by members of the public on this occasion.

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4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee considered the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken, within its remit, since the last meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 8 January 2020.

Members queried Executive Decision EX3/2020 'Council Homes Investment Plan 2020-2025' whereby it was agreed that the Council would purchase up to fifty homes at market value to meet local need in partnership with Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH). It was noted that the Council had a wholly-owned company, Blackpool Housing Company (BHC), whose role was to purchase and develop property to improve its quality. Therefore it was asked if the Council purchasing houses for BCH would conflict with the role of BHC under the plan.

Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, responded that a conflict between the operations of the Council's two housing companies was not foreseen. He stated that BHC had worked to address the issue of low-quality houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) and improve them to help develop communities. The purpose of the investment plan however was to purchase single houses, including ones formerly part of Council housing stock but purchased by their occupants under the right to buy scheme, to add to the stock managed by BCH. The nature of these houses was described as different to the HMOs purchased by BHC, as the Council would be looking for homes with multiple bedrooms but few occupants. Although no properties had yet been identified for purchase, Councillor Brookes informed the Committee that the initial focus would be on former right to buy properties that had fallen into a state of disrepair.

The Committee further queried the funding for the investment plan and how many homes were planned to be purchased. Councillor Brookes replied that the Council could borrow up to £60m, approximately half the value of BCH's housing stock, to support the plan. He added that it was planned that two-hundred and fifty homes would be bought under the plan by 2025.

Members also queried if the plan would have an impact on the housing development at Foxhall Village. Councillor Brookes responded that the development was not connected to the investment plan.

The Committee queried if under EX4/2020 'Madame Tussauds Attraction Business Development' the Council would carry all the risk of a loan to the attraction and if so why was this the case. Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration, explained that unlike other sites in Blackpool where an attractions operator would rent Council property as a tenant, Madame Tussauds was operated as a Council asset by Merlin on the authority's behalf. Therefore the Council and Merlin both shared the profits generated by the attraction. Mr Cavill further explained that under the agreement with Merlin, the repayment of the loan would result in a reduced profit share for them while the loan was outstanding.

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It would therefore be in Merlin's best interest to pay off the loan in a timely manner.

5 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, presented the Flood Risk Management Annual Report, which highlighted the work to manage flood risk in Blackpool during 2019-2020.

The Committee was informed that the Council continued to fulfil its statutory duties but that significant challenges remained to build resilience and maintain flood defences. In order to address these challenges the Council had worked to establish Flood Forums in Anchorsholme-Norbreck and Ingthorpe-Greenlands, both areas affected by flooding. The forums would allow local people to discuss flooding issues within their communities. It was also hoped that the forums would provide a community led approach to improving flood defences, which would then be supported by the Council. The Committee also noted that the Council had received £110k of funding from United Utilities and the Environment Agency, to carry out a study, to better understand the mechanisms of flooding and to identify potential solutions to mitigate future flood events. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the new flood forums and asked that details of work undertaken by them and other projects in flood affected areas be included in the next Flood Risk Management Annual Report, scheduled for early 2021.

Members queried what dedicated resources the Council had to address flood risk. In response Ms Nolan-Barnes stated that she was the lead officer for flood risk but other officers had been identified to undertake flood risk management work as part of their roles to ensure that the Council had a flexible work force when managing flood risk.

Ms Nolan-Barnes also presented the draft Lancashire Flood Risk Strategy to the Committee. Members were informed that Blackburn with Darwen Council would also be contributing and adopting the new strategy, along with Lancashire County Council and Blackpool. This had not previously been the case and represented a wider area than under the previous strategy. The Committee queried if other organisations such as United Utilities and Highways England had contributed to the development of the strategy. In response Ms Nolan-Barnes stated that United Utilities and the Environment Agency had been involved in the development of the strategy and work had been undertaken to engage other services. The Committee therefore asked that an update on the work to engage agencies, such as Highways England, be included in the 2021 Flood Risk Management Annual Report.

The Committee also queried if the Council's planning policy could be used to help manage flood risk. It was noted that the Council had lost a number of appeals to the planning inspector, where refusals had been in part due to flood risk concerns, because United Utilities had not raised objections to them. Ms Nolan-Barnes responded that the Council worked with developers to ensure flooding concerns were taken into account. Strategic Planners and Development Control also included requirements for developers to show how flooding would be mitigated on future developments.

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She also added that United Utilities had agreed to take on responsibility, where it met their requirements, for the connections from new developments via their sewers adoption policy for the maintenance of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), something they had not previously done. It was noted that this was a significant change in flood risk management.

Members also queried which agency had responsibility for watercourses in Blackpool. Ms Nolan-Barnes responded that the Environment Agency had responsibility for Bispham Dyke as it was a main river. Responsibility for other watercourses remained with either the Council or the owner of the land on which they cross.

The Committee agreed that work with agencies such as Highways England and details of the new flood forums be included in the 2021 Flood Risk Management Annual Report.

6 BATHING WATER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, presented the Bathing Water Management Annual Report. She outlined that the Council was continuing to comply with its statutory responsibilities and work with partners through the Turning Tides and LoveMyBeach campaigns to improve water quality, promote health usage and encourage tourism.

Issues regarding pollution by birds existed and work had been undertaken to identify which birds in particular were responsible. The Council was working with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign to look at methods of safely moving birds from areas of the town where they could cause a nuisance.

The Committee queried what funding was available from central government for bathing water quality. Ms Nolan-Barnes responded that no funding had been available since 2017. Members noted that this presented a serious challenge to maintaining water quality in Blackpool. It was therefore agreed that the Chair should write to the Members of Parliament for Blackpool North and Blackpool South, on the Committee's behalf, to ask if any funding was available from central government.

The release by United Utilities of overflow from drains into the sea during storm events was queried by the Committee. Members asked if any data was available on how many times release had been made during the last year. Ms Nolan-Barnes responded that she would contact United Utilities to determine such information was available.

Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change, updated the Committee on the work of the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership. The Partnership had worked with hoteliers to encourage the use proper use of sewage facilities by guests, however it was noted that engagement had reduced following some initial enthusiasm. Councillor Jackson also emphasised that greater education was needed on how to maintain water quality.

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Members also noted the limited resources available and the work undertaken by Ms Nolan-Barnes and congratulated her on what had been achieved.

The Committee agreed:

1. That the Chair write to local MPs to query funding available from central government for the improvement of bathing water quality; and
2. To receive a response from United Utilities, through Clare Nolan-Barnes, on the number of times overflow from drains had been released into the sea in 2019/2020.

7 SINGLE-USE PLASTICS UPDATE

Mr John-Paul Lovie, Waste Services Manager, presented an update on the progress to implement the Council's Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Policy. He informed Members that the policy had been formally adopted by the Council and all of its wholly-owned companies. A Communications Plan had also been developed and published in January 2020, which could be made available to Members of the Committee.

The initial focus of implementing the policy had been within the Council to improve its policies and procedures to reduce SUP usage where possible. It was foreseen that once this had been successfully embedded then more work could be undertaken with local businesses to raise awareness and encourage the reduction of SUPs in Blackpool.

Members queried if the Council would be SUP free by May 2020, as outlined in a Council Motion from 27 June 2018. Mr Lovie responded that the target had been ambitious and that although it was unlikely that the Council would be SUP free by that date, lots had been achieved to reduce their usage across services. The Committee was also informed that this had included changes to the Council's procurement guidelines so that where practicably possible alternatives to SUPs would be sought.

The Committee also asked how the Council was engaging the wider public in addressing the issue of SUPs in Blackpool. Mr Lovie responded that as well as reducing the SUPs in its own supply chains, and those of its wholly-owned companies, the Council also worked to raise awareness amongst its own staff and encourage changes in their behaviour. Further to this Mr Lovie also informed the Committee that the Council and its waste company, Envenco, would be working with schools to promote behavioural change aimed at reducing SUP waste. A launch event with ten local schools had been organised in relation to this, with a focus on the importance of a clean environment to a seaside resort.

8 CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

Mr Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager and Mr Andrew Duckett, Service Manager Energy and Sustainability, presented a report on the work undertaken in response to the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.

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Mr Butterfield informed Members that the declaration had set out various ambitions for Blackpool including being net-zero carbon and achieving 100% clean energy across Council services by 2030. In response, the Council had identified four major themes to achieve the declaration;

- Emissions Reduction
- Town Engagement
- Culture Change
- Wider Influence

These themes were being used to develop an Action Plan, with consideration of climate emergency issues also being built into the Council's future strategies and policies.

Mr Duckett informed Members of the Committee that the Council had adopted a science based approach to determine how best to achieve the targets set out in the declaration. Action that would be undertaken included updating the sustainability strategy, reducing emissions generated by the Council, reducing waste, improving energy efficiency and moving to renewable energy systems.

The Committee queried if the targets outlined in the declaration were achievable. Mr Butterfield responded that work was underway to identify actions that needed to be undertaken to achieve the 2030 target. Part of this would include supporting a proposed young person assembly on climate change where views would be sought regarding what the priorities for Blackpool should be. Mr Butterfield undertook to provide the action plan to Members of the Committee once it had been finalised in consultation with senior officers. Officers would also be seeking to determine what funding streams were available to support achieving the targets outlined in the declaration. Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change, added that good progress had been achieved since the declaration had been made and that it was important to emphasise that everyone had a role to play in addressing climate change.

Members noted that the declaration had stated a Citizen's Assembly should have been held in 2019 to identify priorities for addressing climate change in Blackpool. As one had not taken place, it was queried why this was the case. Councillor Jackson responded that the Council had felt that the timing had not been right to hold an assembly in 2019. Mr Butterfield added that other events, such as the December 2019 General Election, would have prevented an assembly being held in 2019. He added that the approximate cost of an assembly, based on how other local authorities had organised similar events, would be a minimum of £35k and that it would be important for the Council to identify the actions it should undertake before holding an assembly. Therefore no timetable for holding a Citizens Assembly had been determined. Mr Butterfield stated that the conclusions of the proposed Young Person's Citizen's Assembly would represent a good starting point for consideration of the issues by the wider public.

It was noted that the Sustainability Strategy contained a reference to using shale gas as part of considerations to move to clean energy.

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The Committee therefore asked why gas was considered sustainable. Mr Duckett replied that the Council was not looking at using shale gas to address its future energy needs and that the reference had been included so that all options would be considered. Mr Butterfield stated that the strategy was approved in 2018 and would need updating to account for the Council's opposition to fracking.

Members asked what methods of energy generation the Council would likely use for its future energy needs, including options for wind power such as that used at the Solaris Centre. In response Mr Duckett stated that the urban nature of Blackpool and the lack of space made identifying sources of energy generation difficult but that the Council was looking at a variety of possibilities. He added that whatever scheme was chosen it would have to be commercially viable.

The Committee agreed that a copy of the Climate Emergency Action Plan be brought to the next meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee once it had been developed.

9 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

The Committee noted the Scrutiny Workplan report and associated updates.

It was also noted that the Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee had agreed to undertake a review of Supported Housing in Blackpool. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the subject matter and the ongoing Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review by the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee, the following Members were nominated to take part in the review;

- Councillor Martin Mitchell
- Councillor Gerard Walsh
- Councillor Paul Galley

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as Wednesday, 22 April 2020 at 6.00pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.50 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: 01253 477229
E-mail: john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk

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Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	9 September 2020

EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions within the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to the decisions taken.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the opportunity is given for all Executive and Cabinet Member decisions to be scrutinised and held to account.

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

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Attached at the appendix to this report is a summary of the decisions taken, which have been circulated to Members previously.

5.2 This report is presented to ensure Members are provided with a timely update on the decisions taken by the Executive and Cabinet Members. It provides a process where the Committee can raise questions and a response be provided.

5.3 Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and will have the opportunity to raise any issues.

5.4 Witnesses/representatives

5.4.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the decisions taken in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
- Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Projects and Partnerships
- Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform
- Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture
- Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
- Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure
- Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 4(a) Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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APPENDIX 04(a)

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p>FEES AND CHARGES FOR LEISURE AND PARKS SERVICES 2020/2021</p> <p>1. That the Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Leisure and Parks Services 2020/2021, detailed in Appendix A be agreed.</p> <p>2. That the fees and charges above can be amended as per the published officer decision of the Director of Community and Environmental Services so that the service can utilise flexible pricing models and respond to demand be agreed.</p>	<p>The proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Leisure and Parks Services for 2020/2021.</p>	<p>PH7/2020</p>	<p>7 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure</p>
<p>CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2022/23</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <p>To recommend to the Council to approve the Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23 incorporating the Property Investment Strategy 2020/21.</p>	<p>To consider the Capital Strategy for 2020/21 to 2022/23, attached at Appendix 4a to the report, incorporating the Property Investment Strategy for 2020/21, attached at Appendix 4b to the report.</p>	<p>EX10/2020</p>	<p>11 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
<p>FEES AND CHARGES UPDATE - KERBSIDE GREEN WASTE COLLECTION</p> <p>That the annual Green Waste collection charge increase to £40 per bin/£30 per additional bin be agreed.</p>	<p>This report outlines the proposal to increase the annual subscription cost of kerbside green waste collections from the current rate of £35 per bin/£30 per additional bin to the new rate of £40 per bin but maintaining the £30 charge per additional bin(s). It is proposed that this charge is introduced for the financial year 2020 – 2021 as the rate has been held constant with no uplift for the previous two years (since 2018).</p>	<p>PH8/2020</p>	<p>12 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change*</p>

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<p>FEES AND CHARGES FOR WASTE SERVICES 2020/21</p> <p>That the Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Waste Services for 2020/21, detailed in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2020 to the 31 March 2021, be agreed.</p>	<p>The proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Waste Services 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH9/2020</p>	<p>12 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change*</p>
<p>FEES AND CHARGES – GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS 2020/2021</p> <p>That the fees and charges for Legal Services and associated notes as set out in the appendix to the report for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 be agreed.</p>	<p>To consider and approve the fees and charges for Democratic Governance and Legal Services for the financial year 2020/ 2021.</p>	<p>PH10/2020</p>	<p>17 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
<p>PUBLIC PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21</p> <p>That the Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Public Protection with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, which are detailed in the appendix to the report be agreed.</p>	<p>The proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Public Protection and Environmental Protection for 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH11/2020</p>	<p>17 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism and Place)***</p>

<p>FEES FOR DOG WARDEN, PEST CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 2020/21</p> <p>1. That the proposed fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Dog Warden and Environmental Protection (Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges, which are detailed in Appendix A, with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, agreed.</p> <p>2. That the proposed fees and charges for Community and Environmental Operations relating to Pest Control which are detailed in Appendix B, with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, be agreed.</p> <p>3. That the fees charged can be varied by the Director of Community and Environmental Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Climate Change as a result of market changes, be agreed.</p>	<p>The proposed fees and charges for the Community and Environmental Operations, relating to the Dog Warden, Pest Control and Environmental Protection (Works in Default and Copy Notices) charges for 2020/2021.</p>	<p>PH13/2020</p>	<p>18 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change*</p>
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<p>HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES 2020/2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposed fees and charges for Highways and Traffic Management for 2020/21, which are detailed in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2020 to the 31 March 2021, be agreed. 2. That the fees charged can be varied by the Director of Community and Environmental Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Highways, as a result of market changes. 	<p>To consider the Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Highways and Traffic Management for 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH14/2020</p>	<p>18 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Climate Change*</p>
<p>SWITCH-ON AND SLIMEFEST EVENTS 2020-2022</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To treat this direct award as a dispensation from standard Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) because of the specialist nature of the type of services required for these events. 2. A three-year deal with Nickelodeon UK Limited for the provision of the annual Switch-On weekend events, six SLIMEFEST shows and associated TV coverage be agreed. 	<p>To agree the award of services for the Switch-On and SLIMEFEST events for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to Nickelodeon UK Limited.</p>	<p>PH16/2020</p>	<p>19 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader (Place and Tourism)</p>
<p>PURCHASE OF WILLIAM LYONS HOUSE, EXCHANGE STREET</p> <p>That William Lyons House be purchased by the Council through its Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at a purchase price not exceeding £250,000.</p>	<p>To seek approval for the purchase of William Lyons House, Exchange Street, Blackpool FY1 2DU through the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA). William Lyons House is owned by Great Places Housing Association and was formerly used as a hostel for homeless people until it was closed in 2014.</p>	<p>PH17/2020</p>	<p>20 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform</p>

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<p>LIBRARY AND HERITAGE FEES AND CHARGES 2020-21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The amended library and heritage fees and charges for 2020-21 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved. 2. To continue with the removal of library fines for 2020-21. 	<p>To consider proposed changes to fees and charges for the Library and Heritage Services in 2020-21.</p>	<p>PH19/2020</p>	<p>21 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader (Place and Tourism)</p>
<p>FEES AND CHARGES – LIFE EVENTS 2020/2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the fees and charges for Registrars as outlined in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, excluding those set by the General Registrar’s Office, be approved. 2. That the fees and charges outlined in Appendix A of the report set nationally by the General Registrar’s Office and included for completeness, be noted. 3. That the fees and charges for Bereavement Services as outlined in Appendix B of the report with effect from the 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, be approved. 4. That the fees agreed in above can be reduced from these rates on the publication of an officer decision of the Director for Governance and Partnerships, for one off events or a set period of time, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, be agreed. 	<p>To consider and determine the fees and charges for the Registrars and Bereavement services for the financial year 2020/2021.</p>	<p>PH18/2020</p>	<p>21 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader (Place and Tourism)</p>

<p>FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21 – LICENSING SERVICE</p> <p>That the attached fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2020/21 with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 as outlined in Appendix ‘A’ of the report, be approved.</p>	<p>To consider the proposed fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH20/2020</p>	<p>27 February 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader (Place and Tourism)</p>
<p>PARKING FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21</p> <p>1. That the schedule of on and off street parking tariffs for each parking area as set out within the attached schedule at Appendix A of the report, subject to consultation, with effect from the 1 April 2020 to the 31 March 2021 a nil increase, be agreed.</p> <p>2. That the schedule of the business and residential permit rates as set out within the attached schedule at Appendix A, subject to consultation, with effect from the 1 April 2020 to the 31 March 2021 a nil increase, be agreed</p> <p>3. That the fees charged can be reduced from these rates, for specific events or fixed periods of time, on the published officer decision of the Director for Communications and Regeneration, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, agreed.</p>	<p>The proposed Parking Services fees and charges for 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH21/2020</p>	<p>3 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>

<p>EUROPEAN INFORMATION REGULATION (LAND CHARGES) FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposed fees and charges for Land Charges EIRs for 2020/21, which are detailed in the report with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, be agreed. 2. That the fees charged can be reduced from these rates in exceptional circumstances on the published Officer decision of the Director of Communications and Regeneration, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, be agreed. 	<p>To consider and agree revision of fees and charges for European Information Regulation (EIR Land Charges) for 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH22/2020</p>	<p>9 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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<p>PLANNING FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain the national charging schedule for statutory planning applications as detailed in Appendix 'A' with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. 2. To amend the Council's pre-application charging schedule to remove the category for significant major applications. To otherwise continue to charge for pre-application advice in accordance with the schedule detailed in Appendix 'A' with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. 3. To maintain the level of fees retained when invalid applications are not subsequently made valid. <p>4. That the fees charged can be reduced from these rates in exceptional circumstances on the published Officer decision of the Director of Regeneration and Communications, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, be agreed.</p>	<p>The proposed fees and charges for Planning for 2020/21.</p>	<p>PH23/2020</p>	<p>9 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
<p>ESTATES AND VALUATIONS FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21</p> <p>That the fees and charges for the Estates service as outlined at Appendix A of the report with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, be approved.</p> <p>That the fees charged can be reduced from these rates on the published Officer decision of the Director for Resources, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, be approved.</p>	<p>To consider fees and charges proposals for 2020/21 for the Estates service.</p>	<p>PH24/2020</p>	<p>18 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>

<p>CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT - DEVELOPMENT OF A FOUR STAR HOTEL AND INTERCONNECTION OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the additional forward funding required for the development of the hotel and infrastructure, on the basis of the Hotel earnings covering the Prudential Borrowing costs, including the acquisition and demolition cost detailed in EX24/2016 and EX59/2016, be approved. 2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to vary the forward funding agreements with Muse for the construction of the Holiday Inn Hotel and underpass to reflect the additional cost and scope of the work. <p>That the two decisions above update EX59/2016.</p>	<p>The development of a site within Central Business District as a four star hotel and the provision of interconnecting Infrastructure between Blackpool North Station, the new Tram Stop, the new Hotel and Banks Street Car Park. This report updates decision EX59/2016.</p>	<p>EX17/2020</p>	<p>23 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
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<p>RELEASE OF LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the disposal to Bidder A for land at Ryscar Way Blackpool be approved and delegate contractual matters to the Director of Communication and Regeneration. 2. To delegate authority for the use of land at Bispham Road Blackpool to the Director of Communications and Regeneration, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business Enterprise and Job Creation and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare reform. 3. To delegate authority for the disposal of land at Blackpool Road, Poulton le Fylde to the Director of Communications and Regeneration, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business Enterprise and Job Creation. 4. To delegate to the Director of Communications and Regeneration to make any payments as necessary to the developers or for infrastructure works from the ring fenced grant funding received from the One Public Estate programme for the use on these three sites only. 5. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to prepare legal documentation and enter into appropriate documents as necessary to complete any transactions. 	<p>To consider the disposal of land at Ryscar Way and Bispham Road in Blackpool and Blackpool Road in Poulton le Fylde.</p>	<p>EX18/2020</p>	<p>23 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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<p>PROVISION OF A BUSINESS LOAN TO BLACKPOOL AIRPORT OPERATIONS LIMITED</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To authorise the provision of a £1m business loan to Blackpool Airport Operations Limited (BAOL) over a 25 year repayment term towards essential capital investment at Blackpool Airport. 2. Provide authority for the Head of Legal Services to prepare legal documentation for the loan facility. 3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Business Loans Panel to finalise any legal conditions. 	<p>To consider a loan from the Council’s Business Loans Fund to Blackpool Airport Operations Limited</p>	<p>EX19/2020</p>	<p>23 March 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
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<p>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 10 2019/20</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the report. 2. To continue to lobby Government (HM Treasury, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers, the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children’s Services for significantly more funding to cope with the soaring demand and new burdens presenting in Children’s Services. 3. That the Growth and Prosperity overspend is to be funded from Earmarked Reserves in 2019/20 and recovered in 2020/21 under the ‘Cash Limited Budgeting’ regime, be agreed. 4. To require the respective directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically Children’s Services but also Growth and Prosperity, Strategic Leisure Assets, Concessionary Fares and Parking Services. 	<p>The level of spending against the Council’s Revenue and Capital budgets for the first 10 months to 31 January 2020.</p>	EX21/2020	23 March 2020	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**
<p>SUNDRY DEBT WRITE OFFS</p> <p>That the accounts identified totalling £35,286.90 outlined at paragraph 5.1 of the report and £7,590.29 at paragraph 5.2 are authorised for write off.</p>	<p>This report lists applications to write off outstanding balances of Sundry Debts where there is no prospect of recovery or recovery of the debt is inappropriate.</p> <p>The Corporate Write Off Policy states that all Sundry Debt over £5,000 must be authorised by Executive.</p>	PH31/2020	12 May 2020	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**

<p>PURCHASE OF LAND AT DEVONSHIRE ROAD, BLACKPOOL</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve in principle the acquisition of acquisition of land at Devonshire Road, subject to the financial limits outlined in Appendix 3b, to the Executive report. 2. Subject to the above, to delegate to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to reach agreement with the vendor as to the purchase price and complete the transaction. 3. To delegate authority to the Head of Legal Services to enter into any proposed legal agreements relating to acquisition of the Devonshire Road site. 	<p>To seek agreement to proceed with the acquisition of land at Devonshire Road, Blackpool (former Devonshire Road Hospital site).</p>	<p>EX24/2020</p>	<p>15 June 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
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<p>THE REGENERATION OF PHASE THREE TALBOT GATEWAY</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree, in principle, that if other options are exhausted then the Council would consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to assemble the site outlined in Appendices 4a and 4b, to the Executive report. 2. To authorise the Chief Executive to pursue detailed negotiations with the developer and other interested parties as necessary. 3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to authorise expenditure and contracts pursuant to (2.2). 4. To instruct relevant Officers to commence all necessary preparatory works for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to support the site assembly of the land required for the third phase of the regeneration and any associated road improvements and road closures. 5. That Officers be required to bring a further report to the Executive to authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order should such powers be required. 	<p>To consider the next, third, phase of Talbot Gateway regeneration in accordance with the Development Agreement dated 12 March 2009 between the Council and Muse Developments Ltd (the Developer), bringing in a wider development area in order to satisfy the current demands in the market.</p>	<p>EX25/2020</p>	<p>15 June 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
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<p>LIBRARIES AMBITION PLAN</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <p>To approve the Libraries Ambition Plan, as attached at Appendix 5c and 5d to the Executive report, with effect until 31 March 2024.</p>	<p>Blackpool Libraries has undertaken a robust programme of research and consultation over the last year to develop an ambitious 4-year plan (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024) that will see the service make a significant contribution to key corporate priorities. This report seeks Executive approval to move into the implementation phase of the Libraries Ambition Plan. At this time of upheaval, due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is crucial that the service does not lose momentum and can focus on the medium term, and on being in the best place to meet corporate and community priorities and needs.</p>	<p>EX26/2020</p>	<p>15 June 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture</p>
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APPENDIX 04(a)

<p>PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2019/20</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the provisional revenue outturn for 2019/20 and in so doing to note that the figures are subject to external audit and final accounting adjustments (ref. paragraph 2.1). 2. To approve the recommendations regarding the treatment of specific service under/overspends as outlined (ref. paragraph 3.2). 3. To approve the provisional capital outturn for 2019/20 and methods of scheme funding as outlined (ref. paragraphs 4.2 and 4.5). 4. To note the Prudential Indicator (ref. paragraph 4.3). 5. To note the levels of the earmarked reserves including those for the Housing Revenue Account and maintained schools (ref. paragraphs 6.1, 6.3 and 6.4). 6. To note the revised dates for the draft, final audited accounts and the public inspection of accounts (ref. paragraph 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3). <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 28</p>	<p>The report of the Director of Resources on the Provisional Revenue Outturn for 2019/20 compared with the approved budget and the capital expenditure in the year ended 31 March 2020 with sources of funding.</p>	<p>EX27/2020</p>	<p>15 June 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>
<p>TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <p>To approve the report concerning Treasury Management activities for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.</p>	<p>The Treasury Management Outturn Report for the year ended 31 March 2020 and its Annexes 1 to 5, of the Executive report.</p>	<p>EX28/2020</p>	<p>15 June 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council**</p>

<p>PROPOSED APPROPRIATION AND DISPOSAL OF OPEN SPACE LAND AT STANLEY PARK GOLF COURSE, BLACKPOOL</p> <p><i>Note that this decision was Called In at a Special Meeting of the Committee on 23 July 2020</i></p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note and consider the objections, along with the information contained in this report, received in respect of the intention to dispose of the open space land at Stanley Park Golf Course, Blackpool coloured red on the plan attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report ('Site A'). 2. To authorise the disposal of Site A by way of leasehold disposal arrangements for the initial operation of the whole of Site A as golf course facility followed by the operation of a golf course facility on that part of Site A which is shown coloured green on the plan attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report ('Site C'). 3. To delegate authority to the Director of Communications and Regeneration to undertake the disposal process in respect of Site A, agree the timing of the implementation and all matters related to the disposal, deal with all matters arising from the decision and to complete the disposal process. 	<p>To provide information to enable members to consider a number of representations following the advertisement of the proposed appropriation of open space land for planning purposes and the proposed disposal of open space land at Stanley Park Golf Course, Blackpool and to decide whether or not to proceed with the proposals to appropriate and dispose of the land.</p>	<p>EX29/2020</p>	<p>13 July 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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4. To note and consider the objections, along with the information contained in this report, received in respect of the intention to appropriate the open space land at Stanley Park Golf Course, Blackpool, shown coloured blue on the plan attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report, ('Site B') from open space purposes for planning purposes.
5. To agree in principle that Site B, which is held by the Council for the purpose of open space/recreation is no longer required to be held for those purposes and should be appropriated for planning purposes with a view to its subsequent future development.
6. To authorise the appropriation of Site B from open space/recreation purposes for planning purposes.
7. To delegate authority to the Director of Communications and Regeneration to undertake the appropriation processes in respect of Site B, to agree the timing of the implementation and all matters relating to the appropriation, to deal with all matters arising from the decision and complete the appropriation process.
8. To note and consider the objections, along with the information contained in the report, received in respect of the intention to dispose of the open space land at Stanley Park Golf Course, Blackpool, shown coloured blue on the plan attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report ('Site B').

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9. In the event that the appropriation of Site B for planning purposes is authorised in accordance with the recommendation at 2.6, to authorise the disposal of Site B by way of long term leasehold disposals for use for the proposed development of Site B.
10. To delegate authority to the Director of Communications and Regeneration to undertake the disposal process in respect of Site B, agree the timing of the implementation and all matters related to the disposal, deal with all matters arising from the decision and to complete the disposal process.
11. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into such documentation as may be necessary to give effect to the disposal of Site A and the appropriation and disposal of Site B.

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<p>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 2 2020/21</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the report. 2. To require the respective Directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage the financial and operational performances across all services, but in particular Children’s Services, Strategic Leisure Assets, Communications and Regeneration, and Car Parking Services. 3. To continue to lobby all relevant central government departments for additional funding to offset the shortfall resulting from the consequences of Covid-19. 	<p>To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council’s Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 2 months to 31 May 2020.</p>	<p>EX32/2020</p>	<p>13 July 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council**</p>
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<p>BLACKPOOL CENTRAL – PREPARATORY SITE ASSEMBLY WORKS</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree, in principle, that if other options are exhausted then the Council would consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to assemble the site outlined in Appendices 6a and 6b, to the Executive report. 2. To authorise the Chief Executive to pursue detailed negotiations with the developer and other interested parties as necessary. 3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to authorise expenditure and contracts pursuant to 2.1 and 2.2. 4. To instruct relevant officers to commence all necessary preparatory works for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order, to support the site assembly of the land outlined in Appendices 6a and 6b, to the Executive report, which is required for the development and associated road improvements and road closures. 5. That officers be requested to bring a further report to the Executive to seek authority prior to the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order. 	<p>To consider the next stage of Blackpool Central project in accordance with the Land Sale Agreement 13 January 2020, with particular reference to site assembly. The agreement between Council, Nikal Ltd and Media Invest Entertainment (‘the Developer’) will bring about the development of circa £300m of private investment with the development of Chariots of the Gods leisure attractions together with associated leisure facilities.</p>	<p>EX33/2020</p>	<p>13 July 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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<p>BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEASE WITH MULTI-PLY COMPONENTS LTD.</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the proposed development and subsequent grant of a lease in accordance with the Heads of Terms. 2. To agree to the conditions set out in the Heads of Terms. These have been agreed between the parties and are contained within Appendix 7a, to the Executive report (Confidential). 3. To agree that the Council enter into a building contract for the construction of the proposed development, with agreement for the Council to negotiate construction costs up to the agreed budget costs, outlined in Appendix 7c, to the Executive report (Financial Information). 4. To agree to the Council entering into a 'pre-emption agreement' for an additional lease with Multi-Ply Components Limited to be coterminous with the original lease for an area of land directly adjacent to the site for further expansion, in the future, if required. 5. In addition to the above, agreement to delegate authority to the Head of Legal to enter into any proposed legal agreements relating to the scheme. 	<p>On 18 June 2018 the Executive considered a report in respect of Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and approved recommendations including agreement to the Enterprise Zone delivery.</p> <p>This report seeks approval for the Council to develop a commercial unit of 40,000sq ft on the Enterprise Zone and subsequently enter into a 25 year lease with Multi-Ply Components Limited for the occupation of the premises, at a market rent without a premium.</p> <p>The development could see over 100 new jobs brought into Blackpool in the key medical technology sector by a Lancashire based company looking to expand their business and bring valuable skilled employment into the area.</p>	<p>EX34/2020</p>	<p>13 July 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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<p>HOUNDS HILL PHASE TWO</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enter the proposed purchase of properties as set out in the confidential report to the Executive. 2. Subject to 2.1 above, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to finalise the transaction when all due diligence has been completed, within the financial limits outlined in the confidential report to the Executive. 3. Subject to 2.1 and 2.2 above, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, to Prudentially Borrow the sum outlined in the confidential report to the Executive. 4. To delegate to the Director of Communications and Regeneration the negotiations and grant of Leases to the proposed tenants which will form part of the Houndshill phase 2, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation. 5. To delegate to the Director of Communications and Regeneration the negotiations and agreements and for any work related to the stopping up of any roads, diversion of utilities and any other practical matters relating to construction the costs of which are included in 2.3. 6. For this decision to supersede EX32/2017 agreed by the Executive on 11 September 2017. 	<p>To consider the purchase of properties for the development of Hounds Hill phase 2</p>	<p>EX35/2020</p>	<p>13 July 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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<p>7. To authorise the Head of Legal to prepare legal documentation and enter into and complete appropriate documents/contracts as necessary to complete the transactions after due diligence is completed.</p>				
<p>INVESTMENT IN TOWN CENTRE</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To immediately exchange a conditional contract to purchase the property subject to the grant funding being awarded. 2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the transaction following the successful outcome of the grant funding bid/s, within the financial limits outlined in the confidential report to the Executive. 3. Subject to 2.1 above, to delegate authority to the Director of Communications and Regeneration for the appointment of consultants and contractors for the development of the property. 4. To delegate to the Director of Communications and Regeneration any negotiations and lettings for the property. 5. To authorise the Head of Legal to prepare legal documentation and enter into and complete appropriate documents/contracts as necessary to complete the transactions after due diligence is completed. 	<p>To consider the purchase of property for the redevelopment in the town centre.</p>	<p>EX36/2020</p>	<p>13 July 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>

APPENDIX 04(a)

<p>STREET CAFÉ LICENCE FEES</p> <p>To agree to waive the Street Café Licence fee in 2020/21 and replace with a nominal £25 administration fee for the period until 31 March 2021.</p> <p>To refund any fees already paid for Street Café Licence in 2020/21 or to reapply the fees to other licence fees.</p>	<p>To consider whether to waive the Street Café Licence fees in 2020/21 and replace with a nominal £25 administration fee to support the local economy and businesses in these very difficult and financially challenging times.</p>	<p>PH39/2020</p>	<p>21 August 2020</p>	<p>Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment</p>
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*Note that since the 2020 meeting of Annual Council the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change is Councillor Jim Hobson.

**Since 20 July 2020 the Leader of the Council has been Councillor Lynn Williams.

*** Since the 2020 meeting of Annual Council Councillor Campbell has been Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture

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Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	9 September 2020

FORWARD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan September 2020 to December 2020, relating to the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Leader of the Council and / or the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to items contained within the Forward Plan within the portfolios of the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council.

2.2 Members will have the opportunity to consider whether any of the items should be subjected to pre-decision scrutiny. In so doing, account should be taken of any requests or observations made by the relevant Cabinet Member.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable the opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Forward Plan items.

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

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Forward Plan is prepared by the Leader of the Council to cover a period of four months and has effect from the first working day of any month. It is updated on a monthly basis and subsequent plans cover a period beginning with the first working day of the second month covered in the preceding plan.

5.2 The Forward Plan contains matters which the Leader has reason to believe will be subject of a key decision to be taken either by the Executive, a Committee of the Executive, individual Cabinet Members, or Officers.

5.3 Attached at Appendix 5(a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item is contained in the Forward Plan, which has been forwarded to all members separately.

5.4 Witnesses/representatives

5.4.1 The following Cabinet Members are responsible for the Forward Plan items in this report and have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
- Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform
- Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture
- Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
- Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure
- Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) Summary of items contained within Forward Plan September 2020 to December 2020.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

(SEPTEMBER 2020 TO DECEMBER 2020)

*** Denotes New Item**

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
September 2020	Town Centre Investment including necessary acquisitions to facilitate Talbot Gateway Phase Three (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	1/2018	Executive	Cllr Smith
October 2020	Applications for Business Loans above £500,000. (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	2/2018	Executive	Cllr Williams
October 2020	To agree strategic acquisitions and investments in or adjoining the Enterprise Zone (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	3/2018	Executive	Cllr Smith
October 2020	Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy	11/2018	Executive	Cllr Hobson

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
October 2020	To agree the Community Safety Plan and the priorities within the plan to be addressed by the Community Safety Partnership as identified by the Strategic Assessment (Crime and Disorder Audit)	21/2019	Council on recommendation of Executive	Cllr Hobson
October 2020	Prudential Borrowing for the development of Palatine Leisure Centre.	32/2019	Executive	Cllr Kirkland
October 2020	To progress the acquisition of the former Job Centre Plus building at 43 Queens Street to accommodate Children's Services in a single location, in line with the preferred delivery model following the Ofsted review.	35/2019	Executive	Cllr Williams
October 2020	To seek approval to carry out a public consultation on a proposed Layton Conservation Area.	3/2020	Executive	Cllr Campbell
October 2020	Approval of Airport Enterprise Zone update report and approval of updated Delivery Plan	6/2020	Executive	Cllr Smith

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officers:	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration
Date of Meeting	9 September 2020

BLACKPOOL TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview of progress on the various projects being undertaken to secure the regeneration of Blackpool Town Centre following the last update in October 2019, and to inform the Committee of planned future work.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To note the progress being made and to identify any issues requiring additional attention.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the strategic approach to regenerating Blackpool Town Centre following a request by the Committee

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

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

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool Town Centre Strategy

As a key part of the Blackpool Local Plan (**see Appendix 6(a)**), the Blackpool Town Centre Strategy was adopted in March 2013 and provides a **15 year vision** supported by **six key objectives**:

- **Re-establish** the town centre as the first choice shopping destination for the Fylde Coast
- **Strengthen** the town centre as a vibrant leisure, entertainment, cultural and business tourism destination for residents and visitors
- **Grow** the town centre as a place to do business by creating a central business district and creative industries hub
- **Create** a choice of quality homes within and around the town centre
- **Improve** the quality of buildings, streets and spaces and their maintenance and management;
- **Provide** convenient access to the town centre by all modes of travel and enable easier pedestrian movement.

The Strategy identifies issues, strengths, opportunities and threats to the Town Centre:

- Catchment, Visitor Profile and Performance;
- Retail and Service Provision;
- Leisure Entertainment, Culture and Business Tourism
- Quality of the Environment;
- Access and Movement.

The Strategy contains an Action Plan and recognises the need for a co-ordinated comprehensive approach requiring strong town centre partnership working led by Blackpool Council supported by investment agencies working with private landlords, local businesses, service providers, developers, Business in the Community's Pride of Place Board and the Town Centre BID.

The last few years have been crucial in terms of refocusing the town centre strategy so that it plans for a vibrant mix of uses, including an enhanced leisure and business offer, rather than having an over-reliance on the increasingly challenged retail environment as evidenced by the August 2020 Town Centre Boundary vacancy rate of 25.9 % which is the highest on record.

Substantial progress has been made since the Town Centre Strategy was adopted, as reported at the October 2019 Scrutiny Committee notwithstanding the hugely damaging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic some of the the detail of the response to which is set out in **Appendix 6(b)**.

Since then extensive work has been undertaken by officers to drive forward the implementation of key schemes as part of the £1bn+ Growth and Prosperity Programme which is outlined below under the following headings:

- 5.3 Houndshill Shopping Centre Phase 2
- 5.4 Talbot Gateway
- 5.5 Blackpool Central
- 5.6 Conference Centre
- 5.7 Next Generation Hotels
- 5.8 Blackpool Museum – Showtown
- 5.9 Quality Corridors

In addition, the team has been successful in bringing additional funding to support the programme with the outcome of some major bids still outstanding which are also summarised in the report including:

- 5.10 Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (£123,000)
- 5.11 High Street Heritage Action Zone (£600,000)
- 5.12 Getting Building Fund (£8.63m)
- 5.13 Future High Streets Fund (£25m bid)
- 5.14 Town Deal (£50m bid)

Consequent to this progress the Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan will be refreshed and updated to reflect these achievements and set out how the regeneration of the Town Centre will be continue to be driven forward over the next five years.

5.2 COVID – 19 Impact and Recovery Plans

The need for the delivery of the overall Growth and Prosperity Programme and regeneration funding support to improve the town centre offer was necessary before Covid-19 – its urgency has increased since and early approval to funding submissions is critical as a fundamental plank of Blackpool’s economic recovery with tourism destinations being highlighted as areas likely to suffer the most economically. **Appendix 6(b)** highlights the impact of COVID-19 and an outline of the Council’s response.

5.3 Houndshill Shopping Centre Phase 2

Due to Covid 19, the Houndshill Shopping Centre closed in March and re-opened on 15 June 2020. As a result of the lockdown, retailers have lost significant income during the closure. Since re-opening, the footfall in the shopping centre is on average 50% lower and again this is continuing to have an impact on retailer’s profitability. Nevertheless, the Council is doing all it reasonably can to ensure the continued success of the shopping centre and maintain occupancy and it is performing well

relative to other centres at this challenging time.

As a core part of this work to secure the Phase 2 extension with the Imax-style cinema, relocated Wilko's and 2 restaurants have continued unabated to enhance the diversity and attractiveness of the town centre.

The original planning application was due to expire in September 2020, however due to Covid-19 the Government has relaxed the rules on planning and the current planning consent has been extended to 1 April 2021. This has provided time for further due diligence on the design, including a post-Covid 19 review as social distancing has had a big impact on the shopping centre and the cinema design may be affected as a result.

Grahams have been appointed to finalise the design and take responsibility for the design and build. It is expected Grahams will start on the build contract on site later in 2020. Utilities quotes for diversions and disconnections have now started to come through and this is required as part of the stopping up order to close Tower Street for the development.

The Government announcement on the Getting Building Fund has meant Blackpool has received an early allocation of £5m towards this project. This was originally submitted as part of the Future High Street Fund (see below).

5.4 Talbot Gateway Central Business District

The first phase of Talbot Gateway Central Business District, completed in 2014, saw £80 million of investment with over 1,000 employees brought into the town centre based in Grade A1 office accommodation with accompanying retail units, the construction of a flagship Sainsbury's store, the refurbished of Talbot multi-storey car park and the provision of much improved traffic management and public spaces in the surrounding area. The success of this project was further enhanced in 2018 with 200 jobs from Slater Gordon being located in One Bickerstaffe Square together with the establishment of the Lancaster University/Blackpool and Fylde College/Blackpool Council Health Innovation Campus.

Talbot Gateway Phase 2 and Tramway Completion Work :

The Hotel and underpass works has been commissioned and the Contractor (Robertson Construction Group Ltd) has started work on the demolition of the old Wilko's store. The contract start date was delayed until June due to the Covid-19 crisis.

The work consists of the demolition of the existing Wilko building and the construction of a car park, a Holiday Inn Hotel and an Underpass under the hotel and High Street to the Railway Station. The work will also involve the preparation of the area required by the Tram Extension contractor (Sisk) to complete the Tramway works.

The new tram terminus will be located in the middle of the existing Wilko site. Due to access and lifting requirements / restrictions during the construction of the hotel the tramway will require a temporary stop or bus replacement service prior to the permanent stop being constructed during the last months of the hotel scheme.

The construction of the permanent platform will be deferred until after the construction of the hotel to improve site logistics during the construction. The construction of this platform will now be part of the Hotel contract so that Sisk only have to remobilise once.

Following site possession a demolition survey was carried out (which couldn't have been carried out before owing to Wilko's occupation) which identified significantly more asbestos. The identification and removal of this asbestos has caused a delay to the start of the demolition. It is now anticipated that the Hotel and permanent Tram Terminus will be open in the summer of 2022 with the new underpass (to be constructed as part of the Hotel Development) to be opened at the same time as the new Hotel and Tram Terminus.

Access to Banks Street Car Park from Springfield Road

Negotiations are continuing with Network Rail to gain their internal approvals for the land swap required for this work. They have confirmed their agreement in principle but we are still waiting for agreed Heads of Terms or a signed legal commitment.

Talbot Gateway Phase 3

In February 2019 the Executive authorised expenditure of up to £1,250,000 to carry out concept and initial designs for the most appropriate option to meet a future potential office demand. Since then negotiations have continued and Heads of Terms have been agreed in principle, but the interested party has requested that both their details and the details of the terms remain confidential at this stage until agreements are signed. This opportunity will also benefit the Town Centre by generating a substantial increase in footfall and increased spending power to support retail and other businesses in the town centre and attract further investment.

Talbot Gateway Phase 4 : Multiversity

As part of the plans to bring further diversity of activity into the Town Centre the Council, in partnership with Blackpool and The Fylde College, is currently seeking to commission a multi-disciplinary consultant team to prepare a comprehensive 'Masterplan and Delivery Plan' for a Multiversity Campus adjacent to the Talbot Gateway Central Business District. This opportunity could stimulate the creation of a vibrant interaction between students and a renewed and developing town centre that will:

- Encourage a year-round vibrant night-time economy.
- Encourage interactivity between established and developing businesses and the student cohort providing a joined-up approach to the economy and teaching and learning whilst improving the student experience.

- Generate secondary spend benefits for local business as a result of events and activities on the Multiversity Campus.

This is at a very early stage, but it is hoped that the Master Plan and Delivery Plan can be commissioned in October following the evaluation of the consultants tenders.

Car Parking Strategy

In February 2019 the Executive approved the Car Parking Strategy and authorised up to £16,000,000 to deliver the additional town centre parking provision identified in the report. The report delegated authority to the Chief Executive to authorise expenditure and contracts to deliver the most appropriate option within these financial limits.

Sites have been identified with some acquisitions already made that will provide additional parking as required to meet the car parking demands and this provision will be developed as the additional demand is required.

5.5 Blackpool Central

In January this year, the Council signed terms with the Nikal Ltd and Media Invest Entertainment (the Developer) for the sale of the majority of the land required for the delivery of the Blackpool Central project. This agreement was a major step forward and sought to cement the regeneration of the area with aspirations for major leisure attractions.

As reported previously, the proposals will include new leisure and visitor attractions and will bring approximately £300m of investment into the town. The comprehensive redevelopment of the former Central station site would include a number of new world class attractions, food and beverage venues together with new hotels, car parking and residential apartments.

Since signing of the agreement, the developer has been busy working with newly appointed architects on progressing and agreeing the masterplan. They have been busy undertaking further due diligence on the site, commissioning site condition and topographical surveys etc. as well as engaging with consultants to support the future business planning.

Whilst there has been a minor delay to the programme as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this has not hampered the ambition or momentum for the project, with the developers now expected to submit a hybrid planning application for the development during the early part of 2021.

The first major component of the scheme is the delivery of a new multi-storey car park. This will be leased back to the Council on completion for the long-term management and operation. The outline design for this is now well underway and

discussions will be held with the developer and their car park designers and engineers during the autumn, prior to detailed design being progressed.

A key future requirement, is the ability of the Council to provide vacant possession of the existing Blackpool Magistrates and County Courts site. With respect to this, discussions continue with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal's Service (HMCTS) in effort to find a suitable way forward to resource and fund this element of the overall proposal. In order to secure an alternative location for future court facilities, the council have proceeded to acquire the former Devonshire Road hospital site. This site was identified as the most appropriate alternative location back in 2018 in consultation with HMCTS and has been vacant for some time. In order to support the relocation of the courts the council have also included the project as one of eleven schemes under the Town Fund proposals, submissions for which were made at the end of July (see also section 5.16 below). In addition to this, it is also understood that HMCTS via the Ministry of Justice will be seeking government funding under this autumn's Spending Review.

5.6 Conference Centre

Construction of the new £26m state-of-the-art Blackpool Conference Centre continues with all substructure and superstructure elements now complete.



Roofs to the new building are in place and external wall elevations are nearing completion. Internal partition walls are currently being built along with further repairs renewals and connections to the existing complex and this will be followed by further mechanical and electrical installations.

COVID-19 led to the closure of site March 25th to April 27th with works recommencing after this date following the implementation of measures to minimise

the danger of COVID-19 to operational personnel, including staggered welfare breaks, social distancing and enhanced personnel hygiene facilities. The COVID-19 situation is monitored carefully by the Project Management team with regular liaison on this specific topic. The currently anticipated project completion date is summer 2021.

5.7 Next Generation Hotels

The enhancement of Blackpool's hotel capacity continues unabated. The 3* Premier Inn on Talbot Square remains on course to complete by the end of 2020 despite setbacks experienced through COVID-19. And the resort's first 5* hotel, the Sands Venue Resort Hotel, is due for completion in Summer 2021.

Work has now started on the 4* Holiday Inn Hotel development as part of the Talbot Gateway Phase 2 and following receipt of outline planning consent for the proposed Winter Gardens 4* hotel, we continue to work with the majority site owner to support the scheme to development.

As part of the Future High Streets Fund bid submission in July, a project has been put forward to support a private sector development to create a new boutique hotel in the former Post Office building. The project design is to develop a new 131-bed bespoke boutique hotel representing the first such facility in Blackpool that will attract a new niche market of visitors and, crucially, new disposable spending for the town centre.

Other hotels are also planned as part of the Blackpool Central scheme

5.8 Blackpool Museum (Showtown)

The Blackpool Museum Project is continuing to make good progress. The Council is currently part way through the procurement process for the base-build contract for all elements of the build excluding the main exhibition galleries with the aim of being on site in October.

The detailed design for the exhibition galleries (RIBA 4 stage) will be complete by the end of August with tendering for the exhibition contractors to begin in October with a view to offsite exhibition construction beginning in February 2021.

The Museum Project includes the delivery of a public engagement programme but this has had to be postponed until 2021 because of Covid-19 and will be re-established once face to face contact is possible. However, progress has still been made. Open Up the Mic is one of our headliner projects, which we are delivering in partnership with HeadStart. It is aimed at young people to build mental health resilience through stand-up comedy. Local comedian, Ruth Cockburn, has been appointed to deliver this project and is already working with young people online. Get Dancing is another headliner project. This is an intergenerational project bringing together young people and older people to celebrate Blackpool's dance heritage, whilst also combating loneliness. Local dance company, House of Wingz, has been appointed as the creative lead to deliver this. School-based learning packages focusing

on the museum's themes have been developed and we are hoping to begin testing within schools early in 2021. We are currently part way through our time capsule project. This involves local children creating a range of creative responses to life in Blackpool today. The capsule will then be 'buried' within the Museum to be discovered by a future generation. During lockdown we have been focusing on enhancing our social media activity. This includes regular posts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, plus special themed weeks, so far this has included a Seaside Week in May and a Laughter Week in July. This has resulted in our online engagement increasing hugely with our media coverage having now reached in excess of 100 million.

The legal negotiations between Blackpool Council and Coolsilk are progressing with a view to finalising the lease agreement within the next few weeks. We are working with two North West based companies, True North in association with Treble, to develop the new website for the Museum. This has been designed and we are now working on uploading the information and content which will be featured on it with a view to an early autumn launch. We have appointed another Manchester based company, Brazen, to support our public relations activity and a fourth NW company, Placemarque, is working with True North to design the Museum signage. We have worked closely with a local access advisory group to support and advise us to ensure that the Museum will be as inclusive and accessible as possible. Although the Blackpool Museum Project is a Blackpool Council project, ultimately the Museum will be operated by an independent company which will also be a charity. This new company will be established in the coming months, however a chair and vice-chair designate have already been appointed and have joined the Project Board.

All of the major grant funding is now in place for the Museum Project with major contributions from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, the Coastal Communities Fund and the Lancashire Growth Deal, plus support from Blackpool Council. However, there was still a fundraising target of £675,500. This has now reduced to £450,000 due to contributions from the Wolfson Foundation (£75,000), the Garfield Weston Foundations (£150,000) and donations totalling £500. We are continuing to work with Liverpool-based fundraising company, Impact Fundraising, to target other trusts and foundations. We also have a fundraising charity, the Blackpool Museum Trust, with whom we are working to bridge the fundraising gap.

The impact of Covid-19, both on the Museum Project and the future operation of the Museum in the longer term is the subject of a Covid-related review which is being carried out by members of the Museum Project Team. The results of this review will be presented to the Project Board, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, in the autumn. Originally the Museum was targeted for 2021 opening, however due to Covid19, it is now aiming to be open in time for the 2022 season.

5.9 Quality Corridors

This project was originally approved in September 2016 at a total value of £7.34m with £6.6m of Growth Deal funding. In December 2019, further to the submission of an additional business case, the scheme was approved for an additional £450k of Growth Deal funding with a scheme now of total value £7,841,840.

The scheme is working to transform key gateways and streets in Blackpool town centre. There are two distinct elements to the project, the first, and largest, being improvements to the highways network. Over the last three years significant highways and public realm improvements have been delivered in parts of Church Street, Counce Street, Cookson Street, Dickson Road and Talbot Road (in conjunction with the tramway works). Street furniture has been installed including bollards and benches. Trees have featured in some renewed streets along with some public art. Works are now complete on Edward Street and Deansgate with Topping Street due for completion by the end of August 2020.

The second element, the Property Improvement Fund provides in excess of £1m in grants to assist property owners and businesses in priority streets to improve the external appearance of their properties and to encourage take up of vacant space. Some excellent examples of this include Café Continental and the Mortgage Shop on Topping Street, Deansgate Kitchen, Sunseekers and Asia's Finest on Deansgate, Andsome Barbers on Edward Street and most recently 101-122 Topping Street and 118-126 Church Street which received £168k investment across 9 properties.

Other schemes currently on-site include The Samaritans on Topping Street and a major scheme ongoing to facilitate a £400k external facelift of the Ibis Styles Hotel (former Clifton Hotel). Proposals are currently being drawn up with the scheme architect to enable a refurbish/reuse of a retail property purchased by the Council on Topping Street and a pipeline of further properties are in place to benefit from existing resources, with around 34 properties expected to be improved in total by conclusion of the programme.



New QC shopfront being installed on the corner of Church and Topping Streets.



The Mortgage Shop on Topping Street. QC has specifically supported small, established local businesses



Deansgate has seen a significant improvement from QC interventions in buildings and highway.



Café Continental on Topping Street, a business that has seen growth and a greater ability to invest in its future.



Highways works to Church and Topping Streets have made a huge difference visually and in terms of trader confidence.

5.10 Reopening High Streets Safely Fund

In early June, Government announced Council's across England were to share £50m of additional funding to support the safe reopening of high streets and other commercial areas further to the COVID- 19 crisis pandemic. The money is to allow local authorities in England to put in place additional measures to establish a safe trading environment for businesses and customers, particularly in high streets, through measures that extend to the end of March 2021. Expenditure for reimbursement under this grant is eligible from 1 June.

Blackpool had been allocated £122,772 but were required to submit a Grant Action Plan (GAP) by the end of July outlining how it would use the funding.

The Fund includes European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) which is highly restrictive in terms of eligible uses and in terms of paperwork requirements around eligible procurement, marketing and PR and state aid. In line with the guidance the key areas outlined for funding use in Blackpool's GAP are:-

- A wide-ranging communications campaign aimed at supporting COVID-19 issues, which will give consumers advanced knowledge and information to plan a visit to Blackpool safely and promote the 'Know Before You Go' messaging to a wider audience through targeted digital campaigns and out-of-home advertising in key areas
- Travel on the key town centre highway network – to procure temporary signage, street markings barriers and traffic lights/pedestrian crossings to help enable safer travel and social distancing.
- Procure specialist support, aimed at supporting COVID-19 issues, which will provide access to high-quality comprehensive footfall and movement data; accurately assess concentrations of street-users at peak times of the day; and check whether the capacity of key streets across the town centre is at or exceeding the maximum level for safe social distancing. It will allow quick knowledge build-up of the key factors involved – time of day, day of the week, weather and change in lockdown restrictions. Finally, it will inform communications planning and minor street layout changes, likely to be needed on a day-by-day basis.

At the time of writing this update, the Council are awaiting approval to the plan but it is anticipated to be imminent.

5.11 Future High Streets Fund (FHSF)

FHSF is part of the £6.75 billion Towns Fund where towns were invited to bid against the grant fund which aims to provide infrastructure investment to help renew and reshape town centres and high streets to improve experience, drive growth and ensure future sustainability. It will support:

- Investment in physical infrastructure
- Acquisition and assembly of land including to support new housing, workspaces and public realm
- Improvements to transport access, traffic flow and circulation in the area
- Supporting change of use including (where appropriate) housing delivery and densification
- Supporting adaptation of the high street in response to changing technology

A maximum grant application level of £25m was set with spend profiled across four financial years 2020-21 to 2023-24 with the FHSF funding element of projects to be completed no later than 31 March 2024, although third party funding can be profiled to be spent after the FHSF funding window has expired.

Government advised that whilst the maximum grant level is £25m they expect most awards to be in the £5-10m range. Given the challenges that Blackpool is facing it was decided, with the support of the Future High Streets Fund Board chaired by the former Chief Investment Officer of Hammersons, to bid for the full £25m recognising that we may not achieve this. A bid was submitted by the 31st July deadline.

A Full Green Book Business Case was required for each projects with these being assessed against three main criteria:

- Value for Money (the economic case 50%),
- Strategic fit of projects (the strategic case 20%) and their
- Deliverability (covering the commercial, financial and management cases 30%).

An early “shovel ready” scheme submission was encouraged to be submitted and a bid for £5m towards the Houndshill extension was indeed submitted in November 2019. Unfortunately, these projects were never appraised due to Government changes. This project was subsequently incorporated within the July submission.

The interventions programme was based around three Strategic Objectives (SO’s) reflecting the aims and objectives of the FHSF improving experience, driving growth and future sustainability:-

SO1 Enhanced High Street Placemaking – via Investment in physical infrastructure; acquisition of land and property and support for changes of use, provided via retail consolidation and revitalisation; and securing new town centre uses e.g. boutique hotel, reconfigured/rejuvenated indoor market, professional, food and drink, business and leisure.

SO2 Improved Transport Access and Accessibility – through improved public transport access management, targeted at both local resident and visitor markets supporting dwell time, whilst improving traffic flows and circulation. Investment in physical infrastructure to create attractive/useable spaces will encourage private sector investment.

SO3 Adaptation of the High Street in response to Changing Technology - Blackpool's ambition is to be a modern digital smart resort, providing leading edge connectivity through ensuring the required infrastructure is in place, weaving technology into developments and applications to strengthen the future High Street.

There are 11 schemes in the programme, briefly noted below. The schemes amounted to a FHSF ask of £25m with public co-funding of £18,312,000 and private of £16,101,000

1. Houndshell extension

To provide a physical enhancement to the Houndshell shopping centre via an extension allowing the private sector to invest in a new cinema, 2 restaurants and support the relocation of Wilko, providing an overall boost to the town centre through diversification of uses.

2. Abingdon Street Market

For the Council to acquire and rejuvenate the underperforming Abingdon Street market to make it more appealing to a wider resident and visitor base, via the delivery of a new improved market including a wider retail and food hall offer

3. Post Office Acquisition and redevelopment

A private sector development where they acquire the vacant former Post Office building and lead to the delivery of a boutique hotel development with FHSF monies being used as gap funding

4. King Street Rejuvenation through Property Acquisition

To acquire 8 vacant properties on King Street to acquire land to support the location of the planned major office development

5. Creative Business Incubation

To acquire and refurbish 3 vacant units in the town centre to create new retail/maker units for small businesses including pop ups and art and culture businesses.

6. Adelaide St transport Hub and access improvements

Accessibility and public realm scheme on Adelaide and Bank Hey Street to improve public and other transport access including bus shelters, taxi, cycle, and pedestrian access facilities, directly supporting the Houndshell, Sands Hotel and Showtown developments.

7. Innovation Partnership

Working with the private sector utilising its expertise and contacts to introduce innovative digital retail technologies into high street businesses as pilot testbeds and benchmarks. These would directly support customer attraction,

retention and consumer data collation.

8. Digital infrastructure

A scheme that works to deliver the gap in provision, where there is substantial digital infrastructure on the fringes of the town centre, but high street businesses are not currently able to access the bandwidth

9. Monitoring and Analytics Applications

Support to enhance the existing footfall monitoring and analysis activity in the town supporting funding bodies, the local authority, potential investors and local businesses

10. Fylde Coast Rail Study (incorporating proposals for a Tramway Loop).

Technical feasibility study and outline business case to support an extension of the current Blackpool-Fleetwood line to increase frequency and improve connectivity through a train or tram loop across the Fylde Coast and beyond.

11. Application technology marketing and promotion

Introduce a town centre gift card and loyalty programme to stimulate economic activity through increased footfall and local spend

A decision on the FHSF application is due September /October 2020.

5.12 Getting Building Fund

In response to the economic crisis caused by Covid-19, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in July invited all LEP's including the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as part of a UK-wide Government initiative, to put forward ideas for accelerating existing Government funded capital projects within local growth programmes, to generate new development activity within 18 months, to help create jobs and raise overall demand in the economy, providing a quick boost, post Covid-19.

Blackpool submitted two projects which had also been submitted into the FHSF namely, Houndshell Shopping Centre – Phase 2 Development and Abingdon Street Market.

The area of Lancashire was allocated £34.1m overall and on the 4th August, Government confirmed allocations to these two projects (£5m Houndshell and £3.634m Abingdon). At the time of writing this report, this funding is not yet 'approved', it is 'allocated' against this project with approval subject to LEP project bid appraisal, LEP Board approval and contracting, a process that is underway.

5.13 High Streets Heritage Action Zone

The High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) programme is a place-based scheme designed to secure lasting improvements to historic high streets and the communities who use them.

As reported previously, on 13 September 2019, Historic England confirmed the success of Blackpool's bid, a grant of just under £600k. This was to be used to improve the street frontages of the Winter Gardens and Grand Theatre onto Church Street as well as a programme of activities to bring culture out of both buildings onto the street and encourage more people into the venues to experience two of our finest listed buildings. Scheme development and delivery activity has been ongoing with further Programme Design work submitted by January 2020 as requested.

Architects are currently refining the drawings for the scheme at the Winter Gardens for Historic England approval and a procurement brief for refurbishing existing historic shopfronts is being prepared so that changes should be visible by the end of the current financial year. The Grand Theatre is as yet unsure (given the Covid-19 situation) whether there will be funds to participate in the scheme so the work there has been pushed back by 18 months to allow them the space to look at longer term finance and ensure we do everything we can to ensure their inclusion.

In addition, in August 2020 a Cultural Programme pilot funding request was made for £9000. This would be used to kick-start the Making Blackpool creative markets programme. This had (even pre-Covid-19) always formed a part of the main "cultural programme bid" being prepared for September 2020 submission, but given recent events and a need to return to safe high street trading and leisure, this strand was seen as ideal to bring forward earlier as a pilot. In its original format, the Making Blackpool markets programme spanned the whole four years of funded activity and given an established evidence base for sustainability, it is intended to continue with it once funding for the programme ended. The pilot will allow a first year of quarterly activity with the opportunity to include a request for funding the remaining three years through the main cultural programme funding. It also offers a year of learning about what does and does not work within the format so that future events can be based on what's been learned.

The best element of the market format is its flexibility. It allows Blackpool to showcase its creative talent and engenders opportunities for creatives to make money from their work. More importantly, markets have a festival atmosphere and they can incorporate food and drink, opportunities to engage on town centre issues and art/craft demonstrations. Creating variety allows a market to become an attraction. This in turn creates more meaningful connections between the Cultural Programme and the wider HAZ activities and allows third sector and cultural partners to promote the HAZ and their part in it.

The plan is for four initial markets, the first being at October half term 2020. This will be followed quickly with a Christmas-style market then another at February half term and Easter. From this point it is envisaged that funding for the main cultural programme will have been achieved and a summer market will be the first of the wider programme. The venue will be St John's square at the heart of the HAZ area. The space has pop up power at four points across the space making it a natural location for the market programme. There's also the opportunity to take markets into the main Floral Hall of the Winter Gardens in case of bad weather.

There are a number of links with other schemes for which the Council is bidding for funding. The wider HAZ Cultural Programme which incorporates this pilot is particularly closely linked to the Council's Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) bid, in particular the focus on supporting emerging creative businesses.

Another relevant strand of the FHSF bid is the purchase and refurbishment of Blackpool's indoor market on Abingdon Street. This project will provide space for makers at low rents as well as facilities for communities. The HAZ Cultural pilot complements this through the provision of ad-hoc markets for those who could not manage or afford long term commitment to a fixed market location.

5.14 Town Deal

The £3.6 billion Towns Fund was launched in November 2019 to enable towns to address growth constraints through Town Deals. 101 towns were invited to bid with the aim "to unleash the full economic potential of 101 places and level up communities throughout the country". The funding of up to £25 million in each place is targeted to help to increase economic growth with a focus on regeneration, improved transport, better broadband connectivity, skills and culture.

The objective of the Towns Fund is to "drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long-term economic and productivity growth" through :

- Urban regeneration, planning and land use: ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work, including by: increasing density in town centres; strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets; site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration; and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.
- Skills and enterprise infrastructure: driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.
- Connectivity: developing local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity

A **Town Deal Board** incorporating public, private and community membership was required to be established as an advisory body to the Council to produce a Town

Investment Plan by the end of July 2020 should it wish to be considered to be in the first cohort, which Blackpool expressed a desire to be.

The role of the Board has been to:

- Develop and agree an evidenced based Town Investment Plan
- Develop a clear programme of interventions
- Coordinate resources and influence stakeholders

Public, private and community membership was essential with a private sector chair, Paul Smith of BITC was appointed to the role. The Town Deal Board has held 5 meetings so far (10th July the latest) with all but confidential papers published on the Council's website.

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

Community Engagement

Evidence of substantial community engagement is a requirement of the fund. With this in mind, a tender exercise led to the appointment of Locality with Commonplace who, working alongside CVS Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde, were commissioned to undertake a Community Engagement exercise focused on obtaining the views of residents, other stakeholders (business community, VCSEF Sector etc) and visitors linked to a forthcoming submission to the government's Towns Fund.

The method statement underpinning this work incorporated the following activity:

- A Blackpool Commonplace online engagement tool which could cope with high numbers of responses
- One to one and one to many Interviews with residents (prioritising face to face contact via webchats whenever possible)
- Wider stakeholder engagement (particularly focused upon VCFS and Social Enterprise Leaders, Business Community)
- Working with the CVS and other VCFS organisations targeted the most "hard to reach" or "seldom heard from" groups including BAME, young people, older people (lacking digital skills) and those who are more economically disadvantaged
- A marketing and social media plan which underpinned and promoted all engagement activity, provided information about the BTIP and particularly to drive activity towards the Commonplace platform

The engagement methodologies were designed to encourage reflection upon the Town Deal five themes which underpin the engagement exercise:

- Place (including housing)
- Economy and enterprise
- Skills and Education

- Communities and Health
- Infrastructure and the environment

The online survey response was outstanding with over 30,000 people reading about the Town Deal, with over 6,600 visitors to the website, of which 1,119 chose to make detailed comments. A further 101 telephone interviews were carried out to help decide the top priorities to be put forward. The feedback provided had a major impact upon evidence for the Investment Plan itself and for determining key priority projects to put forward for investment.

The Town Investment Plan was divided into two sections; section 1 setting out the context, strategy and process planning; and section 2 setting out the details of projects. In brief it:

- Set out investment priorities that could drive economic growth, supported by clear evidence, building on the strengths and assets of the town
- Demonstrated how investment will be targeted into the economic infrastructure listed around the objective of the fund
- Demonstrated how it built on and added to existing partnerships and plans for the town, and complement pre-existing strategies
- Considered the wider strategic approach, including Northern Powerhouse, other pan regional strategies
- Showed alignment with the government's clean growth objectives

The Town Deal Board supported schemes to a value of £50m for inclusion in the submission towards the following projects:

Place Theme

- **Blackpool Central** - relocation of Blackpool magistrates court to unlock the site for a £300m private sector development
- **Grundy Art Gallery** – feasibility work to scope the capital investment required to transform the cultural venue into a 21st century, sustainable gallery

Economy and Enterprise Theme

- **Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone** – delivery of new road/ access improvements to open up the site, reduce congestion on surrounding access roads and investment to realise the potential of the Aquacomms new Trans-Atlantic fibre optic cable
- **Innovation Partnership** – digital technology programme targeted at all sectors but in particular for retail, leisure, and public transport services
- **The Edge - Incubation Office Space in Stanley Buildings** – provision of high quality, high tech managed workspace for start-ups and small businesses within the Town Centre

Communities Theme

- **Southern Quarter/Revoe Community Sports Village** – establishment of a sports village with leisure, education and residential uses including property acquisition/demolition to support private sector development

Skills Theme

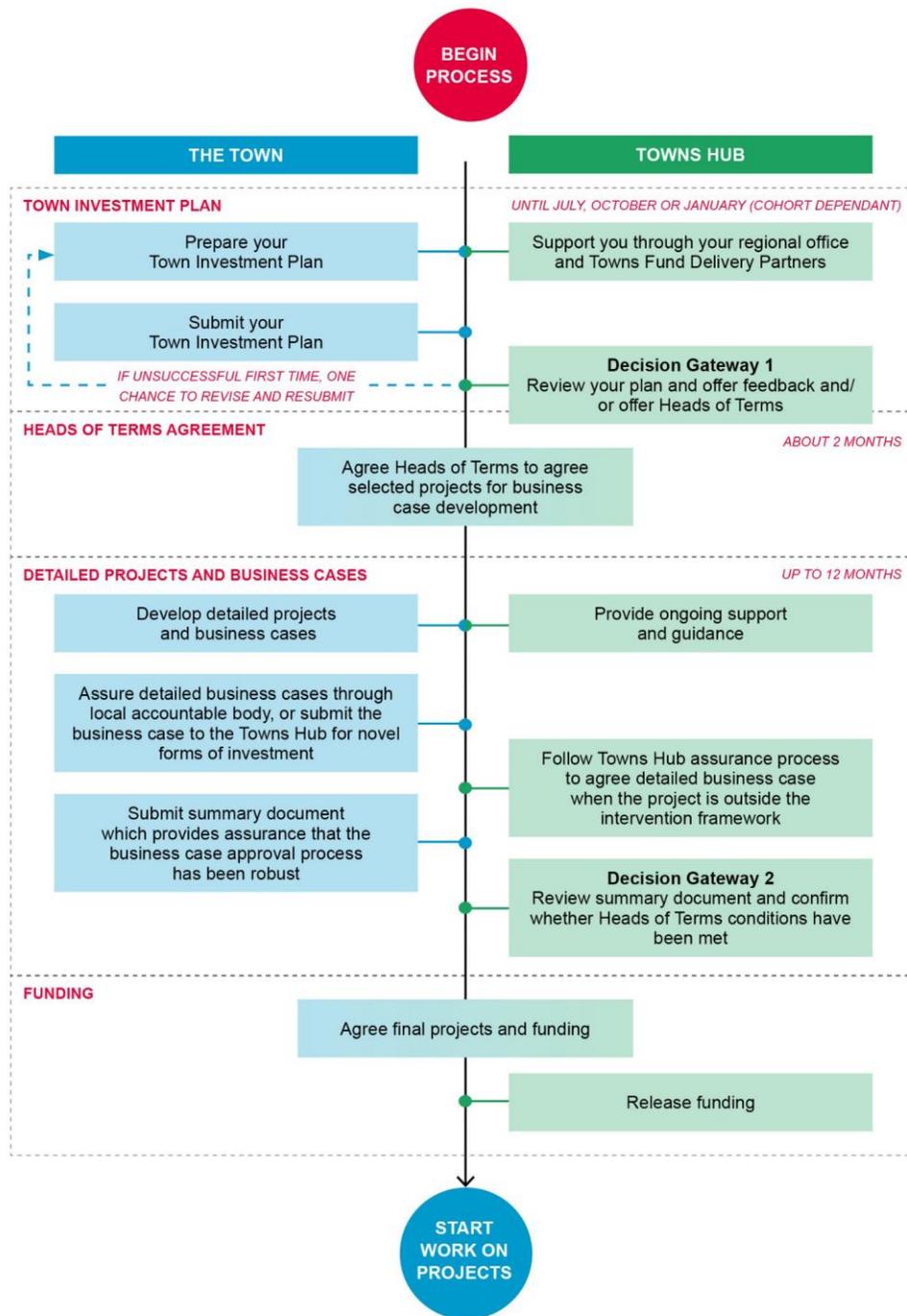
- **Multiversity** – feasibility work and acquisition of land to create a new university experience that facilitates higher level upskilling, reskilling and lifelong learning within the Town Centre and free up an existing College site for residential development
- **Youth Hub** – repurposing a town centre community hub to provide a focus for skills training and employability support for young people and vulnerable groups outside the labour market

Infrastructure:

- **Blackpool Illuminations** – modernisation and innovation of one of Blackpool's key assets to drive visitor numbers

Based on the earlier work as part of the Blackpool Town Prospectus, produced by the Pride of Place Partnership), alongside the request for £50m from the Towns Fund, a series of further 'asks' have been outlined to government to further develop the economy and tackle some of the complex patterns of deprivation. These asks include a £500m Town Deal funding to turbo charge the economy, to ensure a civil service hub is created in the town centre, support the potential of Blackpool's high speed fibre connection to the North Atlantic Loop, extend the Opportunity Area programme and funding until 2030, invest in building a new university campus in the town centre, extend the Enterprise Zones fiscal benefits till 2026, invest and support the Fylde Coast Tram Loop, pilot intensive neighbourhood schemes in certain Blackpool wards and work with the town to rebuild the economy, reduce unemployment and tackle mental health following the Covid-19 crisis.

Further to submission Government will consider (within two months) the priority schemes outlined for investment and respond to confirm within a Heads of Terms which schemes can be pursued each of which will require a full HM Treasury Green Book Business Case. Blackpool will be supported throughout these processes by the Towns Hub. The process for agreeing a Town Deal is as below:



6.0 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) – Blackpool Local Plan (2012 to 2027)

Appendix 6(b) – COVID – 19 Impact and Council Response

8.0 Legal Considerations:

Most of the developments referred to either do or will include individual legal agreements to protect the Council's investment and to secure the planned outcomes.

9.0 Human Resources considerations:

The implementation of this programme generates a heavy work load for which staff resources have been put in place.

10.0 Equalities Considerations:

The implementation of the Council's Growth and Prosperity Programme is designed to create extensive opportunities for employment and economic benefit to Blackpool residents and businesses

11.0 Financial considerations:

Each of the developments referred to have significant financial implications for which individual business cases are prepared and factored into the Council's budget. This includes securing significant levels private sector investment and grant funding.

12.0 Risk Management considerations:

Each of the developments has a business case which includes a review of risks.

13.0 Ethical considerations:

None

14.0 Internal / External Consultation undertaken:

Both formal and informal consultation has been and will continue to be a key part of the implementation of such an extensive programme of improvement.

15.0 Background papers:

None

APPENDIX 6(a) - BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN (2012 TO 2027)

Tourism is central to the planning policy framework set out in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (2012-2027) adopted by Full Council on 20 January 2016. At the heart of the Core Strategy is the Spatial Vision underpinning Blackpool's Status*as Britain's favourite seaside resort renowned for quality and innovation of its culture, entertainment and business Tourism offer.....*

The Spatial Vision is underpinned by 4 goals each of which are supported by a number of strategic objectives. Goal 3 specifically relates to the regeneration of the town centre and resort core and is explicitly supported by the following objectives:

- (14) Sustain a high quality, year-round visitor offer by growing and promoting our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer including new high quality attractions, accommodation and conferencing facilities and an exciting programme of national events and festivals
- (15) Secure investment in retail, leisure and other town centre uses in Blackpool Town Centre to strengthen the offer with high quality shopping, restaurants, leisure, entertainment and offices making the town centre the first choice shopping destination for Fylde Coast residents and an attractive place to visit and do business

These objectives are supported by the following key policies:

Policy CS1: Strategic Locations of Development. This policy identifies strategic locations for development including focusing Blackpool's future growth, development and investment on inner area regeneration which explicitly includes Blackpool Town Centre and Resort Core;

Policy CS4: Retail and other Town Centre Uses. This policy focuses major retail development in the town centre to strengthen its vitality and viability and highlights the preparation and implementation of a Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan;

Policy CS17: Blackpool Town Centre. This policy seeks to re-establish the town centre as the first choice shopping destination for Fylde Coast residents and strengthen the town centre as a cultural, leisure and business destination for resident and visitors through strengthening the retail offer; developing a café culture conserving and enhancing key heritage and entertainment assets; growing the office sector and enhancing quality building, streets and spaces; improving access and introducing a high quality residential offer.

Three strategic sites are identified in the Town Centre – Policies CS18: Winter Gardens; CS19: Central Business District (Talbot Gateway) and CS20: Leisure Quarter (Blackpool

Central). The policy framework recognises the crucial role these strategic sites have in driving the regeneration of the town centre and the detailed policy criteria ensures appropriate high quality development comes forward on these sites to fulfil the plan's vision and objectives.

Policy CS21: Leisure and Business Tourism. This policy recognises that if Blackpool is to build on its status as Britain's favourite seaside resort it needs to provide new high quality attractions and accommodation alongside investment in key existing leisure and entertainment landmarks. This will create more repeat visits and encourage new visitors to the resort year round, revitalising the visitor economy and positioning Blackpool at the forefront of the tourism market.

As the planning policy framework in the Core Strategy was progressing and to further support the regeneration of the town centre, a Town Centre Strategy was developed and adopted by the Council in 2013. The Blackpool Town Centre Strategy directly aligns with Core Strategy policy and aims to provide a clear direction to deliver positive change, improve business confidence and encourage quality investment from private and public sectors.

APPENDIX 6(b) – The Impact of COVID-19 and the Council’s Response

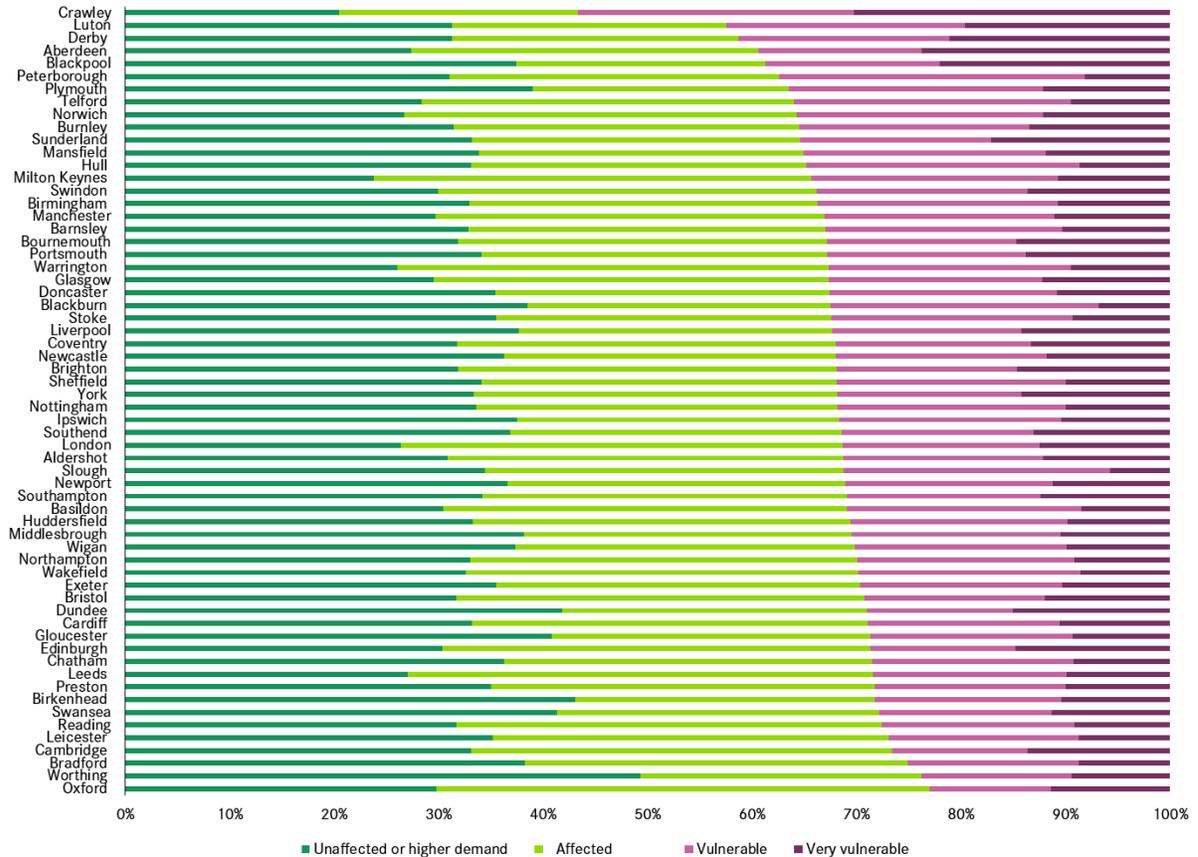
The impact of COVID 19 has and continues to be huge. *(Please note the figures below relate to the wider Blackpool and not just the town centre)*. As of July 2020, the claimant count for those who are primarily unemployed was at 12.3% amongst Blackpool’s working population - the highest rate in the country by local authority. On the 16th June a study by Institute for Fiscal Studies noted the 9 areas identified as hardest hit by COVID-19 – which included Blackpool, due to a "triple whammy" of having large numbers of elderly, high job losses and a lot of vulnerable children.

Over a third of eligible employments (excluding self-employments) have been furloughed in Blackpool South since the Job Retention Scheme began, making its local economy one of the hardest hit by the pandemic in the UK. As of the 31st July, 12,500 people in the area have been placed on the furlough scheme according to government estimates - which is almost 37% of those employed. Amongst self-employed workers in Blackpool South, 81% of the eligible self-employed population have accessed the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme since its inception. Since lockdown began, tourism, leisure and hospitality have been some of the worst-affected industries with a high take up within furlough schemes

The Local Data Company on Fri 17th April stated “Cities with high leisure exposure will be worst hit by lockdown. Places such as Blackpool and Scarborough that have fewer essential retailers, such as grocery stores, banks and pharmacies, and a high number of independent retailers will be hardest hit”... If you've got a high Level of independent retailers, a high proportion of leisure outlets and fewer essential retailers, you're going to fall into the hole,with leisure facilities "under significant pressure" from the pandemic”. In the study Blackpool had the “fewest essential retailers trading at 15% and tops the above average above average independent retailers at 80%.

A Blog posted by Centre For Cities on the 16th April 2020 by Kathrin Enenkel stated that In the short to medium term, around a third of the jobs in cities and large towns are in industries that are expected to be severely affected. Figure 1 shows cities ranked by the estimated vulnerability of their economy to the direct economic impact of COVID-19 given their industrial structure. Blackpool is noted as 4th worst for “very vulnerable industry sectors” and has major implications for how quickly cities are likely to bounce back after the crisis

Share of jobs exposed to the immediate effects of COVID-19



Source: BRES, Employment Count, 2018

Blackpool was particularly vulnerable to the regimes put in place to protect people from the virus due to our dependency on tourism and service industries; both of these by definition require people to gather in large groups and to interact. The tourism industry in particular saw virtually no activity over the 13 weeks of lockdown. According to the latest 2018 data Blackpool’s total GDP was £3.182 billion and the value of Tourism for the same year was £1.58 billion, thus demonstrating the importance of tourism to the Blackpool economy (c 50%). Though, over 40% of employee jobs in Blackpool are estimated to be within education, health and social work and public administration and defence, which have been some of the least affected sectors in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on jobs. In the North West and Great Britain, employees in these sectors make up just over 25% of employees. Indicating that Blackpool may have some potential increased stability amongst its working population against some potential future impacts of COVID-19 such as the phasing out of furlough support schemes.

The impact of COVID-19 is reflected in the current claimant counts issued by Office for National statistics (ONS). As stated earlier, 12.3% of Blackpool’s working age population (10,475) claim out-of-work benefits, an increase of more than 4,000 since March and an increase of over 5 percentage points. The current figure (July 2020) is the highest in Great Britain and compares to the North West average of 7.2% and Great Britain

average of 6.5%. Also of concern is the number of 18-24 year old claimants. Currently 17.9% of the 18-24 resident population, again the highest in Great Britain, an increase of over 8 percentage points since March.

COVID -19 Specific Responses

Blackpool has been proactively involved in developing 3 recovery plans to respond to the pandemic:

Blackpool Recovery Plan

As would be expected, Blackpool Council has created a dedicated **COVID 19 Recovery Plan** (with a town-wide focus). It was deemed critical that the Council had plans in place to support local people and local businesses as best it could to recover from the unprecedented business hiatus that has occurred as a result of the “lockdown” triggered by novel coronavirus COVID 19.

Clearly the Council did not develop this plan in isolation. There are many layers of activity, guidance, regulation and funding that were taken into account to avoid duplication of effort and to maximise the impact on Blackpool’s economy.

These include (non-exhaustive): -

- Central Government Recovery Group
- LGA Recovery Advice
- Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) Recovery Cell
- LRF Economy Task and Finish Group
- Lancashire Economic Partnership Recovery Group
- Lancashire Plan – Recovery Deloitte’s Recovery Document
- Visit England/Britain “Good to Go” Self-assessment standard and Advice
- National Trade Bodies advice (eg Camping and Caravanning, Self-Catering, Hotels, Pubs, Restaurants, Retail etc)
- Individual National Company recovery plans (eg Merlin, Parques Reunidos, Hilton etc)
- Individual Business Recovery Plans (eg Pleasure Beach)

These are also not fixed positions so advice, guidance, legislation and individual responses are changing constantly so the plan needs to be flexible enough to cope with that. The plan focuses around particular themes for support e.g

- **Retail** – Actions relate specifically to matters such as to the re-opening of shops and how social distancing measures can be upheld. For specific venues such as Houndshell, managing agents have produced an opening plan with compliant cleaning regimes, social distancing measures and appropriate signage.
- **General economy** – Key issues identified within the Masterplan include reduced cash flow for companies, unemployment or loss of staff, loss of

companies and diminished business confidence. Necessary actions which are subsequently outlined include passing on grants, liaising with the Department for Work and Pensions, and taking on Business Investment Marketing support.

- **Growth and Prosperity Programme** – Potential changes of contracting and timescales for projects which are mentioned within the Town Prospectus are detailed within the Action Plan. The projects specifically include Talbot Gateway, Blackpool Central, and the Enterprise Zone (where an annual revisit of the business plan is to take place with Covid-19 impacts in mind).
- **Skills and Employment** – The Action Plan sets out that the Council will bid for programmes to help people get back into work.

There were also general proposals and activity noted around **social distancing and** the use of social media activity to indicate what is open and to get over the safety message. Also activity to increase signage on social distancing on bus shelters and sites throughout the town centre, Stickers, signage and advice available from the Business

Tourism Recovery Plan

Owing to the importance of tourism to the town Blackpool also has its own, linked, **Tourism Recovery Plan** (June 2020). With Government easing restrictions on the tourism and hospitality industry from July 4th early action and consultation with key stakeholders was essential via a “Tourism Recovery Group” so that the Council could work closely with key attractions, holiday accommodation, pubs and restaurants during the lockdown and this will continue to meet for as long as deemed necessary.

Visit England have developed a new industry standard for tourism and hospitality businesses that is being rolled out and encouraged to Blackpool businesses. The accreditation scheme is entitled “We’re Good To Go” which Blackpool Council are supporting. Activity has included:

Resort Infrastructure - Extensive signage has been installed across the resort to reinforce the Safe Distancing. There are three variations – one aimed at beach users, one at visitors to our parks and the other a more generic one be installed at arrival points, car parks and at locations around the town centre. A fourth variation has been developed with the Town Centre BID to coincide with the easing of restrictions on non-essential retail from June 15.

Litter - The initial easing of lockdown restrictions created significant issues with litter being dumped on the promenade and beaches, even though bins were not full. In response to this, a new anti-littering campaign, “Don’t Be A Scruff, Bin Your Stuff”, has been launched with posters installed along the length of the promenade, supported by PR activity and a social media campaign.

Car Parking - At the end of May, the Council launched a new PayByPhone parking app that allows customers to pay for their parking without queuing, handling cash or touching payment machines. It also enables users to top up their parking session from a remote location.

Marketing Campaigns - As more of the restrictions are eased, messaging evolved into Visit Blackpool Safely and a reassurance, reflecting the fact that large numbers of visitors were heading to the coast. The Council intends to launch three distinct pieces of marketing activity over the remainder of 2020:

1. Know Before You Go

This first phase is focused on building trust with visitors and managing their expectations when they come here. Using weekly tracker research the council is provided with insights into the sort of attractions that consumers are most confident about visiting and what they will be looking for in terms of health and safety measures that are in place.

2. We're Good To Go

This second phase is about building demand as public confidence starts to return and taking on a much more proactive stance to inviting and welcoming visitors back to Blackpool.

3. Bring On The Light

The Illuminations season offers us an outstanding opportunity to both extend our tourism season to the end of the year and promote a visitor experience that will not be materially affected by post-lockdown restrictions. So the Council is working on a celebratory theme called "Bring On The Light" which will play to the perception that the country is finally emerging from a period of darkness.

Planning for 2021

The annual destination marketing campaign, which is delivered in association with key partners including Merlin, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Transport, Winter Gardens and Sandcastle Waterpark, usually commences at Easter and runs through to the end of August. For 2021, it is the Council intention to produce a brand new campaign which will be launched at the end of this year to ensure that we are in a strong position to capture people's attention when they are actively starting to think again about holiday plans,

Lancashire Recovery Plan

Blackpool Council has also been directly engaged in the creation of the **Lancashire Recovery Plan, "Redefining Lancashire "**, available at

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/917897/redefining-lancashire-our-approach-to-recovery-25-june-2020.pdf>

This plan outlined as a consequence of the impact of Covid-19, Lancashire's entire economic base has been adversely affected; manufacturing and tourism in particular, are at risk of irreparable damage. The pandemic will have significant impacts on the employment base and productivity across Lancashire for years to come. To date, 171,200 people have been furloughed across Lancashire by their employers and 18,834 redundancies have been announced. In May 2020, 82 Lancashire businesses went into liquidation or administration.

The impact on Lancashire's economy is yet to be fully realised, but already, there is an emerging picture of differential impact, across industry sectors, occupations and places. As a more granular understanding is developed, of the intensity and scale of impact, it's already clear that some parts of the economy will face long term obstacles to growth, and others will never recover. A series of projects and programmes are set out and designed to support the refunctioning of the Lancashire economy over the next 12 months. The programmes identified for support have been designed to bridge the gap between direct short-term support provided to reopen town centres and restart public transport, and the longer term strategic ambition for Lancashire and the associated infrastructure and capital investment projects. The key objectives are:-

Objectives

- 1 Support businesses to re-open
- 2 Support the re-functioning of the economy in the short term
- 3 Support local supply chain development
- 4 Respond to pipeline shocks in the economy resulting from current shutdown
- 5 Set the trajectory for the Greater Lancashire Plan and commence a pipeline of investment in major strategic projects.
- 6 Benefit Lancashire's workforce in the short-term and prepare for significant unemployment growth post-furlough.

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Date of Meeting	9 September 2020

LEISURE SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To review the performance of Leisure Services with an emphasis on service delivery, statistics, performance indicators and customer satisfaction. The report provides an update on performance following on from the previous report presented in 2019.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To scrutinise the performance of the service and identify any matters for further scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

- 3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of Leisure Services.

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Request Internal Audit to programme into the annual work plan.
Refer to external audit.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 Leisure Services contribute to all three council priorities;
- Priority One 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool';
 - Priority Two 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'
 - Priority Three 'Organisational Resilience'

5.0 Report Information

5.1 Scope of the Report

- 5.1.1 The report provides an update on the performance of Leisure services with year end finance and key KPI figures for 2019/20.
- 5.1.2 Leisure Services deliver a broad range of activities and programmes from within the three main leisure facilities and in community settings to help local residents to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.
- 5.1.3 The scope of this report includes all service areas within Leisure, as set out below:
- 5.1.4
- Leisure facilities;
 - Palatine Leisure Centre
 - Blackpool Sports Centre
 - Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre
 - Outdoor Activities Service
 - School Games programme
 - Active Blackpool GP Referral programme
 - Family Weight Management programme – Making Changes
 - Community Outreach programmes.
- 5.1.5 A background paper providing a detailed overview of the structure of Leisure Services can be found at Appendix 7(a).
- 5.1.6 In 2019/20 Leisure Services received over 975,000 attendances to activities and facilities provided across Blackpool, with the three main leisure facilities seeing 943,000 attendances alone. In the previous two years, the service achieved in excess of 1 million visits, which would have also been achieved in 2019/20 had the service not had to close due to COVID-19. The leisure service provides a range of activities and programmes to meet the growing demand of supporting

people to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. The range of services include targeted programmes that are free at the point of delivery along with a broad range of universal activities, which are available at a subsidised rate. The leisure facilities offer a range of concessionary pricing options for targeted groups along with ‘pay as you go’, direct debit and annual membership options for those accessing the facilities on a regular basis.

5.2 **Budget Information**

5.2.1 Leisure Services has an annual expenditure budget of £4,359,000 and an annual income target of £3,548,000, resulting in a net annual cost of £810,000 to Blackpool Council for the provision of leisure services.

5.3 **Service Performance, Highlights and Challenges**

5.3.1 A Performance dashboard can be found in Appendix 7(b) giving a more detailed overview of patronage, member and retention performance in key areas along with customer feedback statistics for 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.

5.4 **Health and Fitness**

5.4.1 Leisure Services operate health and fitness facilities at all three of its leisure centres. The facilities include dedicated fitness studios, spinning studios and exercise class studios at each site. In 2019/20 the health and fitness facilities had over 238,000 visits across the three sites with Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre seeing the highest number of visits.

5.4.2 From the below table it can be seen that cumulative visits were consistent with the previous year, until a sharp drop in March following the closure of the centers on the 21st March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overall Facility Patronage	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cumulative 18/19	722,743	815,683	902,135	992,407
Cumulative 19/20	727,355	812,510	897,912	947,841
Cumulative 19/20 vs Last Year	101%	100%	100%	96%

5.4.3 At the time of closure on the 21st March 2020, memberships appear

down on the previous year, however this was due to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic causing an increase in cancellations in March, just before closure. Analysis of memberships in February, show that memberships had increased compared to the previous year by 3%.

Health and Fitness Memberships	Feb	Mar
2018/19	3143	3241
2019/20	3242	2838
Difference	3%	-12%

- 5.4.4 Despite the early closure in March 2020, due to COVID-19, income for Health and Fitness was 99% of the previous year. The health and fitness income targets remain a challenge for the service, but a number of capital developments to improve and refresh the facilities to help attract a new market are being developed.
- 5.4.5 £130,000 was invested in the ground floor changing rooms and toilets at Blackpool Sports Centre in September 2019 to improve the customer experience. In addition, Leisure Services invested in EGYM machines for the same site which were opened under the name Express Fitness and housed as part of the current Fitness Studio. The machines make strength training accessible to everyone and guarantees results with just two 30-minute workouts per week. In February 2020, 696 unique users used Express Fitness which is 78% of the membership at Blackpool Sports Centre.
- 5.4.6 Leisure Services are working in partnership with EGYM and local health partners to develop a study focusing on health outcomes for diabetics and sedentary members of the local community, which is expected to commence in January 2021. The study involves demonstrating the health benefits of EGYM strength, flexibility and cardiovascular equipment and EGYM have committed to providing a number of new pieces of equipment free of charge to support the study, which will be installed in November 2020.
- #
- 5.4.7 Palatine Leisure Centre is currently closed for refurbishment work which will see significant investment in its ground floor facilities. The work includes a reconfiguration of the entrance and reception area to improve controlled access to the facilities and provide a more welcoming experience for customers. In addition, both the dry side and pool changing rooms will be redeveloped to provide improved changing spaces for customers.

5.4.8 A new exercise class timetable will be launched in October 2020 across Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre and Blackpool Sports Centre. The review was conducted with Exercise Class Instructors and will see a greater variety across the centres. The new classes will involve a mixture of freestyle classes and the introduction of further Les Mills classes (the world's largest exercise class brand).

5.4.9 As part of the exercise class timetable review, £23,500 was invested at Blackpool Sports Centre on new indoor cycles, which include inbuilt 'coach by colour' technology ensuring that each bike is calibrated to the fitness of each user, meaning that the intensity of the workout is relative for all participants regardless of their fitness, ensuring that they all get the same training benefits from the class. The instructor can also see that the class are all working out at the same relative intensity, which aids their coaching of the class.

5.5 **Health Referral Programme**

5.5.1 The health referral programme is aimed at individuals who would benefit from additional support to lead a more active lifestyle. The service works closely with a number of specialist health teams including stroke, cardiac, cancer, diabetes, bariatrics and MSK (musculoskeletal) as well as GP surgeries to support patients within these services to lead an active and health lifestyle through a range of activities and programmes.

5.5.2 The programme is open ended, allowing customers to access the service for life. There is an ongoing cost for customers from the start of the programme, giving them the opportunity to 'pay as you go' or pay for a membership via a monthly direct debit (£20/month).

5.5.3 The team have received 1,014 referrals (excluding cardiac) in the previous 12 months with customers being offered a broad range of activities including wellbeing circuits, chair-based exercise, cardiac rehabilitation classes, heart failure classes, swimming, gym, table tennis, cycling, walking netball, nutrition classes, pilates, respiratory classes, Swimtag, indoor cycling, golf, Nordic walking and a range of exercise classes.

5.5.4 The service continues to work with the Cardiac Rehabilitation Service at Blackpool Victoria Teaching Hospital, who work in partnership to deliver a cardiac rehabilitation programme for clients who have a cardiac condition, including heart failure, from the leisure facilities. In 2019/20 the health referral programme received 141 cardiac

rehabilitation referrals, this is an increase of 38% compared with 2018/19 when 102 referrals were received. Having invested in training staff to deliver specialist cardiac classes, the service are able to cater for the increased number of referrals.

5.5.5 Working in partnership with the stroke team at Blackpool Victoria Teaching Hospital in October 2019, the health referral team implemented a neuro referral pathway and pilot project engaging with 6 clients per week over a 12-week period. Since then the service has seen a total of 93 participants referred through this new pathway attend the neuro sessions and the feedback has been very positive. There has been a gradual increase in participants attending and specific sessions within the gym have also been introduced to offer variety to the clients. The service will continue to work with the stroke team at Blackpool Victoria Teaching Hospital to develop this specialized rehabilitation for patients with neurological conditions.

5.5.6 The health referral team will continue to work with local and national partners to develop the health referral programme including the introduction of an online Refer-ALL system that will enable the service to track all participants from initial referral through to activity engagement. The team are currently exploring the opportunity to develop post Covid rehabilitation programmes which may require additional staff training including the potential for employees to complete the respiratory rehabilitation level 4 qualification.

5.6 **Learn to Swim**

5.6.1 The learn to swim scheme which runs at both Palatine Leisure Centre and Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre provides an opportunity for children to learn to swim, develop their aquatic skills and ultimately progress into the local swimming club, Blackpool Aquatics. Leisure Services work in partnership with Blackpool Aquatics to provide a seamless progression pathway and competitive swimming opportunities for local people.

5.6.2 In 2018/19 learn to swim patronage was 77,120 across both sites, this was a 4% increase on the previous year. In 2019/20 learn to swim patronage has again increased by 3.8% to 80,066 across both sites. It is positive to see a consistent increase over the last 2 years and presents an opportunity for increased income generation and an increase in the number of children learning a vital life skill.

5.6.3

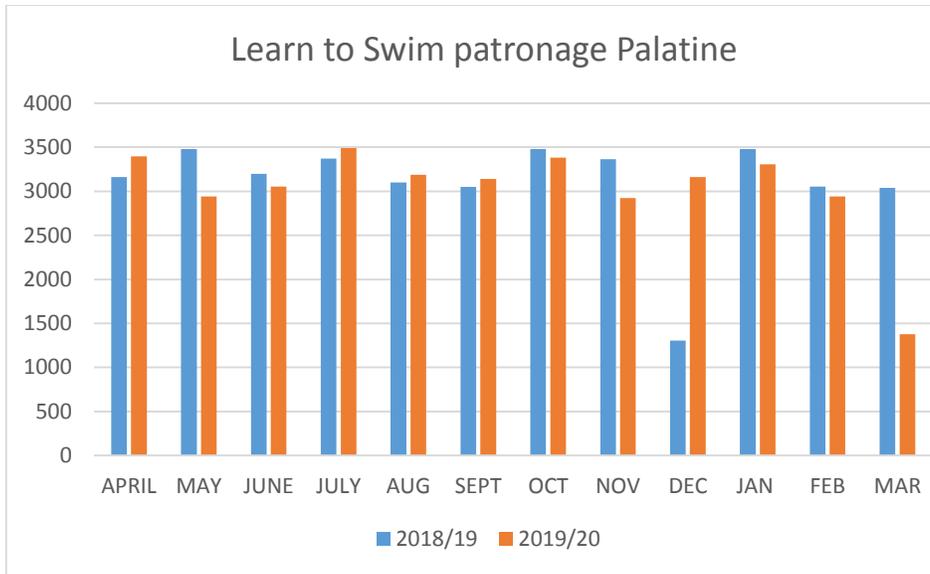


Figure 1 Learn to Swim patronage at Palatine

5.6.4

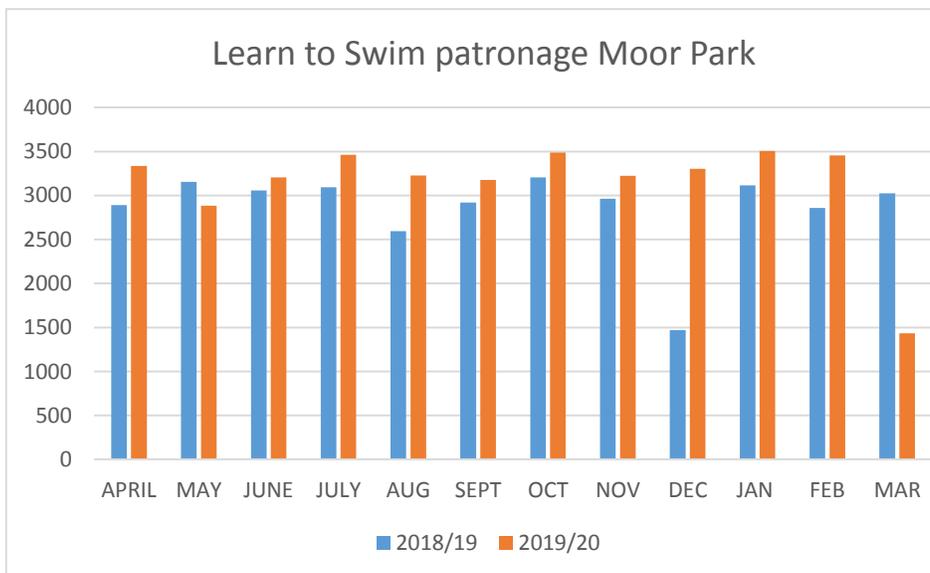


Figure 2 Learn to Swim patronage at Moor Park

5.6.5

The growth of the Learn to Swim scheme does present some challenges – increased pool time is required and the pool timetable is reviewed regularly to ensure optimum pool use. Leisure Services continue to develop the working relationship with Swim England and the Swimming Teachers Association to ensure the service have suitably qualified and experienced staff, which has traditionally been a challenge. In summer 2019 the service hosted a Level 1 and Level 2 Swim Teacher course which has led to the recruitment of new swimming teachers to help with the increased number of children on

the learn to swim programme. This will need to continue as the learn to swim scheme develops.

5.7 Feel Good Factory

5.7.1 Leisure Services have two Feel Good Factory facilities – one at Palatine Leisure Centre and the other at Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre. The facilities are aimed at the older generation and adults who are inactive. The facilities offer a range of toning equipment that are easy to use and low impact in a friendly and social setting, providing a workout environment that is relaxing and informal.

5.7.2 During 2019/20 there have been 66,698 attendances across the two sites compared with 72,913 in 2018/19, an overall decrease of 8.5%.

5.7.3

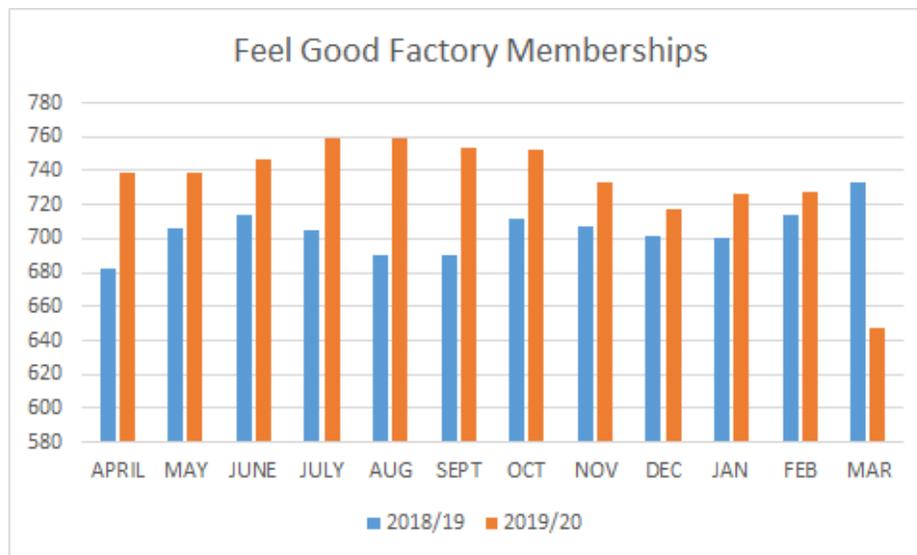


Figure 3 shows the Feel Good Factory Memberships

5.7.4 Whilst the patronage has reduced, the number of members using the facilities has grown in 2019/20 by 4% in comparison to 2018/19 and the retention has also improved demonstrating that customers are happy with the service they are receiving. The members reduced by 11% in March 2020 due to the Covid-19.

5.7.5 50% of customers attending the Feel Good Factory facilities have been referred from the health referral programme. As the health referral programme develops post-COVID we hope to see this referral pathway continue to develop and support with the growth of Feel Good Factory

membership base.

- 5.7.6 Customers are encouraged to be measured on a regular basis to record inch loss and whilst not all customers opt for this, the facility has seen 3,311 inches lost in 2019/20.

5.8 **Outdoor Activities**

- 5.8.1 The Outdoor Activity Service renewed its Adventure Activities Licensing Authority license in March 2019, enabling them to continue providing a range of watersports activities including kayaking, canoeing and raft building on Stanley Park Lake to children and young people across Blackpool. In addition, the service offers a range of outdoor activity packages, including high ropes activities, team building, den building and ecological activities, rock climbing and bouldering.
- 5.8.2 The service is continuing to increase the range of groups and organisations it works with including an ongoing partnership arrangement with the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) who now include 20 hours/ week of outdoor activities as part of their curriculum offering to all of their pupils. Furthermore, a number of primary and secondary schools have purchased education packages to enable local children to develop their skills and experiences through outdoor activities.
- 5.8.3 An ongoing challenge for this service remains the unpredictable nature of British weather, which impacts particularly on 'pay on the day' customers to both the high ropes course and watersports activities. The service has focused on developing the number of groups and schools who purchase longer term packages over several weeks or months as these are less impacted by the weather.

5.9 **Swimming**

- 5.9.1 Swimming is offered at Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre and Palatine Leisure Centre. The programme offers a range of opportunities to enjoy the pools from family fun sessions to fitness swimming. The pools are also utilised for adult and children's swimming lessons, school swimming, swimming clubs and events and competitions which can place conflicting demands on the space available and present a challenge for public swimming space.

5.9.2 Public swimming patronage saw a slight decline of 5% up to February 2020 compared to the previous year as demonstrated in the table below. The reduction is largely due to a reduction in the number of free swims in 2019/20 compared to last year. There was a further decline in March 2020 due to the Centres closing on the 21st March as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

5.9.3

Swimming Patronage	Feb	Mar
Cumulative 18/19	101611	110269
Cumulative 19/20	96790	101532
Cumulative 19/20 vs Last Year	95%	92%

5.9.4 In spite of the early closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic reducing the number of visits to 92% of the previous year, income was 96% of the previous year. Cumulative to February before the early closure in March, swimming income was at 101% of the previous year.

5.10 **Free Swimming Under 16s**

5.10.1 Active Blackpool continue to offer free swimming to under 16s during school holidays, in 2018/19 there were 13,432 free attendances compared with 2019/20 where there were 8,973 attendances. In the previous 12 months there have been some changes to the free swimming session times. Previously children could attend for the full day, however this caused a number of operational challenges and often resulted in a lower quality swimming experience for different users accessing the space, therefore both pools changed the timetable to allow a 2 hour morning and 2 hour afternoon session for children and young people to attend for free.

5.11 **Community Outreach Programmes**

5.11.1 Active Blackpool continue to develop the community provision and have worked with a number of ward councilors to deliver holiday programmes to engage with young people and promote physical activity. There has been a reduction in patronage in 2019/20 due to changes in the programmes delivered (FA Skills and Better Start Volunteer Programme ceased) and reduced school buy in. There were also a number of events cancelled in March 2020 due to Covid 19.

5.11.2 Working with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), local tennis clubs and community courts the Tennis for Free programme was launched in

September 2019 in 2 Blackpool parks (Cavendish and Highfield Road park). The aim of the programme is to engage with families to increase tennis participation. The service intends to develop the programme further in 2021 at Anchorsholme park and Claremont park. The Table Tennis- Ping! programme continues, and 20 tables remain out in community locations in Blackpool.

5.11.3 In 2019 Active Blackpool delivered a number community sports sessions during the summer weeks due to successful funding bids with a range of partners. The main programme of delivery throughout the summer was the Holiday Hunger Programme which engaged children and young people across Blackpool who would ordinarily go without a meal. Several sports sessions were delivered each week by the Active Blackpool Sports Coaching Team and food and refreshments provided at the end of each session through Blackpool Catering Services. The programme was a huge success and played a significant part in the well-being of many children and young people over a time of year that can often be problematic and stressful for some families.

5.11.4 Active Blackpool have been involved with the Blackpool Summer of Fun initiative delivered in Summer 2020. This year the programme involved online provision as well as face to face delivery within socially distanced bubbles.

5.11.5 The community programmes will continue to develop over the next 3 years and will link well with the Get Out Get Active programme.

5.12 **MAN v FAT Football**

5.12.1 MAN v FAT Football continues to be a popular programme delivered by Active Blackpool on the 3G pitches at Blackpool Sports Centre. In 2018/19 the patronage was 1502 (7 months) and in 2019/20 the patronage was 1618. Season 5 is due to start in September 2020.

5.12.2



Figure 5 shows an infographic of Season 1, 2 and 3.

5.12.3

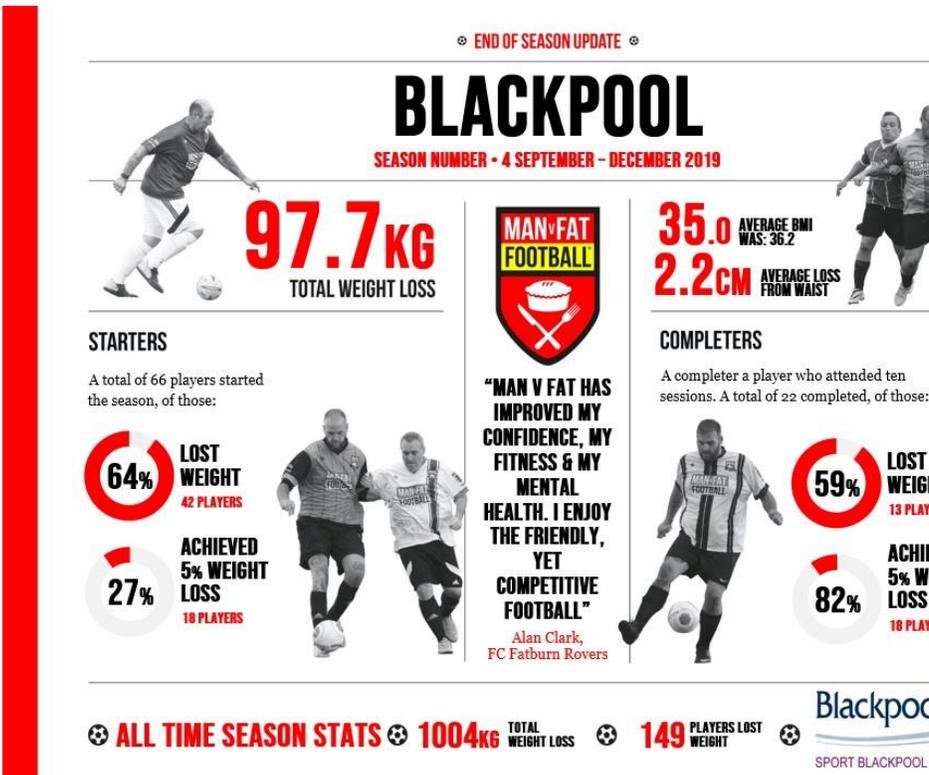


Figure 6 Shows an infographic of Season 4

5.13 **Customer Engagement**

- 5.13.1 Leisure Services take a proactive approach to engaging with customers and encourage them to provide feedback on their visitor experience to enable the service to make informed decisions on how to improve the service.
- 5.13.2 Leisure Services uses an internationally recognised system for proactively measuring satisfaction amongst service users. A more detailed overview and performance information taken from the system can be found at Appendix 7(c).
- 5.13.3 Net Promoter Score®, or NPS®, measures customer experience across a number of business sectors internationally. Customers are asked ‘On a scale of 0 - 10 how likely are you to recommend Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre to friends and family?’ Appendix 7(b) shows that between May 2019 and March 2020 (due to service closure) over 15,000 feedback questionnaires were sent to customers with over 2,600 responding. Both the number of questionnaires sent was an increase on the previous year by 178% and the number of responses were an increase of 217% over the previous year, which demonstrates that our customers are actively engaged with the service enabling us to develop and improve the service based on the most recent feedback. The service achieved a Net Promoter score over the period of 51, which is two points higher than the UK average and is higher than the previous year.

6.0 **Key achievements in 2019/20**

- 6.0.1 The service has seen a number of key achievements in the previous year:
- 6.0.2 Active Blackpool secured £280,000 of external funding from Activity Alliance to deliver a Get Out Get Active Programme from April 2020 to March 2023. The programme supports the least-active disabled and non-disabled people to enjoy being active together.
- 6.0.3 The programme is being delivered in partnership Blackpool Coastal Housing. It aims to highlight the benefits of physical activity and increase the number of people who are able to access and enjoy local opportunities.
- 6.0.4 Sport England Funding of £75,000 to work with Adult Social Care to deliver a pilot and test a new approach to engage with inactive people with long term health conditions (LTHCs) to be more active. The pilot

aims to provide education, improve awareness of physical activity opportunities within the community and get people with LTHCs more physically active. The main target audience for this pilot will be those who are referred onto the reablement programme delivered by Adult Social Care.

6.0.5 The installation of EGYM as Express Fitness in September at Blackpool Sports Centre, has resulted in 163% increase in the number of fitness studio sessions recorded in the months September – February compared to the previous year. By contrast, April to August (prior to install) had 99.6% of fitness studio sessions compared to the previous year.

6.1 **Future Priorities**

6.1.1 **Active Lives Strategy**

6.1.2 Active Blackpool are currently working with consultants on an 'Active Lives' strategy with initial consultation with key stakeholders being completed in Spring 2020 and the intention of a draft Strategy being shared with stakeholders, members and the public in the June/July 2020. This work was delayed as a result of COVID-19 and the new timetable will see the draft strategy go out to consultation in September 2020, with the intention of a final strategy being signed off and adopted in late Autumn 2020. The strategy will interact with a number of other strategies particularly the council's Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

6.1.3 **Blackpool Sports Centre Second 3G Pitch**

6.1.4 Leisure Services continue to work with Lancashire FA and the Football Foundation to secure funding for two new 4G playing facilities within Blackpool. The proposals are for one to be located within the new Enterprise Zone on Common Edge and a second pitch to replace the current sand dressed pitch on Stanley Park. These proposals are based on the demands identified in the recently refreshed Play Pitch Strategy.

6.1.5 A Blackpool Football Development Plan is in place, and the Football Development Steering Group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to drive forward the objectives and actions within the plan.

6.1.6 Active Travel

6.1.7 Active Blackpool are working with colleagues in Highways and Transport to apply for funding from the Emergency Active Travel Fund. The objectives of the Emergency Active Travel Fund are to help local authorities implement measures to create an environment that is safer for both walking and cycling (both, not one or the other). This will allow cycling to replace journeys previously made by public transport and will have an essential role to play in the short term in helping avoid overcrowding on public transport systems. Longer term, it will also help deliver significant health, environmental and congestion benefits.

6.1.8 If successful in the bid, some of the funding will be used to support the recruitment of an Active Travel Officer who will lead on a local Cycling and Walking strategy and develop active travel in Blackpool.

6.1.9 Covid-19 Response

6.1.10 Active Blackpool have been heavily involved in the Blackpool Council Covid-19 response, the Sports Halls at Blackpool Sports Centre were set up as a food distribution centre, staff have been re-deployed to work in community food hubs and other various services including building cleaning, Bristol Avenue HWRC, ARC Rehabilitation Centre, and ENVECO.

6.1.11 This response has provided an opportunity for Active Blackpool to promote the importance of Physical Activity, Health and Well-being to the Blackpool Community, and rethink the approach to engage with the community. Active Blackpool are keen to develop the community engagement, and the funding received from Activity Alliance to deliver Get Out Get Active will facilitate this approach in some of the most deprived areas of Blackpool. Throughout Covid the service has distributed 220 Get Out Get Active booklets and 120 Table Tennis Bats and Balls.

6.1.12 The Active Blackpool team conducted welfare visits to those who were shielding, these visits provided an opportunity to engage and talk to residents about their activity levels. Further information has been sent out to each resident (6,000) who received a shielding letter with further information about Active Blackpool and the services that are available to support post Covid/lockdown.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

- 9.0 List of Appendices:**
Appendix 7(a) – Leisure Services Background Paper
Appendix 7(b) – Leisure Services Performance dashboard
Appendix 7(c) – Net Promoter Score (NPS) Overview
- 10.0 Legal considerations:**
None
- 11.0 Human Resources considerations:**
None
- 12.0 Equalities considerations:**
None
- 13.0 Financial considerations:**
None
- 14.0 Risk management considerations:**
None
- 15.0 Ethical considerations:**
None
- 16.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:**
None
- 17.0 Background papers:**
None

Leisure Services – Service Scope

As the strategic lead for sport and physical activity across Blackpool, Leisure Services has a broad scope in the range of programmes delivered, facilities operated and range of projects the service is involved in, working closely with partners locally, regionally and nationally to drive the physical activity agenda across the local area. This paper provides an overview of the service scope.

Leisure facilities

Leisure Services operate the three main leisure facilities strategically located in the north, central and south areas of Blackpool, to make the facilities as accessible as possible to local people;

- Blackpool Sports Centre
- Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre
- Palatine Leisure Centre

Furthermore, the service have recently entered into a partnership with South Shore Academy to operate their sports facilities outside of school hours, making the sports hall, 3G pitch and dance studio open for community use.

The service also manages the Blackpool Outdoor Activity Service, which included the high ropes, and underground caving facilities on Stanley Park as well as the coach led water sport activities on Stanley Park lake.

Leisure Services operates health and fitness facilities at all three of its leisure centres. The facilities include dedicated fitness studios, spinning studios and exercise class studios at each site. This is a key business area for the service, contributing close to £1million in income to the service income targets.

GP Health Referral

The GP health referral programme is aimed at individuals who would benefit from additional support to lead a more active lifestyle. Traditionally the programme has accepted referrals from health practitioners, with a particular focus on GP surgeries. However, over the last 2 years there has been a focus on increasing the referral partners to other health practitioners and partners including the Musculoskeletal service located at Whitegate Drive Health Centre, the Stroke Service and cardiac respiratory service located at Blackpool Victoria Teaching hospital as well as specialist cancer, diabetic and pre-diabetic services.

Learn to Swim

The learn to swim scheme which runs at both Palatine Leisure Centre and Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre provides an opportunity for children to learn to swim, develop their aquatic skills and ultimately progress into the local swimming club, Blackpool Aquatics. Leisure Services work in partnership with Blackpool Aquatics to provide a seamless progression pathway and competitive swimming opportunities for local people.

School Swimming Service

The school swimming service operates at both Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre and Palatine Leisure Centre, with the majority of Blackpool primary schools buying into the service. Schools swim for a total of 35 weeks/ year and aim to achieve the KS2 criteria which includes swimming 25m unaided and treading water.

Free Swimming

Leisure Services provides free swimming for every child and young person during the school holidays at both of the council operated swimming pools.

Feel Good Factory

Leisure Services have two Feel Good Factory facilities – one at Palatine Leisure Centre and the other at Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre. The facilities are aimed at the older generation and adults who are inactive. The facilities offer a range of toning equipment that are easy to use and low impact in a friendly and social setting, providing a workout environment that is relaxing and informal.

Family Weight Management Programme

The Family Weight Management programme is funded by Public Health and delivered by Active Blackpool. The programme targets Primary School age (4-11 years) who are above a healthy weight. It is mandatory that a parent/carer of each child should attend each session of the programme. The aim of the service is to improve knowledge and skills around healthy eating and physical activity, to enable them to use these skills to make and sustain healthy lifestyle choices. A full breakdown of the performance is shown in appendix one. Public Health have extended the funding from April 2020 until 31st March 2021.

Outdoor Activities

The outdoor activity service renewed its AALA license in March 2019, enabling them to provide a range of water sports activities including kayaking, canoeing and raft building on Stanley Park Lake to children and young people across Blackpool. In addition, the service offers a range of outdoor activity packages, including high ropes activities, team building, den building and ecological activities, rock climbing and bouldering.

The service provides activity packages for a range of groups and organisations including a partnership with the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) who include 20 hours/ week of outdoor activities as part of their curriculum offering to all of their pupils. Furthermore, a number of primary and secondary schools have purchased education packages to enable local children to develop their skills and experiences through outdoor activities.

Passport to Leisure

The Passport to Leisure scheme provides free and reduced access to leisure provision for all of our looked after children and young people up to the age of 21 years. Young adults, up to the age of 25

years are also included if in full-time training, education or in an apprenticeship and where they are involved with the Leaving Care Service. The scheme allows access to a broad range of activities and facilities including free access to swimming, gyms, badminton, table tennis, rock climbing and bouldering. It also provides half price access to swimming lessons, gymnastics programmes, holiday activities and exercise classes. Every looked after child is automatically enrolled on the scheme with a leisure card and accompanying information being sent to their residing address.

Bikeability

Leisure Services deliver the Bikeability programme, teaching primary school children to ride their bikes safely, giving them the confidence and skills to use their bikes for active travel.

In 2018/19, 733 children engaged in Level 1 and Level 2 and 27 on the Level 3. In 2019/20, 688 children took part in the level 1 and level 2, and 38 on the Level 3. The programme is delivered through interested primary schools across Blackpool.

Sport4Champions

The Sport4Champions programme is a 6 week programme delivered to year 6 children in partnership with Blackpool Catering Services, promoting and encouraging both healthy eating and physical activity, supporting participants to identify their strengths and opportunities to join local activities outside of school to help develop lifelong physical activity habits. The programme is reviewed regularly to ensure the information is up to date and the challenges are suitable for the children.

In 2018/19 there were 445 children from 13 schools engaged on the programme, in 2019/20 there were 223 from 6 schools. Unfortunately, 5 schools missed out due to Covid, this would have been approx. 240 pupils.

Due to an increase in the number of schools signing up with Blackpool Catering Services from September 2020, it is anticipated that Sport 4 Champions will be delivered to 21 Blackpool Schools in 2020/21. This is great news for the service and we hope this partnership with Catering Services continues.

School Games

The School Games Programme is a national initiative aimed at improving physical activity levels and providing competitive sporting opportunities in educational settings. During the 2019/20 academic year, the initiative engaged 31 primary, 8 secondary and 3 special schools, educational diversity and 2 colleges. In 2018/2019 there were 28,465 attendances and in 2019/2020 there were 14,913, p to March 2020.

The programme provides an opportunity for students to experience 41 different sports, to highlight and promote the range of physical activity opportunities available to them outside of the mainstream sports traditionally provided by schools. This included the introduction of Boxing and Gym/fitness to the 2019/20 offer.

In June 2019 Blackpool Youth Games saw 25 events and 2'828 engagement connections. All Blackpool schools are currently engaged on the School Games programme.

The Level 3 Spar Lancashire School Games competition once again returned to Blackpool in July 2019, a great event to host in Stanley Park, Blackpool. Schools from across Blackpool represented #Team Blackpool in a series of county finals.



Cllr Kirkland and Cllr Hutton with Brian Rose and #Team Blackpool School Children representing #TeamBlackpool at the Lancashire School Games in July 2019.

Community Outreach Programme

Over recent years Active Blackpool have developed partnerships with organisations in the local community to deliver sport and physical activity programmes. Working alongside 'friends' groups and local councillors a number of programmes have been delivered, and in the last 12 months the offer has increased.

Get Out Get Active

Get Out Get Active (GOGA) is a three-year programme delivered across the UK which supports the least-active disabled and non-disabled people to enjoy being active together.

The programme is being delivered in partnership Blackpool Coastal Housing. It aims to highlight the benefits of physical activity and increase the number of people who are able to access and enjoy local opportunities.

GOGA is funded by its founder, Spirit of 2012, and has received additional investment from Sport England and the London Marathon Charitable Trust. Active Blackpool's GOGA programme will cater for people of all abilities and will promote the benefits that exercise can have on our self-esteem, physical health and mental wellbeing.

As well as being open to participants, a number of volunteer opportunities are also available, including the chance to become a community peer mentor.

Man V Fat

Man V Fat has been delivered since September 2018 in partnership with Man V Fat. The target audience is to engage with men who are overweight to increase their physical activity levels. The 16 week initiative brings together a 5a-side league combined with weigh-in sessions in an all-male environment to encourage men to discuss the challenges they face and work as a team to score goals and loose weight to win the league.

Work placements and Apprenticeship Opportunities

Leisure Services have worked hard in recent years to establish a strong apprenticeship programme across the service, providing apprenticeships in four different service areas. These apprenticeships are promoted in partnership with children's services to ensure the opportunities reach vulnerable young people looking for employment. The service always looks to recruit from the local area and have had a number of apprentices complete the programme and progress into permanent employment with the service.

Leadership & Volunteering

Blackpool Sixth continued to provide a substantial workforce through the Blackpool Leadership Academy and saw the majority of students completing their required leadership hours as part of their studies. At the end of this period, we had engaged with 92 young leaders from Blackpool Sixth across the whole of the 2018/19 academic year.



Leisure Serv
Lisa Arnold, Leisure Services Manager
June 2019

Concessionary Pricing Scheme

Leisure Services operate a concessionary pricing scheme providing reduced price access to leisure facilities and activities to local residents who are either; over 60 years old; under 16 years; on low/no income; disabled.

Free Access for Carers

We allow carers who accompany a disabled user to access a range of activities for free across our three leisure sites, including swimming and the fitness rooms.

Under 5's swim free

Throughout the year, parents can bring a child under the age of five swimming for free.

Blackpool Polar Bears Disability Swimming Club

Blackpool Council, Leisure Services financially support Blackpool Polar Bears to provide free swimming lessons to adults and children with a disability from across Lancashire. The club are provided with free use at Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre every Sunday morning and coaches to support the session are provided by leisure services free of charge.

Over 50's free inductions

Anyone over the age of 50 years is entitled to a free induction within one of our three leisure facilities, to encourage more over 50's to become or remain physically active as they get older.

Active Lives Strategy

Active Blackpool are currently working on an 'Active Lives' strategy. Active lives can be defined as a whole town approach, in line with Sports England, to encourage the residents of Blackpool to be more active in their lives, whether that be through sports, physical activity and active transport.

The strategy will be used to set the strategic direction for physical activity, sport and active lifestyles over the next 5 years. The strategy will interact with a number of other strategies particularly the council's Blue & Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The ambition for this strategy is that it:

1. Is intelligence-led and supports locally identified priorities and reflects the renewed ambition and positioning of the area
2. Sets out a vision for physical activity, sport and active lives in Blackpool, which is centred around the needs of the community and in particular reaches parts of the community who are inactive.
3. Interfaces and has clear synergy with current national and local stakeholder strategies/priorities.
4. Is underpinned by a partnership approach between the council, the community and other partners delivering sport, physical activities and wider wellbeing activities. We envisage that the

ambition set out in the strategy will be fulfilled by working with the community, and in partnership with providers and organisations that can each play a key role in our aims.

5. Creates a high-level strategic approach to improving the borough's provision in order to fulfil the ambition for active lives across Blackpool, as set out in the strategy, whilst delivering value for money for the council.

6. The strategy will cover indoor and outdoor sports, physical activity, recreational activities and active travel.

7. The strategy will be developed iteratively, and in conjunction with local members who will sit within a steering group.

8. A comprehensive consultation programme will need to be devised to engage stakeholders in the development of the strategy. This will include engaging with clubs and NGBs, as appropriate. The details of this will need to be worked up with input from the consultant.

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Leisure Services Key Performance Indicators - Service Overview

Leisure Services Performance		2018/19 Patronage	2019/20 Patronage	./-	2018/19 Income	2019/20 Income	./-
Overall Leisure Services Patronage		1,034,225	974,487				
Overall facility patronage		992,407	942,798				
Health & Fitness		247,160	238,845		£ 1,035,155.00	£ 1,019,797.00	
Swimming		110,269	101,532		£ 273,892.00	£ 261,891.00	
Active Blackpool		22,094	17,996		£ 148,424.00	£ 137,590.00	
Feel Good Factory		72,913	66,698		£ 172,225.00	£ 178,207.00	
Learn to swim		77,120	80,066		£ 330,125.00	£ 372,252.00	
Young People facilities		136,710	126,941				
Young people outreach		41,818	31,689				

Memberships	Total membership			Average length of stay		
	Mar-19	Mar-20	./-	Mar-19	Mar-20	./-
Health & Fitness	3241	2838		17.65	19.93	
Feel Good Factory	733	647		22.65	27.13	
Learn to swim	1534	1516		n/a	n/a	
Active Blackpool	879	828		30.97	30.97	

Leisure Services Customer Engagement & Feedback

	Site	May 18 - May 19	May 19 - Mar 20	./-
Net Promoter Score (NPS)	MPHLC	49	54	
	PLC	43	45	
	BSC	50	54	
Customer feedback questionnaires sent		8500	15107	
Customer feedback questionnaires returned		1218	2640	

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Leisure Services Customer Feedback and Engagement System Overview

Leisure Services take a proactive approach to engaging with customers and encourage them to provide feedback on their visitor experience to enable the service to make informed decisions on how to improve the service.

Leisure Services uses an internationally recognised system for proactively measuring satisfaction amongst service users.

Net Promoter Score®, or NPS®, measures customer experience across a number of business sectors internationally. Customers are asked 'On a scale of 0 - 10 how likely are you to recommend Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre to friends and family?'

Respondents are grouped as follows:

Promoters (score 9-10) are loyal enthusiasts who will keep buying and refer others, fueling growth.

Passives (score 7-8) are satisfied but unenthusiastic customers who are vulnerable to competitive offerings.

Detractors (score 0-6) are unhappy customers who can damage your brand and impede growth through negative word-of-mouth.



$$\% \text{ PROMOTERS} - \% \text{ DETRACTORS} = \text{NPS (NET PROMOTER SCORE)}$$

Subtracting the percentage of Detractors from the percentage of Promoters yields the Net Promoter Score, which can range from a low of -100 (if every customer is a Detractor) to a high of 100 (if every customer is a Promoter).

Sport Blackpool scored an overall satisfaction score of +51. This is 2 points higher than the national average across the leisure industry (inclusive of local authority, trust and private operators).

The tables below shows a breakdown by site of detractors, passives and promoters from the responses associated with the overall score.

	Score	Percentage Detractors	Percentage Passives	Percentage Promoters
Moor Park	54	11.7	22.3	66.0
Blackpool Sports Centre	54	12.6	20.9	66.5
Palatine	45	16.6	21.9	61.4
Total	51	13.5	22.0	64.6

The management team aim to contact every customer who rates the service below 7 to gain further feedback and understand how the service can be improved. There is a clear correlation between following up with customers who are considered 'detractors' and the number of those customers who then 'drop out' of using the service.

As well as scoring the service from 0 – 10, customers have the opportunity to provide a comment on their experience. The top five areas that customers have commented on throughout over the previous 12 months are shown below, along with whether their overall score made them a 'promoter', 'passive' or 'detractor'.

The most positive area that customers have provided feedback on over the period May - March was staffing, with 1493 comments received about leisure staff of which 84% have provided an overall positive score (9 – 10).

Report to:	TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Scott Butterfield, Strategy Policy and Research Manager
Date of Meeting:	9 September, 2020

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION RESPONSE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update the Committee on activity undertaken to address issues raised in the Climate Emergency Declaration.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 T note the report and requests a further update in six months.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 For the Committee to consider the response to date and provide input into the process.

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered: None

4.0 Council Priorities:

4.1 The work supports both of the Council's priorities, particularly priority 2: resilient communities.

5.0 Background Information:

5.1 At its meeting of 26th June 2019, the Council passed a motion proposed by the Council Leader to declare a Climate Emergency, noting the impacts of climate breakdown around the world and that the Authority had a duty to take action to address these issues, with the reductions of emissions also being associated with positive health, wellbeing and economic benefits.

5.2 The primary commitments made are to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030, and achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by the same date. The declaration particularly covers a reduction in emissions of the Council and across the town generally, engagement with the public and stakeholders, effecting a culture change across our organisation, wholly-owned companies, staff and partners, and taking a role to exert wider influence beyond Blackpool on this issue.

5.3 An action plan has been developed (Appendix 8(a)), with significant actions delivered so far (see Appendix 8(b)) including:

- Switching to a 100% renewable and non-nuclear electricity supply across all Council companies except Blackpool Transport (who have their own supply arrangements in place) from 1st April 2020;
- Undertaking fleet data analysis and an option appraisal for introducing electric vehicles (note that the recommendations are not being considered until the long term effects of the pandemic on staff travel is clear);
- Establishing a Climate Emergency Steering Group;
- Introducing a new emissions-based staff travel hierarchy, encouraging the selection of meeting options incurring the lowest possible emissions; and
- Introducing a Sustainability Impact Assessment process to assess any potential adverse impacts on the environment arising from decisions (see Appendix 8(c))

5.4 Progress has been constrained by the lack of an identified budget and staffing resource. This has particularly affected two of the foundational aspects of the Declaration, both of which require external support, and without which progress on developing and implementing actions has been impeded:

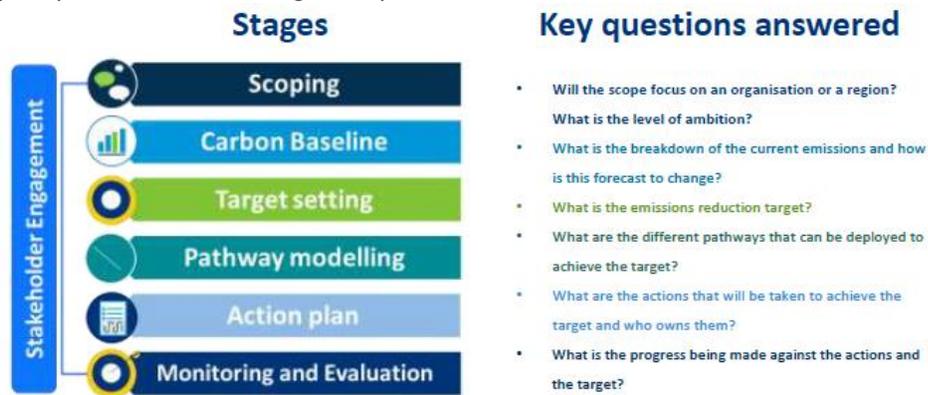
- *Request that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change convene a Citizens' Assembly before the end of the calendar year, in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop its own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;*
- *Ensure that all Council led leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.*

5.5 At its meeting on 25th August, Council Leadership Team agreed in principle to fund delivery of a Citizens Assembly or equivalent exercise, an emissions reduction study, and staffing arrangements to progress the delivery of the declaration.

5.6 *Citizens Assemblies* are one of a number of different types of deliberative engagement, with alternatives including Citizens Juries and other types of exercise which involve the development of knowledge by the public and consideration of the issues in order to make recommendations. Citizens Assemblies involve a random cross-section of at least 50 people randomly selected to be fully representative of the town by age, ward, physical disability and ethnicity. Typically 20 hours long, and split over multiple sessions to ensure sufficient time for knowledge transfer, reflection, and interactive sessions, they develop participants' understanding of the issues with a view to them shaping an action plan on a consensual basis. Increasingly delivered online due to the pandemic, they are run by an independent

agency to avoid accusations of favouritism or bias. To ensure that participation also engages those who are distant from climate emergency issues, and recognise the significant time contribution of participants, an incentive is paid, generally after the final session.

- 5.7 A brief has been prepared to seek an external partner to deliver the work, thereby ensuring its independence. The intention is to deliver the Assembly via an online method in the Autumn.
- 5.8 In addition to this, the Council’s in-house research team Infusion Research, working with the Public Health team, will establish additional processes to gather the views of residents who are interested in engaging, but who are not participating in the Assembly. This will include a survey to be undertaken (with the co-operation of Fylde and Wyre Councils) across the Fylde Coast. Views will be sought from the wider public throughout the process, and considered alongside evidence from the expert witnesses as part of the production of the final recommendations of the Assembly. Assembly sessions may also be webcasted or live blogged for further transparency.
- 5.9 *Emissions Reduction* The Council has various initiatives underway to reduce its impact on climate breakdown as outlined in our Sustainability, Energy and Water Strategy 2018-2024. However, these are insufficient to deliver on the challenging goal now adopted, and the strategy solely focuses on the Council’s emissions. The strategy urgently needs to be reviewed, particularly in light of the declaration calling for the Council to “support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area [net] zero carbon within the same timescale”.
- 5.10 In order to understand the current picture and deliver a roadmap to make Blackpool net zero carbon, the Council needs to commission an experienced provider capable of delivering a comprehensive methodology which considers activity needed across the whole town. This would typically include the following activity:



- 5.11 This piece of work goes hand-in-hand with the Assembly, providing an assessment of the level of effort and type of activity needed to achieve our targets. As such, it will be a key piece of evidence considered by the Assembly when deliberating on its final action plan, and the two pieces of work will need sequencing to reflect this. The Council has reviewed and considered other ambitious climate action plans (such as those of Cornwall and Nottingham) and identified potential actions for Blackpool, but we will be led by the views of the Assembly in deciding how to prioritise these.

5.12 *Staffing Resource* At present, the Climate Emergency does not have a dedicated staffing resource. Work to date has been led by the Strategy, Policy and Research Manager with the Service Manager responsible for energy and utilities, with ad hoc support from across relevant service areas. Both posts have substantial core responsibilities to which the climate emergency work has been added. In addition, moves to source European funding for a dedicated member of staff have been rebuffed.

5.12 To address this situation, the Director of Community and Environmental Services has assumed the role of chair of the Climate Emergency Steering Group, which met for the first time on September 2nd, enabling further resources across the Council to be marshalled in line with the action plan. CLT has now agreed in principle to funding for a lead officer post working within the Corporate Strategy and Delivery Team to progress the requirements of the declaration, again subject to the Chief Finance Officer identifying funding. A job description will now be developed and evaluated.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

6.0 List Of Appendices

Appendix 8(a) – CEWG Action Plan – April Update
Appendix 8(b) – CEWG Action Plan – Completed List
Appendix 8(c) – SIA Tool

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Human Resources considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Equalities considerations:

9.1 The work will seek to ensure that the Council’s processes meet the relevant legislative requirements around equalities.

10.0 Financial considerations:

10.1 Impacts detailed in the report. The action plan will develop actions which deliver financial benefits over the long term wherever possible.

11.0 Risk management considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and ethical considerations:

12.1 This work is essential to delivering our climate change declaration. The Ethical Principles will be reviewed to incorporate consideration of the environmental impact of initiatives, linking to the Sustainability Impact Assessment process. Report authors will be reminded of the need to include content on this basis.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 As detailed in the report.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
Focus 1: Emission Reduction				
1.	Regeneration Strategy looking at 'bang for buck' to save on expenditure plus carbon reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider option of switching street lighting to go LED • Further develop plans for a solar farm to supply energy to the Council 	Scoping Stage – deadlines TBC	Andrew Duckett	Plans in development but not at a public stage (action plans ready which impact on council's co2 emissions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Joint bid/project via ERDF for ~50% funding with Manchester and Liverpool (19 Mar meeting for AD) ERDF option no longer option as fund has been retasked for Covid 19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Utilities group to consider options and routes to market 04/5/20 • North west Energy hub engaged to provide technical support
2.	Development of long-term solutions between Blackpool Council in collaboration with LCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence the new 10-year Local Municipal Waste Strategy in line with Climate Emergency objectives • Develop proposals for an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility opportunity as a non-landfill solution 	TBC Post 2025	John-Paul Lovie	JP to provide details of Strategy timescales
5.	Consider additional measures seeking CO2 reductions	Ongoing	Working Group	Incorporate into future work plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek reduction on staff mileage • Explore potential of solar panels on council-owned buildings

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
Focus 2: Culture Change				
6.	Develop and deliver internal communications campaign to influence staff activity in and outside work	March 2021	Mark Walker	Forward plan of activity to be considered at March Working Group meeting
7.	Using the Bristol model as a basis, develop and deliver a staff travel to work survey	TBC	Scott Butterfield	Will follow the Staff Survey scheduled for early summer, schedule to be confirmed on conclusion of coronavirus emergency response
8.	Promote the travel to work survey and communications campaign across local public sector employers	End of Jul	Scott Butterfield	Positive initial discussions with College. Staff survey now delayed which will delay this activity
11.	Seek wider departmental and Council Company champions for the agenda	Feb	Scott Butterfield	BCH involved in core group and other companies have all nominated representatives.
13.	Develop and consult on Blackpool's Air Quality Strategy, involving all relevant parties in the process	December	Nicola Helm/ Mark Gillingham	Workshops with key parties to be arranged. Scope to include partners interested in wider social outcomes.
15.	Review Council Sustainability Strategy to ensure actions and targets are commensurate with Climate Emergency declaration	December	Andrew Duckett	The CEWG will promote activity to deliver the aims of the Declaration pending the conclusions of the review Small group to support AD for this
16.	Develop training and material for new starters at the Council, including promotion of environmentally-friendly behaviours and work practices	August	Mark Gillingham/HR	Needs linking into the comms plan

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
17.	Review the Council’s Ethical Principles to consider environmental and sustainability issues	May	Scott Butterfield	
18.	For 2021/22 budget cycle, highlight projects contributing to the targets in the Declaration, reporting on the cost of these proposals, and where possible report on carbon reductions in tonnes where possible	April 2021	Steve Thompson	
19.	Review our Suppliers Charter and tendering processes, with a view to promoting an ethical stance to contractors	December	Trevor Rayner	

Focus 3: Town Engagement

20.	Support the establishment of a youth assembly or summit	September	Chloe Shore	This is being led by young people and is subject to their preferred timescale
21.	Develop and deliver external marketing and promotional campaign, including web content, around climate emergency to disseminate information	TBC	Kate Staley	<p>To be developed following conclusion of coronavirus emergency</p> <p>Malcolm to develop web content</p> <p>Tie in with keep Blackpool tidy campaign (external mailing)</p>

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
22.	Agree mechanism to channel interest and support from local residents and organisations	TBC – see action 21	Chloe Shore	Explore use of dotmailer for a contacts list and regular comms
23.	Establish Climate Action Partnership with public/private/voluntary sector representation	TBC	Scott Butterfield/ Chloe Shore	Informal dialogue being held with key partners. Awaiting further details of the relevant Greater Lancashire Plan work stream before confirming geography – due in April but delayed due to coronavirus
24.	Develop and deliver a pilot air quality scheme, gathering data across 3 schools committed to engaging on behaviour change on environmental issues, and reviewing the impact of any interventions made	September (new school year)	Mark Gillingham/ Nicola Helm	Pilot project signed off by Chief Exec 7 th Feb. Equipment being sourced. Mark and Chloe to identify and liaise with schools. Potential to develop an “offer” to other schools following this. 02/03 identifying the schools now and deciding who will give the best spread of scope
25.	Develop and deliver a Tree Strategy and associated Tree Planting Plan, seeking opportunities to increase tree canopy cover in Blackpool from 4% to 10%”	September	Annie Heslop	02/03 update strategy just waiting for final approval from CLT then shared with the group
26.	Explore options to engage with residents and research views on public transport to support the transport modal shift	July	Vicky Hepworth- Putt/Dave Simper	Bid secured with UCLan subject to match funding 29/04 update – UCLan have stopped all face-to-face research due to COVID. There is no date for when this will be re-established.

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
27.	Oversee and support the submission of the ERDF funding bid and implementation, including potential for Climate Emergency Lead Officer post	April	Tahira Chohan	<p>2nd stage bid under development</p> <p>02/03 update - Blackpool Council's ERDF bid was submitted on 28th February '20. The request is for £1.2m (capital and revenue) funding to deliver a series of measures on the Grange Park Estate, with the aim to reduce carbon emissions. Funding includes the provision for a Climate Emergency Support Officer, a part time post, who will be responsible for the delivery and management of the project</p> <p>27/04/20 - MHCLG has placed the majority of new bids on-hold as staff have been redeployed to their ' Resilience and Emergencies Division' in order to directly support the Government's CoVid-19 response.</p>
28.	Work with Housing Providers and others to develop a show home demonstrating the benefits of the circular economy	TBC	TBC	<p>Initial discussion to be arranged in March to scope participants, budget etc</p> <p>Update: partners involved signed up so far include BCH, B&FC, LeftCoast. Initial timescale to begin September in line with college's academic year.</p>

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
29.	Identify opportunities to promote Blackpool's work and approach to sub-regional, regional and national organisations and partnerships	Ongoing	Scott Butterfield	Worked in partnership with UCLan to host "Cumbria and Lancashire: Climate Emergency - Towards Net Zero - A Learning Event" and presented on our approach (Jan 2020)
30.	Participate in and shape the development and rollout of the Greater Lancashire Plan Environment work stream	Ongoing subject to confirmation by LCC	Scott Butterfield/ Annie Heslop	Interviews delayed by coronavirus

Focus 5: Cross Cutting Actions

31.	<i>Funding Bids:</i> Collate all current/pending bids, detailing which service areas are bidding for what, and establish a progress tracker	End of Jan 20 then ongoing	Chloe Shore	One of the bids has reached stage 2 of the process, other is awaiting match funding confirmation. No other current bids
32.	<i>Funding Bids:</i> Explore selection of a 3 rd sector lead partner for future funding bids	TBC	Chloe Shore	Tender process to be developed
33.	<i>Funding Bids:</i> Establish a cross-departmental team of experienced bid writers and analysts to develop shovel-ready and rapid-response bids	March	Scott Butterfield	
34.	<i>Funding Bids:</i> HS2 and PM bus services transport boost for outside London		David Simper	
35.	Establish FAQ support document for individuals and for organisations across Blackpool	March	Vicky Hepworth Putt	

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Climate Emergency Working Group Action Plan Completed List

This is the list of completed actions from the inter-departmental Climate Emergency Group Action Plan. It is developed to identify and track progress with the themes from the original plan.

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
Focus 1: Emission Reduction				
3.	Move to 100% renewable electricity supply	1 st April	Andrew Duckett	Certificate received from supplier confirming this – AD to liaise with Comms on publicity. COMPLETE 02/03 updates Comms scheduled for both internal and external
7.	Baseline the council's total emissions output	April	Andrew Duckett	Work now complete on road, rail and air emissions. AD liaising with CVMU over remaining data. 02/03 updates circulate the working template to WOCs
12.	Undertake fleet data analysis and an option appraisal for reducing emissions, including use of Electric Vehicles and pool cars	April	Andrew Duckett	Reported to Corporate Energy and Utility Group. Decided not to progress as data inputs relate to pre-covid figures and new arrangements and travel hierarchy would not achieve the same cost savings COMPLETE but will re-visit in 12 months
Focus 2: Culture Change				
10.	Establish reporting framework for the various council bodies responsible to, including the creation of the Climate Emergency Working Group as subgroup of Energy and Utilities Group	Jan	Scott Butterfield	CEWG established, will report to next E&U group from next meeting. COMPLETE

ID	Action	Deadline	Responsible Person(s)	Commentary update
9.	Review and promote Council's staff benefit scheme and work travel policies, to reduce mileage and emissions, and encourage lower-polluting travel		Scott Butterfield	New travel hierarchy established seeking to reduce non-essential travel COMPLETE
14.	Review Council strategy and approval procedures, ensuring consideration of the Climate Crisis agenda throughout the policy making process	June	Scott Butterfield	Amendment to corporate template agreed COMPLETE - additional action to implement sustainability impact analysis pending by CLT
Focus 3: Town Engagement				
Focus 4: Wider Influence				
Focus 5: Cross Cutting Actions				

Theme	Review Questions	Impact	Description of Impact	Actions to mitigate negative aspects and enhance positive impacts
	ENERGY – consider whether the strategy/decision leads to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase, or decrease, in the amount of electricity used • an increase, or decrease, in the amount of heating/hot water required • an increase, or decrease, in carbon emissions from building energy use 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> Introduction of new building/equipment will increase energy use and will lead to extra waste from its processing.	<u>Example:</u> Equipment is most energy efficient available. Process in place to ensure equipment is turned off when not in use. Staff trained on minimising energy use at induction.
	WATER – consider whether the strategy/decision leads to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase/decrease in the amount of water used • an increase/decrease in substances to be disposed of to foul sewer 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> Introduction of new building/equipment will reduce the amount of water required.	<u>Example:</u> In addition to water savings, the equipment will be turned off when not in use and staff are trained on this at induction.
	WASTE – consider whether the strategy/decision leads to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase or decrease in the amount of waste generated • a variation in the type of waste to be disposed of, affecting segregation i.e. more/less hazardous 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> Project will involve opening a new community venue, generating additional commercial waste.	<u>Example:</u> Provision for recycling. Circular economy in place where possible.
	CAPITAL PROJECTS – building or refurbishment work should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy use, including natural light, ventilation and renewable energy • water use, including conservation measures • use of space as a community resource/social enterprise • enhancing green spaces & biodiversity 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> Project will involve new building extension, providing office accommodation and associated facilities.	<u>Example:</u> Sustainability Team involved at feasibility stage to ensure exemplar sustainable healthcare building design as standard. BREEAM ‘Outstanding’ as the aim (minimum of ‘Excellent’).
	JOURNEYS - consider whether the strategy/decision leads to an increase/decrease in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘care miles’ i.e. care closer to home • access to services for vulnerable or disadvantaged groups • sustainable travel options, i.e. walking, cycling, public transport, electric car 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> Services will be delivered closer to home. Staff travel will be minimised by effective planning of appointments.	<u>Example:</u> Resident letters will encourage use of public transport.
Page 119 	PROCUREMENT - all procurement related to the project should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whole life costs, i.e. procurement vs. revenue costs (£ and carbon) • supporting local businesses, small businesses and social organisations • promotion of ethical procurement and labour standards • food/catering from local, seasonal and sustainable suppliers • social value, i.e. producing a local benefit through employment/training • wider health impacts, such as employment, air pollution, modern slavery 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> A component of the delivery of this strategy/decision will be contracted and local community groups could deliver these services. This project will include procurement of low value goods which might be manufactured in areas known for labour standards issues.	<u>Example:</u> Community groups will be invited in to find out more about the project, prior to tendering. Bidding companies will be asked to provide their Modern Slavery Statement and to disclose how they ensure labour standards with foreign manufacturers.
	MODELS OF CARE - consider the impact the strategy/decision may have on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing inequalities in health • promoting prevention, healthy behaviours, mental wellbeing, living independently and self-management • reducing avoidable hospital admissions or admissions to residential care • delivering integrated care, streamlining care pathways 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> This strategy/decision will be a partnership approach which will provide holistic early intervention for residents. This strategy/decision will reduce readmissions and promote independent self-managed care.	<u>Example:</u> Priority will be given to the integration of services to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities.
	ADAPTATION - consider if the strategy/decision is impacted by climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hotter, drier summers; milder, wetter winters; increased extreme weather events, including flooding and heatwaves • support for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, people with long-term health conditions and those with mental health illnesses 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> The strategy/decision will provide support to elderly and vulnerable residents to reduce the impact of climate change.	<u>Example:</u> Guidance will be provided to residents to raise awareness of: the health impacts of heat (and how to minimise risk) and the health impacts of fuel poverty (and the support available for insulation & boiler upgrades).
	PEOPLE: Consider whether the strategy/decision can support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment opportunities including disadvantaged groups, i.e. long-term unemployed, people with learning disabilities • training of existing staff or apprenticeship opportunities • health and wellbeing, flexible hours or childcare / carer support • increasing community resilience & a reduction in social isolation • reduction in health inequalities and access to services • increasing participation of patients, the public and strategic partners 	Choose an item.	<u>Example:</u> This project will lead to the creation of two new roles. This project will provide a new model of care for particular group.	<u>Example:</u> HR will be contacted to see if an apprenticeship role can be considered and to identify support for disadvantaged groups to apply for roles. Consultation will take place with residents and related stakeholders. Consideration will be given to barriers of access faced by disadvantaged groups.

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Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	9 September 2020

SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the Workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan 2020-2021, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.

2.2 To monitor the implementation of the Committee's recommendations/action.

2.3 To note the outcome of the Adopt An Alley and Active Lives Strategy Review Panels

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that recommendations/actions are being monitored, the Workplan is up to date and is an accurate representation of the Committee's work.

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

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 N/A

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Scrutiny Workplan 2020/2021

5.1.1 On 9 July 2020 the Committee held a workplanning workshop to identify and agree items for scrutiny during the 2020-2021 Council year. Following this meeting a new Scrutiny Committee Workplan 2020/2021 has been developed and is attached at Appendix 9(a).

5.1.2 The Workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that the Committee will undertake over the course of the year.

5.1.2 Committee Members are invited, either now or in the future, to suggest topics that might be suitable for scrutiny in order that they be added to the Workplan.

5.2 Monitoring Implementation of Recommendations

5.2.1 The table attached at Appendix 9(c) has been developed to assist the Committee in effectively ensuring that the recommendations made by the Committee are acted upon. The table will be regularly updated and submitted to each Committee meeting.

5.2.2 Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and ask follow up questions as appropriate to ensure that all recommendations are implemented

5.3 Scrutiny Review Checklist

5.3.1 The Scrutiny Review Checklist is attached at Appendix 9(b). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny.

5.3.2 The Committee is recommended to place an emphasis on the priorities and performance of the Council when considering requests for scrutiny reviews.

5.4 Adopt An Alley Review Panel

5.4.1 On 11 February 2020, Members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee held a meeting to consider the proposed Adopt an Alley program.

5.4.2 The plan had been to support residents and community groups to adopt local alley ways and create community owned spaces in Blackpool. Ms Chloe Shore, Community Engagement and Partnership Manager, presented Members with the draft guidance document which had been developed following the success of a community project

in an alley at Strawberry Gardens near to Belle Vue Place, Blackpool.

5.4.3 The Review Panel had noted the details of the scheme and asked that information regarding its launch event be circulated.

5.4.4 A copy of the review panel's report can be found at Appendix XX(e)

5.5 **Active Lives Review Panel**

5.5.1 On 27 February 2020 members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee held a joint review panel meeting to input into the development of the proposed Active Lives Strategy which would replace the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy that had ended in 2019.

5.5.2 The review panel made the following comments to be taken into consideration during development of the strategy;

- That consideration be given to the wording of the strategy so that words such as "Exercise" which could be regarded as being discouraging to some people, where possible be avoided;
- That the strategy encourage the use of Blackpool's seafront and promenade for physical activity;
- That if an app is adopted as part of communicating the strategy, that consideration should be given to making sure that it is attractive for young people, by including elements such as competition; and
- That the strategy should in part have a focus on young people approaching the end of their time in education to encourage them to continue to lead active lives beyond this time.

5.5.3 A copy of the review panel's report can be found at Appendix XX(f)

5.6 **Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Update**

5.6.1 The Committee agreed to establish a Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review as part of its 2019/2020 Work Programming, following which a review panel was established.

5.6.2 The review panel held four meetings during 2019-2020 however a fifth meeting and the drafting of the review's final report were postponed by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

5.6.3 Members of the review recognised that the impact of the lockdown on housing and homelessness to have been substantial, with significant changes in funding and ways

of working.

- 5.6.4 As a result of this it has been agreed by the Chair of the review panel to re-visit the scope of the review and if necessary amend its terms of reference to reflect the changes that have taken place.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

5.5 List of Appendices:

Appendix 9(a) - Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee Workplan

Appendix 9(b) - Scrutiny Review Checklist

Appendix 9(c) – Tourism, Economy and Communities Committee Action Tracker

Appendix 9(e) – Adopt An Alley Review Panel Report

Appendix 9(f) – Active Lives Review Panel Report

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

None.

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Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2020-2021	
9 September 2020	<p>1. Town Centre Regeneration Update – To include information on the progress, the impact of lockdown on economic development and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects and how these will support job creation in the town.</p> <p>2. Climate Emergency Update – Steps taken following declaration of Climate Emergency in Full Council July 2019 and the impact of lockdown on progress.</p> <p>3. Leisure Services to update on annual performance of the leisure centres and maintenance of facilities, to cover financial performance of the service and the impact of lockdown.</p> <p>4. Update on Progress of Housing and Homeless Review</p> <p>5. Report back from input into Adopt an Alley Policy held on 11 February 2020 and the Active Lives Strategy held on 27 February 2020.</p> <p>6. Confirmation of Committee Scrutiny Workplan 2020-2021</p>
18 November 2020	<p>1. Car Parking Performance to include performance, financial information, spend on maintenance and the impact of the pandemic on income.</p> <p>2. Tourism Performance - To include a representative of a Blackpool Tourist attraction, the impact of lockdown and recovery, future plans and details of Business Tourism.</p> <p>3. Illuminations Report – To include plans for 2021, future sustainability and the impact of lockdown.</p> <p>4. Single Use Plastics To include information on implementation of the SUP Action Plan.</p> <p>5. Report back from the CSP Review Panel held in October 2020 and the Active Lives Strategy Review Panel held in September 2020</p>
3 February 2021	<p>1. Waste Services and Street Cleansing update on domestic waste collection new company performance, however, focus on services still provided by the Council such as street cleansing to prevent duplication with the work of the Shareholder’s Advisory Board. To include details of household waste recycling.</p> <p>2. Engagement of Consultants Annual Report</p> <p>3. Flood Risk Management and Drainage Annual Report including input into revision of Flood Risk Strategy</p> <p>4. Bathing Water Quality Annual Report</p>
14 April 2021	<p>1. Town Centre Regeneration Update – To include information on the progress, the long term impact of lockdown on economic development and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects and how these will support job creation in the town.</p> <p>2. Tourism Performance - To include a representative of a Blackpool Tourist attraction and details of Business Tourism. To look forward to the 2021 season and any long term impact from the pandemic.</p> <p>3. Parks and Green Environment Annual Report – To include information on the impact of the 2020 Covid-19 Lockdown and future plans.</p>

Scrutiny Review Work	
Recommencing 23 September 2019 <i>Ongoing</i>	Full scrutiny review of Housing Strategy/Homelessness . To have a look at the impact of strategy and policy on homelessness levels and prevention of homelessness. The scope of the review will be revisited to reflect the impact of the pandemic on provision.
23 September 2020	Active Lives Strategy Review Panel to consider draft strategy – September 2020 (jointly with the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee)
7 October 2020	Community Safety Partnership Review Panel – to consider the performance of the CSP and impact of lockdown on its work.
October 2020	In a day review of Recovery Planning , including details of the financial impact of lockdown and what are the Council's recovery plans
November 2020	Following consideration at Committee, a potential in a day review of the Illuminations impact and sustainability. Future plans.
TBC	Air Quality Strategy policy development scrutiny of the draft strategy.
TBC	Sustainability Strategy Policy development scrutiny of the draft strategy.
TBC	Lancashire Waste Strategy Policy development scrutiny of the draft strategy.

SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST**Title of proposed Scrutiny:**

The list is intended to assist the relevant scrutiny committee in deciding whether or not to approve a topic that has been suggested for scrutiny.

Whilst no minimum or maximum number of 'yes' answers are formally required, the relevant scrutiny committee is recommended to place higher priority on topics related to the performance and priorities of the Council.

Please expand on how the proposal will meet each criteria you have answered 'yes' to.

	Yes/No
The review will add value to the Council and/or its partners overall performance:	
The review is in relation to one or more of the Council's priorities:	
The Council or its partners are not performing well in this area:	
It is an area where a number of complaints (or bad press) have been received:	
The issue is strategic and significant:	
There is evidence of public interest in the topic:	
The issue has potential impact for one or more sections of the community:	
Service or policy changes are planned and scrutiny could have a positive input:	
Adequate resources (both members and officers) are available to carry out the scrutiny:	

Please give any further details on the proposed review:

Completed by:

Date:

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

.	DATE OF REC.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG Rating
1	23 January 2019	That bi-annual updates on the implementation of the Single Use Plastics Policy be included on future agendas	Ongoing	John-Paul Lovie/John Greenbank	Items for monitoring the implementation of the SUP policy have been scheduled for every six-months. Next Update Autumn 2020	Ongoing
2	23 January 2019	That bi-annual updates on the progress of Town Centre Regeneration Projects be included on future agendas	Ongoing	Nick Gerard/John Greenbank	Items for monitoring the progress of Town Centre Regeneration Project have been scheduled for every six-months. Next Update 9 September 2020.	Ongoing
3	8 January 2020	That more could be done to advertise the benefits of the investments outside of the borough to the wider public.	April 2020	Steve Thompson/Alan Cavill		Ongoing
4	5 February 2020	That the Flood Risk Management Annual Report 2020-2021 include the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An update on Highways England's involvement with the Lancashire Flood Risk Strategy - An update on the work of Flood Forums - Details of Projects in flood affected areas 	January/February 2021	Clare Nolan-Barnes/John Greenbank		Ongoing

5	5 February 2020	That United Utilities be contacted to determine if information is available on the number of releases of overflows into the sea.	April 2020	Clare Nolan-Barnes/John Greenbank		Ongoing
6	5 February 2020	That a letter be written by the Chair to Blackpool's MPs to request support in seeking additional Bathing Water Quality funding.	April 2020	Cllr Mitchell/John Greenbank		Ongoing

Report to:	TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Mr John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny)
Date of Meeting:	09 September 2020

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ADOPT AN ALLEY SCHEME

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update on the work undertaken by scrutiny members on the review of the Adopt an Alley Scheme currently in development.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the update;

2.2 To note that the finalised guidance and details of the Adopt an Alley Scheme's launch event will be circulated to all Councillors; and

2.3 To identify any further monitoring work to be undertaken on the proposed scheme.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Committee has an overview of ongoing work and to identify any areas for further scrutiny or monitoring.

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:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 On 11 February 2020, Members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee held a meeting to consider the proposed Adopt an Alley program.
- 6.2 The plan had been to support residents and community groups to adopt local alley ways and create community owned spaces in Blackpool. Ms Chloe Shore, Community Engagement and Partnership Manager, presented Members with the draft guidance document which had been developed following the success of a community project in an alley at Strawberry Gardens near to Belle Vue Place, Blackpool. The project had involved cleaning and restoring the alley so that it could be used and enjoyed by members of the local community. In order to facilitate other communities undertaking similar projects, the guidance outlined the support available from the Council for groups to adopt and improve their local alleys.
- 6.3 Support that could be offered by the Council included; determining the ownership of land, assistance in determining community priorities, signposting to relevant services and organising the collection of refuse from community litter picks. The aim of the guidance was to empower communities to take responsibility for spaces so that they could be used to the benefit of residents.
- 6.4 The Council would also seek to direct community groups interested in adopting alleys to the Open Spaces Network (OSN). This was a partnership operated by the Council's Parks Service which could assist in providing governance advice and links to potential funding streams.
- 6.5 The project at Strawberry Gardens had been started by an individual interested in improving their local area who had built up a community group of local like-minded residents to undertake the project.
- 6.6 In order to promote the program to local communities Ms Chore would be sending information to meetings such as Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to highlight the program to residents. Work also had been undertaken to engage third sector organisation in helping promote the program and discussion had also taken place with the Houndshill Shopping Centre who had expressed an interest in an alley project that engaged local business and hoteliers.
- 6.7 Engagement with the various Friends Of Parks groups had also taken place through the OSN and a launch event, support by them and organised with the Revolution Youth Group. It was planned that this event would take place in April 2020.
- 6.8 The review panel noted that in some cases enthusiasm for community project could be dependent on a single individual who took a lead of behalf of others, noting that community groups often ceased to function upon the loss of such an individual.

- 6.9 The Council was aware that circumstances such as these could exist and that was why groups were encouraged to join the OSN. This was because the network required its members to institute governance arrangements and sign a code of conduct that aimed to ensure groups were sustainable in the long-term.
- 6.10 Members raised the issue of previous similar schemes to improve community spaces, such as a program to develop community play areas in alleys, recognising that these had not been successful. Ms Shore responded that she was aware of previous schemes to improve alley ways and had sought input from the Parks Service and Street Cleansing to ensure that this program was successful.
- 6.11 The guidance would link in with the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and upcoming Air Quality Strategy as part of the overall Council priorities to improve Blackpool's green environment.
- 6.12 A copy of the finalised Adopt an Alley guidance and information regarding the launch event would be shared with all Councillors to help them promote the program to residents.
- 6.13 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Human resources considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None.

14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

14.1 None.

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None.

Report to:	TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Mr John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny)
Date of Meeting:	09 September 2020 (TEC)

SCRUTINY INPUT INTO ACTIVE LIVES STRATEGY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update on the work undertaken by members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee on the scrutiny input into the development of the Active Lives Strategy.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the update.

2.2 To receive a final version of the strategy identify any further monitoring work to be undertaken on the strategy.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Committee has an overview of ongoing work.

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

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

- 7.5 The strategy would also seek to address the complex issues surrounding encouraging active lifestyles, through education, improved communication and the provision of leisure infrastructure to improve physical wellbeing.
- 7.6 An important part of the new strategy would be ‘Making Every Contact Count’ ensuring that whenever someone interacted with services something was achieved, such as directing them towards a health or sport service. This would however require Council officers to be aware of the wide range of options available and how to refer to them.
- 7.7 Communication of events and services to support an active lifestyle, noting that there was a limited number of green spaces within Blackpool, would include making better use of digital platforms, such as phone apps, to share information and was considered the best way to engage the widest range of people, particularly the young.
- 7.8 Although there was a limited number of green spaces with in Blackpool, the town had several miles of seafront and beach that could be used for physical activity, such as running, walking and cycling. The use of seafront on the continent, where beaches were promoted and facilities provided to encourage activity were highlighted as possible examples Blackpool could follow. It was also recognised that the promenade represented an open space with clean air. Ways to encourage greater use of the promenade by local residents would be considered as part of the strategy, however it was recognised that education would be needed to encourage people to do this as parts of the seafront were regarded as areas primarily for tourists where local people do not regularly go.
- 7.9 The strategy could also seek to improve levels of habitual walking through improvements to streets, by ensuring they are safe and clean. An example of good practice was Wyre Council’s successful embedding of a “Walking Bus” scheme for children travelling to school, learning from which could be used to inform a similar program in Blackpool.
- 7.10 Scrutiny members asked that it be noted that walking schemes had been attempted in the past and that despite initial enthusiasm they had ultimately failed to attract sufficient public interest. Going forward therefore the Council would utilise its Living Streets Officer, part of whose role included working with schools to promote programs, such as walking buses, and that they could be utilised to make them more successful in the future.
- 7.11 The strategy should seek to address the needs of a wide range of different groups. Young people often became disengaged from sport and activities as they got older. It was further recognised that the use of digital communications such as phone apps, would present challenges as well as opportunity for engagement with young people.

- 7.12 Work would also have to be undertaken to ensure that young people would download any app encouraging active lifestyles, as they would only use ones that they saw value in and would regularly use. The possibility of including a competitive element was highlighted as a solution to this, so users could compete with friends or groups from other areas of the town.
- 7.13 Utilising local health providers such as GPs to engage with elder residents would also be considered as part of the strategy however it was recognised that any offer would have to be universal across health services. It was also noted that physical activity could be used to promote mental wellbeing among older residents. Any offer would have to be as simple as possible, to reduce the “hassle factor” for residents. This would make any offer appear more attractive to those being referred and increase take-up.
- 7.14 Changing the mind-sets of residents was also identified as an important obstacle that would need to be addressed in promoting healthy lifestyles. Inter-personal contact was viewed as the most effective way of engaging with people and addressing this issue. This should be through services such as health and housing that have regular contact with residents and could refer them to leisure activities and programs. Although it was recognised that the number of successful referrals would initially be small the aim would be to gradually grow numbers over time.
- 7.15 Consideration also needed to be given to how to measure the success of the strategy. Impact assessment work was complicated by the fact that although data was available there had been limited work to analyse its implications and that this was an issue across the leisure sector nationally. The use of short surveys, encouraging a greater volume of responses, had been identified as a possible way of measuring impact. It was stressed that the success of the strategy would be based on the outcomes it achieved rather than the resources that had been input into it.
- 7.16 The wording used in communication would need careful thought as words such as “Exercise” were noted as being discouraging to some people, therefore it should be considered if use of them should be avoided. The Council was aware of this issue and therefore the strategy would include the concept of “Health By Stealth”, whereby people would be encouraged to adopt healthier alternatives through making changes to their lifestyle, such as walking short distance they would normally drive. This was noted as method to engage more people, than those who would be willing to take-up more intensive activities like joining a sports team.
- 7.17 The review panel emphasised the need to promote greater activity amongst the more deprived areas of the town. Blackpool had several programs working with people in deprived areas but that there was limited linkage between them. By improving the links between programs the Council could ensure that the maximum impact on the highest number of people had been achieved. The strategy would therefore have a

focus on the groups that the Council wanted to help rather than specific programs.

- 7.18 The cost of accessing the Council’s leisure resources would also be considered as part of the new strategy. The Council’s charges for use of its gym and swimming pool were lower than at privately owned alternatives and the facilities owned by neighbouring local authorities. Although this had been done to allow access by the widest range of people, it has been suggested that it should be considered that if the charges were raised the resulting revenue could be used to support schemes to encourage further use by under-privileged groups. As part of the policy development the Council could review its pricing structure to determine how to allow the widest available access to its facilities.
- 7.19 As part of this the strategy would also need to be clear on what the Council wanted to do with its leisure facilities and who it wanted to use them. This would involve working to overcome the pre-conceptions that many people had regarding places such as gyms and ensuring they are welcomed when they did attend.
- 7.20 Members have expressed the view that the strategy should in part focus on young people approaching the end of their time in education. This was noted as an age when many young people would stop taking part in physical activity in school and move towards employment. Many of these young people would stop taking part in sports and regular physical activity once they had left school and re-embedding the habit of exercise would consequently become more difficult. Therefore consideration should be given to how to continue the habit of exercise during this period making it more likely young people would continue to lead active, healthy lifestyles in the future. It was considered that offering the widest range of choice possible could assist in addressing this issue.
- 7.21 Following the workshop the comments of members were noted by Mr Eady and Ms McLeod for their input into the development of the strategy.

The following specific points were raised at the meeting for consideration during development of the strategy;

- That consideration be given to the wording of the strategy so that words such as “Exercise” which could be regarded as being discouraging to some people, where possible be avoided;
- That the strategy encourage the use of Blackpool’s seafront and promenade for physical activity;
- That if an app is adopted as part of communicating the strategy, that consideration should be given to making sure that it is attractive for young people, by including elements such as competition; and
- That the strategy should in part have a focus on young people approaching the end of their time in education to encourage them to continue to lead active

lives beyond this time.

7.21 A draft version of the strategy will also be brought to future joint-meeting of the ASCH and TEC Scrutiny Committees.

7.22 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

8.0 List of Appendices:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Human resources considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Financial considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Risk management considerations:

13.1 None.

14.0 Ethical considerations:

14.1 None.

15.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

15.1 None.

16.0 Background papers:

16.1 None.