

Blackpool Council

22 March 2022

To: Councillors Burdess, G Coleman, Collett, Galley, Jackson, Kirkland, Walsh and Wilshaw

The above members are requested to attend the:

TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 30 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Blackpool

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 2 FEBRUARY 2022 (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 February 2022 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 - 20)

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

5 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 21 - 26)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, March 2022 – June 2022, within the remit of the Committee.

6 PARKS AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 27 - 48)

For the Committee to consider an overview of the service, work undertaken over the last twelve months, performance of the Park Development Service and future priorities.

7 TOURISM PERFORMANCE UPDATE (Pages 49 - 60)

To consider an update on tourism performance including the final four months of 2021 and the opening two months of 2022.

8 MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ART ON THE PROMENADE (Pages 61 - 72)

To provide members with an understanding of the maintenance procedures in place and resources available to commission and maintain public art works on the promenade.

9 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN (Pages 73 - 92)

To consider the Workplan, monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, note the outcome of the Community Safety Partnership Review Panel and agree the Temporary Hotel Accommodation Scoping Document together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note, subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting, the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 26 June 2022, commencing at 6pm.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building. Face masks must also be worn when moving throughout the building. Please also maintain social distancing.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477229, e-mail john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Present:

Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors

G Coleman
Collett

Galley
Walsh

Wilshaw

In Attendance:

Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport

Councillor Lynn William, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture

Councillor Mrs Maxine Callow JP, Scrutiny Lead Member

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director

John Paul Lovie, Waste Services Manager

Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments

Will Britain, Head of Highways and Traffic Management

John Greenbank, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser (Scrutiny)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2021

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 December 2021 were agreed as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no applications from members of the public to speak on this occasion.

4 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE

Mr Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director gave a presentation on the regeneration projects ongoing in the town centre as part of the Councils £1bn+ Growth and Prosperity Programme. Information was provided on the progress of individual projects and funding opportunities going forward.

The Committee was informed that data showed that people were returning to the town centre following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. This included footfall in the town

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centre being recorded at 2.5m visits in December 2021 which represented an 85% increase on 2020 and a 34% increase on 2019.

Town centre shop vacancy remained a concern with 23.2% of shops being vacant in November 2021, although this had since fallen. This issue would therefore be taken into consideration as part of the revision of the Town Centre Strategy. The Strategy had been created in 2013 and would be updated to take into account issues such as the changing local and national priorities, Covid-19 recovery and the Climate Emergency Declaration. Initial consultations on the Strategy had started in January 2022 and an action plan would also be developed which would be refreshed every five-years. In response to a query, Mr Gerrard confirmed that the action plan would also include a communications plan to highlight the benefits of the work being undertaken in the town centre to local businesses and residents.

The Strategy would look to address the number of shop vacancies by making the town centre more attractive to retailers. It was hoped that if footfall could be increased through bringing more people into the town through projects such as new offices and leisure attractions then new shops might be opened.

Mr Gerrard updated the Committee on major investments in the town centre. He reported that over £830m had been spent in the last ten-years and a further £1bn was being or would be invested in the town centre and the wider borough on projects such as the Talbot Gateway Phases Two and Three, the Winter Gardens Conference Centre and Blackpool Central.

It was forecast that phase two of the Talbot Gateway project would be complete by the end of 2022 and would deliver a new hotel and pedestrian links from Blackpool North Train Station to the tramway and other public transport. Phase three of the project had also been agreed for a major new office block in the town centre which would house approximately 3,000 employees of the Department for Work and Pensions. Enabling work for the project had begun in early 2022, with contract working beginning in the summer with completion planned for 2024.

Work had also begun to prepare for the £300m leisure investment in Blackpool Central. The project would create new leisure attractions in the town centre and create up to one thousand new jobs. The opening of a “flying” theatre in Windsor was highlighted by the Committee, asking if this meant the claim that Blackpool’s theatre would be the first of its kind in the country would no longer be correct. Mr Gerrard responded that the planned flying theatre in Blackpool would be much bigger than the one opened in Windsor and would be unique in the experience it could offer.

Elsewhere in the town investment in the quality and stock of hotel rooms would eventually deliver an additional nine-hundred and seventy new beds across Blackpool in existing and new hotels such as the four star Holiday Inn at Talbot Gateway.

The Committee was also informed that the Winter Gardens Conference Centre had opened following its completion and that the first major event, a party political conference, was scheduled for spring 2022.

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Mr Gerrard also reported that work on Blackpool's first dedicated town museum, "Showtown" had begun at the new Sands hotel in August 2021 and was planned for completion by April 2023. It was estimated that once finished the museum would attract nearly 300,000 visitors each year.

Main works had also begun on the Houndhill Phase Two Extension. The extension would house the relocated Wilko store from Talbot Road, two restaurants and a unique multimedia cinema/conferencing and entertainment centre. The project was estimated to cost approximately £20m of which £5m had been provided by the national Getting Building Fund.

Abingdon Street Market's refurbishment was also considered, with Mr Gerrard reporting that £3.64m would be invested to improve the existing retail area and create new food and drink areas to attract visitors. He also stated that the project, which was funded by the Getting Building Fund, had shown the importance of preparation work which had enabled a successful bid to be made and allowed refurbishment work to begin on the site promptly after funding had been received.

The use of funding received from the Welcome Back Fund of £345,543, was highlighted. This money had been used to fund projects such as the creation of an outdoor eating area in St John's Square, the beautification of the town centre and a number of safe celebration events during the summer of 2021.

Members of the Committee were also informed of the £1.5m invested in the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project. This money had been used improve storefronts in the façade of the Winter Gardens, establishing a creative hub on Topping Street, a pilot of lets in the town centre for creatives to live and work, and support a high street cultural events programme.

Money had also been secured as part of the Blackpool Town Deal for five town centre projects. This included £500k for a Youth Hub to support young people into work, £4.5m for The Edge project to create new modern office space for new start-up businesses, a further £4.5m for the Illuminations to deliver new attractions and upgrade infrastructure and £9m for the site assembly for the Multiversity project to relocate Blackpool and the Fylde Coast College to a new carbon neutral campus in the town centre.

The Town Deal would also deliver £7m towards the £34m required for the relocation of the Blackpool Courts to a new site on Devonshire Road. This project would deliver the land needed for additional leisure attractions in central area and allow for the construction of modern new court buildings for Blackpool. Noting that it was important for the Council to have control of the land for any proposed new development, the Committee asked why a compulsory purchase order had not been used to secure the Courts site. Mr Gerrard explained that as the land was owned by the Crown, a CPO could not be used and therefore the Courts' agreement to a move was needed.

Mr Gerrard also reported that whilst the Council had not been successful in securing funding for three projects in its first round of bidding from the Levelling-Up Fund this did not prevent it being able to bid into the second round that would be held later in 2022, for which the Council was awaiting the publishing of the relevant criteria.

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The Committee also discussed the release and subsequent retraction, of information that could have potentially been used to identify the location of the Multiversity project in November 2021. Mr Gerrard explained that until the Council was certain that it had the funds to pursue the site assembly it did not want to prematurely release information that could cause unnecessary uncertainty. Discussions would only commence with those affected after the Government had confirmed the funding. He also explained the compulsory purchase process and noted that if such a course of action were necessary then it would be the responsibility of the Council to demonstrate that there was a compelling case in the public interest.

Risk associated with the various projects was discussed, with members of the Committee asking what mitigation was in place. Mr Gerrard explained that all projects had a number of hurdles to overcome which required work to ensure they were viable and risks mitigated. All proposals were also monitored by the Council's statutory Section 151 Officer, Mr Steve Thompson, ensuring that all projects were properly developed financially. The Council also undertook vigorous due diligence of any proposals by potential partners to determine if they were deliverable. Important mitigation also included the Council retaining control of the land even if a project could not be delivered.

The Committee agreed:

1. That the report be noted; and
2. That the presentation slides be shared with members of the Committee.

5 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee noted the Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken since the previous meeting.

6 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan February 2022 – May 2022 and noted the list of upcoming decision.

7 WASTE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Mr John-Paul Lovie, Waste Services Manager presented an update on the Council's Waste, Cleansing and Streetscene services. The report detailed the work undertaken since the Enveco, a Council wholly owned company, had been established to undertake various waste services in Blackpool.

The Committee discussed the importance of succession planning with officers, noting that the report highlighted that employees were being upskilled to be able to undertake a wider range of work. Although this was welcomed a concern was raised that by doing this, more specialist skills particularly in relation to horticulture, could be lost. Mr Lovie replied that this had been recognised and that waste services was looking at how to retain such specialist skills going forward.

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Mr Lovie also informed the Committee, in response to a query regarding the planned expansion of services undertaken by Enveco, that a number of commercial waste collection contracts had been taken back by the company and there had been a growth in the trade waste collected in Wyre. He added that as a wholly-owned private company, Enveco was able to do more than an in-house service, while retaining the same vision as the Council to deliver for residents and invest in problematic areas. Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services, added that Enveco had grown to have a £12m turnover and was increasing the number of people it had engaged with. The company had also established a new Training and Development facility at the Layton Depot which would help improve the quality of service the staff offered. He also explained that the Council had engaged local people regarding what they could do to help improve their areas.

Mr Blackledge also reported that a new set of key performance indicators would be developed as part of the services improvement programme. This would allow services to better review performance and identify areas for improvement.

The issue of weeds was discussed as an area of historical, frequent local complaint. Members reported that they had received positive feedback from residents regarding the response from the service to addressing weeds. Mr Lovie welcomed the feedback and added that investment had been made into doubling the weed treatment resources, purchasing new equipment and training for staff, along with the development of a weeds plan to address the issue going forward.

A query was raised by the Committee regarding why the collection of bulky items remained outside of Enveco and was the responsibility of a private contractor. Mr Lovie explained that the timescales involved in establishing the company had meant that Enveco had been unable to integrate the bulky items contract into its services. However, he added that once the contract came up for renewal the Council would consider its integration with the company.

Members of the Committee welcomed the report and expressed the view that the service had improved following the establishment of Enveco. It was noted that the service had saved £750k and that public feedback had been largely positive. Mr Lovie added that the focus would remain on driving quality. Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council also stated that the company had delivered for residents and that work would continue to engage the community and show how to improve areas through collaborative working.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

8 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, presented the Flood Risk Management Annual report. This report outlined the work undertaken during 2021-2022 to ensure that the Council had met its statutory duties in respect of flood risk.

The Committee was informed that following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions the Council would be looking at resuming local area Flood Forums. She also announced that the

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Environment Agency would be hosting a Flood Hub for residents to engage with them regarding local issues. The Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy had also been agreed and Ms Nolan-Barnes stated that details of performance against its Business Plan would be included in future annual reports.

Members welcomed the resumption of meetings of the Flood Forums, and discussed the role of flood risk management in planning applications, noting that drainage details had been missing in some. Ms Nolan-Barnes emphasised the importance of managing flood risk at the planning stage and confirmed that engaging in planning was part of the Lancashire Flood Risk Strategy's business plan. She added that this would involve ensuring developments outlined details of how water was dealt with. Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services, also informed the Committee that a Community Flood Risk Resilience Policy was being developed which would include the importance of flood risk management in planning. The policy would also emphasise the importance of public ownership of flood risk and the need for everyone involved to play a role. The Committee agreed that the policy be brought to a future meeting to allow Member input.

Ms Nolan-Barnes also confirmed that the names of individuals who had come forward in 2020 to act as points of contact for flood risk had been retained and the Council was considering how to advertise people and services that could be called in a flood event.

The Committee agreed;

1. That the report be noted; and
2. That the Community Flood Risk Resilience Policy be brought to a future meeting to allow scrutiny input.

9 BATHING WATER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, presented the Bathing Water Management Annual Report, which outlined the work undertaken in 2021/2022 to meet the Council's statutory duty in respect of bathing water quality. She informed the Committee that the statutory duty of warning against swimming during pollution events had been fulfilled by the Beach Patrol during 2021/2022.

Members also discussed the work being undertaken to improve bathing water quality with the Council's partners in the Turning Tides partnership. Ms Nolan-Barnes reported that although pollution could be influenced by outside factors such as the weather, the partnership had been successful in retaining high scores for the Fylde Coast's bathing waters from the Environment Agency.

The Committee queried how many discharges of waste water into the sea had been undertaken by United Utilities (UU) during 2021/2022. In response, Ms Nolan-Barnes reported that the number of discharges allowed by UU was determined by the Environment Agency, and exceeding this limit would incur significant financial penalties. She added that the number of discharges made was publically available and that where the information was available could be provided.

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It was also asked if, in light of increased developments, the Council expected more flood overflows in Blackpool. Ms Nolan-Barnes replied that the impact on local residents of flooding could be significant and therefore developers were encouraged to consider drainage and how water was managed in planning applications to prevent flooding.

The Committee also asked that the details of the use of flood management infrastructure, such as the Anchorsholme Pumping Station, to prevent flooding be highlight to the community. It was hoped that in doing so the Council could show the success of investments in such infrastructure. Ms Nolan-Barnes agreed that communications with the public were important and noted that UU held details of the operation of flood management infrastructure which could be shared at future Flood Forum meetings.

The Committee agreed

1. That the report be noted; and
2. That information on the number of waste water discharges made by United Utilities be provided to the Committee.

10 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr Will Britain, Head of Highways and Traffic Management, gave a presentation on the current and future approach by the Highway Service to managing the Council's road network and related groups of road infrastructure assets.

The presentation gave details of how highways were managed prior to 2009 and how improvements had been made since that time. These included the movement to a new colour coded system to identify where road maintenance work was required which allowed for a more efficient and cost effective response to issues. This system which coded roads by four colours, blue for no issues, green for minor issues but no work required, amber for significant issues developing and red for a road that required closure to maintain, had been recognised nationally and implemented by other local authorities in the North West. Using the system the Council focussed on amber roads, where issues had started to develop, but the use of light treatment meant that repairs could be accomplished quickly and more cost effectively than if it were to degenerate to a red level.

The use of this system had also allowed the Council to secure £600K in funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to develop innovations for asset data collection. From this, the Council was further able to undertake Project 30 which included the borrowing of £30m for a four year capital investment in Blackpool's roads, based on the data obtained.

Blackpool had also established the Local Councils Road Infrastructure Group, which included various other local authorities and acted as a forum to promote collaborative working and share best practice.

Mr Britain further reported that during the Covid-19 lockdown the Council's Roads' Maintenance Team had remained in operation. This had been achieved from

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reorganisation of shift patterns and other safety measures. During this time the team was able to undertake vital road maintenance, as well as assist other Council services, such as grave digging at the Arboretum.

Members of the Committee were also told that the Gross Asset value of Blackpool's roads was £906m. As part of the funding to maintain this asset the Council received £1.5m from the Department for Transport (DfT). This was based on annual assessments from Internal Audit, which stated that the roads were within the DfT's Band Three.

The priority order for maintenance of roads was queried by the Committee. In response to which Mr Britain confirmed a copy of the list could be shared with the Committee. It was also added that the Council maintained a list of pavements in need of maintenance, the priority list for which could also be shared. Mr Ian Large, Performance Manager, Highway and Traffic Management Services, added that investment to develop flex footways in Blackpool was being applied for through the City Fibre project. This project would secure part of a £58m fund for the North West to install a fibre network in Blackpool's pavements.

The Committee agreed;

1. That the report be noted; and
2. That the priority list of Blackpool's roads and pavements be shared with Members of the Committee.

11 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

The Committee agreed its workplan and noted the updates to previous recommendations.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 30 March 2022.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

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

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2022

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 Partnerships and Performance
- Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Aspiration and Community Assets
- Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
- 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 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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APPENDIX 4(a)

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p>LEISURE AND PARKS SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Leisure and Parks Services 2022/23, detailed in Appendix A be agreed. 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>The proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Leisure and Parks Services for 2022/23.</p>	<p>PH6/22</p>	<p>03/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Aspiration and Community Assets</p>
<p>HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposed fees and charges for Highways and Traffic Management for 2022/23, which are detailed in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023, 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 Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport as a result of market change, be agreed.. 	<p>To consider the Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Highways and Traffic Management for 2022/23</p>	<p>PH7/22</p>	<p>07/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport</p>

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<p>RIDEABILITY SERVICE FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That the proposed fees and charges for Integrated Transport section, relating to the Rideability service, which are detailed in Appendix A, with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, be agreed</p>	<p>The proposed fees and charges for the Integrated Transport section, relating to the Rideability service for 2022/23.</p>	<p>PH8/22</p>	<p>07/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport</p>
<p>CUSTOMER FIRST AND BENEFITS FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fees and charges for Blue Badges as outlined at Appendix A with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, be agreed. 2. That the fees and charges for Client Finances Money Management as outlined at Appendix A with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, be approved 	<p>To consider fees and charges proposals for 2022/23 in the attached schedule (Appendix A) for Blue Badges and Money Management.</p>	<p>PH9/22</p>	<p>08/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture</p>
<p>WASTE SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That the Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Waste Services for 2022/23, detailed in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023.</p>	<p>To present the proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Waste Services 2022/23.</p> <p>This report outlines the proposal to maintain the annual subscription cost of kerbside green waste collections and bulky waste collections at the existing rates.</p>	<p>PH11/22</p>	<p>09/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance</p>

<p>EMERGENCY ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND PROPOSED CYCLE SCHEME (ST WALBURGA’S ROAD)</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In light of the feedback received by stakeholders as part of the formal consultation undertaken by Infusion, which overall is not supportive of the scheme it is recommended not to proceed with the implementation of the cycle proposal. 2. To further investigate investing in upgrading the existing cycle provision on St Walburga’s Road, which takes account of in particular the feedback from cyclists who use the route. 3. In light of feedback in relation to a toucan crossing opposite St Mary’s Catholic Academy it is recommended that this be considered as part of a wider review of road safety related to schools. 4. To explore the potential of investing the Active Travel funding into the Blackpool Wheel idea/proposal, which would provide a c24-mile route round the borough, including the promenade for cycling, walking and running. 	<p>To consider whether to proceed with the proposed cycle scheme on St Walburga’s Road as part of the Emergency Active Travel Funding.</p>	<p>PH13/22</p>	<p>11/03/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport</p>
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APPENDIX 4(a)

<p>PUBLIC PROTECTION FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree to the Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Public Protection and Enforcement for 2022/23, which are detailed in Appendix 'A'. 2. To agree that the fees charged can be varied by the Director of Community and Environmental Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport as a result of market changes. 	<p>The proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Public Protection and Enforcement for 2022/23.</p>	<p>PH14/22</p>	<p>14/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport</p>
<p>LICENSING SERVICE FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To approve the attached fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2022/23 with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 as outlined in Appendix 'A'</p>	<p>To consider the proposed fees and charges for the Licensing Service for 2022/23.</p>	<p>PH15/22</p>	<p>16/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport</p>

<p>PLANNING FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed:</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 2022 to 31 March 2023. 2. To maintain the Council's pre-application advice charging schedule as detailed in Appendix 'A' with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. 3. To maintain the Council's charging schedule in terms of the level of fees retained when invalid applications are not subsequently made valid and for miscellaneous items as detailed in Appendix 'A' with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. 4. To agree that the fees charged can be reduced from these rates in exceptional circumstances. At present, such departure requires a published Officer decision from the Director of Communications and Regeneration, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. It is proposed that, with effect from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 this be delegated to the Director of Growth and Prosperity Programme Director. 	<p>To set out the proposed fees and charges for Planning for 2022/23.</p>	<p>PH20/22</p>	<p>24/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture</p>
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<p>BLACKPOOL HERITAGE AND MUSEUM TRUST</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To authorise the Director of Governance and Partnerships to set up a new charitable company entitled the Blackpool Heritage and Museum Trust, on the basis set out in paragraph 6.4. 2. To authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to formulate an Implementation Agreement to protect the Council’s interests in its involvement with the new charitable company and agree this with the charitable company. 3. To authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to make the necessary arrangements to sub-let the lease for the space within the Sands Building to the new charitable company. 4. To authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to negotiate a contract with the new charitable company for the provision of a Heritage Service to the Council. 5. To authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration make the necessary arrangements to TUPE transfer the staff referred to in paragraph 10.1 to the new charitable company, at some point prior to the opening of the Museum in April 2023. 	<p>To consider setting up a charitable company to run the museum, known as ‘Showtown’ and to take over the operation of the Blackpool Heritage Service in due course.</p>	<p>EX13/22</p>	<p>24/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture</p>
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APPENDIX 4(a)

<p>LIBRARY AND HERITAGE SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the amended Library and Heritage Services fees and charges for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix A. 2. To agree to continue the position of having no overdue fees or local reservation charges in 2022-23. 	<p>To consider proposed changes to fees and charges for the Library and Heritage Services in 2022-23.</p>	<p>PH12/22</p>	<p>28/02/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Aspiration and Community Assets</p>
<p>PARKING SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the schedule of on and off street parking tariffs for each parking area as set out within the attached schedule at Appendix A, subject to consultation, with effect from the 1 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023. 2. To agree the schedule of the business and residential permit rates as set out within the attached schedule at Appendix B, subject to consultation, with effect from the 1 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023. 3. To agree 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 of Communications and Regeneration, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. 4. 	<p>The proposed Parking Services fees and charges for 2022/23.</p>	<p>PH23/22</p>	<p>01/03/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>

<p>FEEs AND CHARGES- GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the fees and charges for Legal Services and associated notes as set out in Appendix A for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. 2. To note the statutory fee for the sale of the electoral register as set out in paragraph 6.1. 		PH25/22	02/03/2022	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and 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:	30 March 2022

FORWARD PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan April 2022 to July 2022, 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 and Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism
- Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
- 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 April 2022 to July 2022.

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**(APRIL 2022 TO JULY 2022)***** Denotes New Item**

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
April 2022	Town Centre Investment (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)	1/2021	Executive	Cllr Williams
April 2022	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)	2/2021	Executive or Shareholder Committee	Cllr Williams
April 2022	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)	3/2021	Executive	Cllr Smith

Appendix 5(a)

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
April 2022	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)	24/2021	Council	Cllr Brookes
April 2022	Demolition of South King Street offices to clear site for re-development as a car park to support provision for the town centre and new Conference Centre.	4/2022	Executive	Cllr Smith
*April 2022	Local Transport Plan Programme	6/2022	Executive	Cllr Brookes
*April 2022	To approve and formally adopt the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	7/2022	Executive	Cllr Williams

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Lisa Arnold, Strategic Head of Community and Wellbeing Services
Date of Meeting	30 March 2022

PARK AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORT

1 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the service, work undertaken over the last twelve months, performance of the Park Development Service and future priorities.

2 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To scrutinise the work of the service during 2021/2022, provide feedback on any relevant areas within the report and identify any areas for additional scrutiny.

3 Reasons for recommendation:

- 3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the Park Development Service

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:

3.4 None.

4 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The Park Development Service contributes to both council priorities;
- Priority One 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool';
 - Priority Two 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

5 Report Information

- 5.1 The report provides an update on the work and performance of the Park Development Service with a financial overview and projected year end position for 2021/22. The Park Development Service is responsible for the strategic direction and improvement of Blackpool's parks and open spaces to maximise the benefits green spaces can offer to social, economic and environmental objectives.

6 Park Development Service Overview

6.1 The Park Development Service is responsible for:

- Collaboratively creating and delivering a programme of Park and Open Space improvements aiming to maximise the benefits of each park to the community and biodiversity where appropriate;
- Working collaboratively with ENVECO NW to ensure the maintenance and presentation of parks and green open spaces across the town meets the agreed standards;
- Sourcing external funding for improvement projects and schemes including playgrounds, buildings and park infrastructure;
- Engaging and connecting the community with their local open space to encourage responsible usage and involvement in the park;
- Working in collaboration with Friends groups and the community to ensure each park is promoted and developed with the needs of the park users and establish new groups in areas where required;
- Delivery and coordination of the Park Ranger Service to promote parks and open spaces and engage the community with their open space, including the Early Years Park Ranger programme funded through Blackpool Better Start;
- Coordinating partnerships and lead on the application of Green Flag awards across the town;
- Developing and co-ordinating a parks volunteering programme which provides volunteers with support and training required to enable positive management of green open spaces.;
- Ensuring biodiversity is enhanced on open spaces and that specified ecological sites are undergoing positive management to increase wildlife;
- Supporting and promoting events on parks and opens spaces undertaken by external partners and Friends groups; and
- Playing a key role in the delivery of the Green & Blue Infrastructure strategy with partners and stakeholders;

6.2 The Park Development Service contributes and plays an active part in supporting some of Blackpools' key strategies and plans, including:

- Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy;
- Tree Strategy;
- Local Plan;
- Active Lives Strategy;
- Open Spaces Assessment; and
- Climate change Action Plan;

6.3 The team comprises of 13 members of staff which sit under Lisa Arnold, Strategic Head of Community and Wellbeing.

Park Development Manager;

Community Engagement Officer;

Parks Volunteer Coordinator;

Park Ranger Supervisor;

Junior Park Ranger Coordinator;

Parks Administration Officer;

Parks Rangers x 4; and

Apprentices x3

- 6.4 Five placements for young people were undertaken in 2021 working alongside the Park Ranger Service gaining skills in community engagement, horticulture and ecological management. One role was a traditional apprenticeship funded through Head Start and 4 were funded through the Kickstart programme. These programmes have proven successful with some individuals progressing into employment with the Parks Development Service.

7 Projects

- 7.1 Stanley Park playground has and is seeing improvement works undertaken including upgrading of pathways, repairs to existing equipment and the addition of several new items including an explorer dome, octo net and cliff rider at approx. £80,000. A disused growing space adjacent has been adapted to provide a viewing space across the play area as requested by many park users.
- 7.2 The Stanley Park Skate Park Development group has been successful in securing £225,000 funding for an improved wheel sports facility at Stanley Park from Sport England and Suez. The group, which comprises of local skating participants, Friends for Stanley Park and Blackpool Council have appointed Mind Works Ramps to undertake the ambitious project. The chosen design includes ramps steps, quarter pipes, curbs and rails, finished in concrete and steel to provide a low-maintenance long lasting facility. Work has started on site and is expected to be completed before the end of April. Indicative designs are included in Appendix 6(a).
- 7.3 At Boundary Park, in the Grange Park Housing Estate additional pathways have been installed to create a circular route around the park. Work is now focused on creating an improved multiuse games area, changing rooms and parking facilities.
- 7.4 A new playing pitch plateau of 115,000sq has been developed at Common Edge as part of the wider Enterprise Zone developments which will include a 3G pitch and new changing room facilities. The grass pitches are now open and have been well received by the football community.

8 Playground improvement schemes

- 8.1 Bispham cliffs – A new assault course has been created to replace the equipment in a poor condition with any equipment in a good condition being transferred to Watson Road Park to help replace a broken swing, furthering our sustainability efforts. Most of the funding has been contributed by ward councillors with Parks Development Service contributing the remainder.
- 8.2 Watson Road Park – As discussed above the play equipment due to be removed will be replaced by equipment from Bispham Cliff. The funding has been provided by ward councillors.
- 8.3 Gynn Sunken Gardens – A new piece of equipment is installed to replace the broken bridge. Most of the funding has been contributed by ward councillors with Parks Development Service contributing the remainder.
- 8.4 Boundary play area – The play area requires several improvements and installations; part funding has been secured with the remainder waiting on application forms.
- 8.5 Carr Road – Plans have been created to improved and replace several items, the project has been funded by commuted sums and will be available soon.

9 Park Ranger Service Update

- 9.1 The BetterStart Park ranger scheme has continued to deliver high quality nature-based activities and events to families with young children. Since April 2021 there have been 450 individual 0-4s attending sessions with many repeat visits on top of this. The Park Ranger Service is now OFSTED registered allowing for full day programmes throughout the school holidays to be delivered, which will enhance the overall Park Ranger programme and meet identified demand locally. A photo board of events is shown in Appendix 6(b).
- 9.2 Funding has recently been received from local councillors to help complete improvement works to the Revoe Community Garden with £16,000 to help purchase additional plants, upgrade tools and Personal Protective Equipment PPE for our volunteers and community events and plan further forest school events for the local community.

10 Community Involvement

- 10.1 The Parks Service has recently recruited a Parks Community Engagement Officer to ensure that communities are at the centre of greening projects within Blackpool. They will work closely with the volunteer coordinator and Friends groups to lead community involvement and grow greenspace volunteering. Many Parks Friends Groups are reporting a drop in active members since COVID, with the exception of Anchorholme who have grown a network of engaged community members. Work will now focus on supporting those existing groups and creating new opportunities.

- 10.2 The Parks Service is working alongside members of the community to create new Friends groups for Mossam Fields and Moorpark to improve the management, promotion and engagement of these sites.
- 10.3 Volunteering hours have not been accurately measured in 2021 due to post vacancies however the service has observed that volunteering activity has increased since COVID restrictions were lifted.
- 10.4 Volunteers have continued to managed Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve for the benefit of both people and wildlife. The team meet weekly to undertake activities such as scrub clearance, pathway maintenance and grassland management.

11 Supporting the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

- 11.1 The team have planted over 80 large trees throughout Blackpool and including Christmas trees, new street trees, trees in parks, memorial trees, community orchard trees in collaboration with schools, construction companies, social enterprises and Trees in Cities. Funding has been provided by the Parks Development Service, ward councilors and commuted Sums. A further 500 whips have been planted at Mereside Park and an additional 1000 whips have been sourced from the Woodland Trust.

12 Events and Promotion

- 12.1 Due to COVID restrictions and guidelines many events on Blackpool's parks were paused for the majority of 2021. Parkrun and several running events were able to go ahead alongside smaller scale community events such as sport activities.
- 12.2 In August 2021, the Adventure Cinema company came to Stanley Park to screen the Greatest Showman and Grease. These events were well attended and received lots of positive feedback. On the back of this success the Adventure Cinema is booked to return 29 April-1 May showing Dirty Dancing, Mama Mia and Jurassic Park.

13.0 Parks Development Service (other)

- 13.1 Sadly, highly pathogenic Avian influenza H5N1 was confirmed again this winter at Stanly Park lake resulting in 25 swans dying. The Parks Service were able to quickly react and work with colleagues in ENVECO and Environmental Protection to close the lake and ensure communication messages were disseminated.
- 13.2 As expected, the transition of the parks operational team to ENVECO in September 2021 has taken some time to bed in and is working well. Regular relationship meetings take place between the Parks Development Team and ENVECO to agree longer term work plans and focuses and opportunities to work together to improve the green spaces across the town. An example of a joint project which is currently underway is the refurbishment and equipment replacement in Stanley Park playground. The parks team have arranged the equipment replacement which ENVECO have committed to refurbishing the pathways and tidying up the existing facilities. In addition, the previous GrowZone, which has been disused for some time will have picnic benches and seating installed to enable dog owners

with children to watch the play park without needing to take their dogs into the playground area.

- 13.3 Over the last 7 months the service has faced significant change, with vacancies across a quarter of its workforce. Key roles remained vacant for several months whilst the recruitment process was carried out which has resulted in several projects, particularly around community engagement and the development of Parks Development Plans not being progressed as far as the service had hoped. Therefore, the development of these plans remains a key focus for 2022/23.
- 13.4 A review of the tree and bench memorial scheme and application process has been completed, with the application process eventually moving online, making it more user friendly and streamlined. The review included assessing tree species which would further benefit the parks and provide biodiversity, with a new species list in place. The benches have been changed to ensure we create sustainable practices with all benches are made from recycled plastic and cast aluminum, reducing maintenance. A condition audit of all existing memorial benches was also carried out and a replacement and removal plan agreed with ENVECO.
- 13.5 A tree survey of all trees on Blackpool Council land was carried out throughout Autumn 2021. A total of 7000 trees and groups of trees have been surveyed and highlighted within a schedule specifying any maintenance requirements and sets of plans which can be integrated into our asset maps. In addition, a robust risk management process and reporting procedure has been developed for the zoning of trees and logging any 'failed' trees. This will ensure we are taking a proactive and responsible approach at managing our trees and ensure any failed trees are inspected to see if the hazards were detectable and any learning shared to reduce the risk to the council of public liability claims.

14 Key Future Priorities

- 14.1 A Stanley Park Masterplan is currently being developed to identify areas requiring significant refurbishment and areas that present opportunities for investment to increase footfall and potentially attract new target markets to the park. The masterplan will be developed with key stakeholders including the Friends of Stanley Park, ENVECO, park concessionaires, local Councilors as well as consultation with the local community including users and non-users of the park. A consultation timeline and approach can be found at Appendix 6(c).
- 14.2 Blackpool's Open Spaces Assessment, which highlights the current condition of all Blackpool Parks and open spaces, has directed future priorities and is contributing to creating Park Development Plans. These will be used to create targeted site improvements with the view to obtaining Green Flag where possible. The Park Development Plans will shape the future management of the spaces by the grounds maintenance team to ensure a consistent approach and quality of open spaces across Blackpool. Three parks (Anchorholme, Highfield Road and Revoe) have initially been targeted to undergo the Park's Development process and community engagement has started to establish a community vision and aims for each park. A document highlighting the Park Development Plan process is included as Appendix 6(d).

- 14.3 The website will be updated and improved to ensure it better meets the needs of the public in providing informative information about local parks and green spaces. The website development team have committed to starting this work in April 2022 and it is anticipated the project will take 4 – 6 months to complete. An overview of the proposed page structure can be found at Appendix 6(e) which shows the extent of the update and proposed changes.
- 14.4 The Parks, Leisure and Catering Services have jointly employed a Marketing Officer to promote the work of the three teams. Their initial focus for the parks team is looking at promoting existing events and services such as the Park Ranger’s programme. The service plan to develop regular a regular stakeholder newsletter to promote the work of the service and ensure case studies and success stories are shouted about as this has previously been recognised as an area for improvement.
- 14.5 Further procedures are to be implemented to establish the Parks Development Service and will include providing clarity and enhancement in our working partnership with Enveco, existing services and stakeholders, and furthering our community engagement through our new officer. The establishment of the parks development plan is key to provide direction, improve practices and plan future projects, whilst been available as a shared resource. This will direct future projects allowing time and resources to be allocated, whilst providing consultations to take place and valuable feedback to be highlighted. Therefore, these will be a priority going forward.
- 14.6 The tree survey has highlighted that we have a limited range of tree species and therefore, to improve our biodiversity, pest and disease resilience and improve amenity, parks and green spaces will be planted with as many diverse species as possible adding further interest to our areas, benefitting wildlife and helping to offset the borough’s carbon footprint.

15 Budget Information

- 15.1 The Parks Development Service has an annual expenditure of £799,623 and annual income target of £338,245 with the net overall cost of the service being £461,378. For 2021/22 the service has exceeded its income target through securing of additional external funds, predominantly for capital expenditure and improvement works. However, the service has continued to see the impact of COVID on income particularly in relation to bowling and events, with very few large events returning for Summer 2021. The projected year end position for the service is to be £20,000 over budget, all of which related to bowling and event income targets not being achieved.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

16.0 List of Appendices:

- 16.1 Appendix 6(a)– Skate Park designs
 Appendix 6(b)– Rangers images
 Appendix 6(c) – Stanley Park Masterplan process
 Appendix 6(d) – Park Development Plan Process
 Appendix 6(e) – Website considerations

17.0 Legal considerations

17.1 None

18.0 Human Resources considerations

18.1 The Park and Green Environment Service employs 30 staff.

19.0 Equalities considerations

19.1 The aim of the Parks and Green Environment Service is to ensure accessibility for all interests and abilities.

20.0 Financial considerations

20.1 Revenue savings and investment in the Parks and Green Environment are detailed in the body of the report and have been considerable.

21.0 Risk management considerations

21.1 The Parks and Green Environment Service operates within a robust risk assessment framework

22.0 Ethical considerations

22.1 The Parks and Green Environment Service adhere to the Ethical policy of the Council in ensuring appropriate use of the town's parks and open spaces.

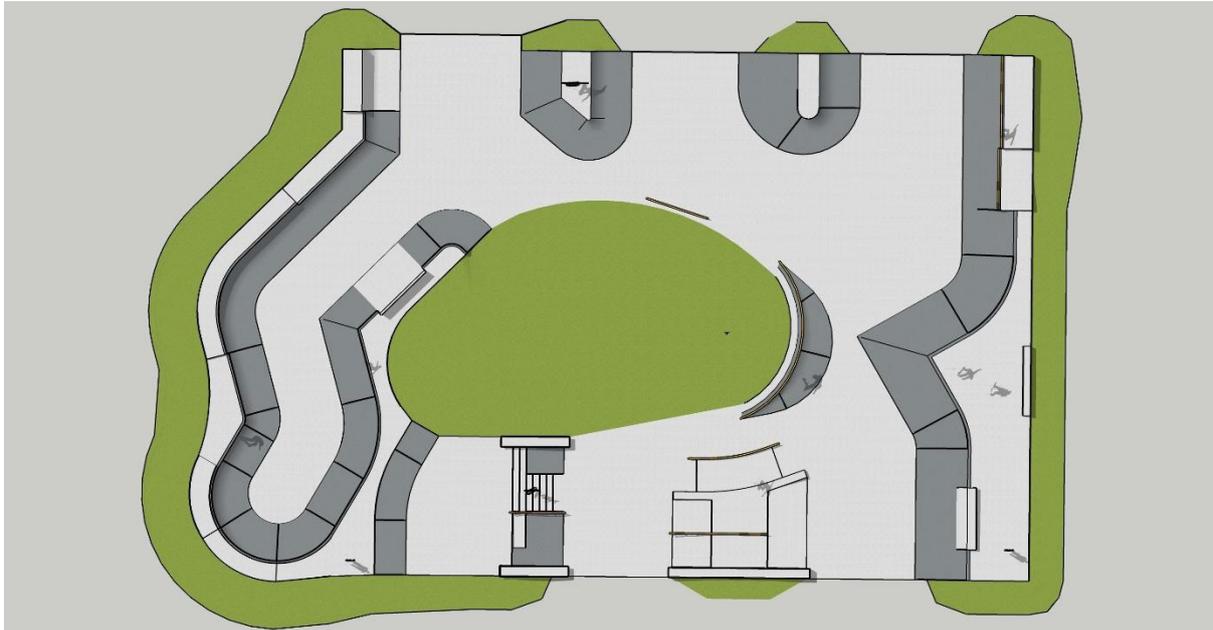
23.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken

23.1 None

24.0 Background papers

24.1 None

Appendix 6(a)– Designs for Stanley Park Skate Park



Similar projects completed by Mindworks



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Appendix 6(b)– Images of Park Ranger Service



JUNIOR PARK RANGERS

We are Blackpool's Junior Park Rangers, a group of 10-16 year olds who come together to improve their parks and green spaces. Come and join our fun outdoor activities such as painting, crafts, woodwork, den building, plantings, fire lighting, building and litter pickings. We need you!

Autumn Timetable

Revoe Park
18th September
10am-12pm
13th November
10am-12pm

Claremont Park
2nd October
10am-12pm
27th November
10am-12pm

Book your FREE place using Eventbrite.co.uk
Blackpool Junior Park Rangers

Mereside Park
16th October
10am-12pm
11th December
10am-12pm

Age 10-16 year olds

For more information please contact the Park Service by email parks@blackpool.gov.uk or visit us on facebook **Blackpool Park Rangers**

Winter's FAIRY Trail

Free Event

Revoe Park
Community Garden

Wednesday 15th
December 2021
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Join us for Revoe Park Community Garden's Winter Fairy Trail. Follow the fairy lit path to find all the hidden fairy houses nestled away in the garden. Then join us for carol singing by fairy light, hot chocolate and refreshments.

For more information find us on Facebook - Blackpool Park Rangers or email parks@blackpool.gov.uk

BLACKPOOL PARK RANGERS JANUARY - MARCH TIMETABLE

FREE sessions for Blackpool families with children aged 0 - 4yrs

Mini Rangers

@TheGrange

every Tuesday
1pm - 2pm

Baby Rangers

Revoe Park

every Thursday
10.30am - 11.30am

Forest School

Claremont Park

every Wednesday
10.30am - 11.30am

Baby Rangers

Revoe Park

every Thursday
10.30am - 11.30am

Mini Rangers

Revoe Park

every Thursday
1pm - 2pm

Forest School

Mereside Park

every Friday
10.30am - 11.30am



Family Art & Crafts at Bancroft Park

Join us for fun and exciting nature inspired Arts and Crafts sessions at Bancroft Park. These FREE sessions are for Blackpool families with children under 5yrs and will be indoors at Base Camp on Bancroft Park. No booking necessary. For more information email parks@blackpool.gov.uk

- Monday 10th January 10.30am - 11.30am**
Leaf impression pottery.
- Monday 17th January 10.30am - 11.30am**
Painting with nature.
- Monday 24th January 10.30am - 11.30am**
Decorate a nest box.
- Monday 31st January 10.30am - 11.30am**
Design and create a nature mask.
- Monday 7th February 10.30am - 11.30am**
Make your own Dreamcatcher.
- Monday 21st February 10.30am - 11.30am**
Grow your own grass head family.

Please note: You cannot drive onto the park. There is pay and display parking available opposite the park. Alternatively free parking can be found on Central Drive which is just a short walk away.



Appendix 6(c) - Stanley Park Master Plan Overview

Background

Stanley Park, Blackpool's largest Park, is a Grade II listed heritage park that has previously won the Fields in Trust Park of the Year Award in 2017 and 2019. The park is very popular with local residents and tourist alike, attracting intergenerational groups through its broad range of activities and facilities. Stanley Park contains a number of facilities and attractions including a lake, bandstand, Italian gardens, rose gardens, art deco café, children's play area, 3G pitches and athletics arena, BMX track, skate park, bowling greens, tennis courts, a cricket pitch with clubhouse, *model village* and visitor centre which is operated by the Friends of Stanley Park group who proactively support with the upkeep and promotion of the park. The park Map at Appendix 6(a) (Map 1) highlights the key infrastructure within the park.

In 2005 a £5.5m Heritage Lottery Fund-aided programme of repair, conservation and enhancement was undertaken to help restore key infrastructure in the park including the Italian Gardens, Art Deco Café and rose garden

Since then the park has seen little investment beyond the day to day maintenance regime and now has areas that require substantial refurbishment and redevelopment. Furthermore, some facilities and areas of the park are underutilised due to decline in particular activities such as bowling and therefore there is an opportunity to rethink and redesign areas of the park to reflect modern day usage to increase footfall and full utilisation of the space for local residents and visitors.

The park has suffered from ASB over recent years. The council have recently invested in monitored CCTV in key areas of the park to help reduce ASB and the damage that is caused by this. Furthermore, the council are exploring the possibility of lighting key routes through the park to encourage responsible use outside daylight hours including dog walking and exercise.

A draft masterplan document will be developed to identify areas requiring significant refurbishment and areas that present opportunities to invest to increase footfall and potentially attract new target markets to the park.

Key Principles

The masterplan will be developed collaboratively using the following seven principles to create a framework with which to develop ideas and opportunities;

1. Create a welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe & secure
3. Sustainability
4. Create an inclusive space for all to access
5. Enhance biodiversity and heritage
6. High quality destination
7. Community collaboration

Park Zones

The zoning map (Map 2; Appendix 6(a)) outlines potential zones for the park that have been identified by the Parks Development Service. The proposed zones have been developed from an

understanding of the existing space utilisation and potential future opportunities. The proposed zones will be used and shared as part of the consultation process to help shape and aid discussions and feedback.

Consultation

Consultation will play a key part in developing the masterplan, with key stakeholders including the Friends of Stanley Park, ENVECO, park concessionaires. Local councillors and Heritage Lottery Fund as well as consultation with the local community including users and non-users of the park. The consultation process will involve community meetings and drop in sessions to explore ideas as well as online surveys to engage non-users and the broader Blackpool community.

Project prioritisation

Identified projects within the masterplan will be prioritised using a scoring matrix of 1 – 5 for the two areas

- The level of decline/damage of heritage assets
- Public desire/ interest
- Cost benefit
- Social return on investment

Work in progress

Whilst the Masterplan is developed, it is important that investment continues to be explored and secured to develop priority areas. There are a number of projects that are either underway or actively being explored currently which include:

- Stanley Park Playground refurbishment to replace broken equipment and improve the overall appearance;
- £220,000 improvement in the Skate Park area, secured by Stanley Park Skateboard Group to create enhance concrete skating facilities;
- Upgrade of the toilet facilities to enable DANFO operation.

Timescales

The timeline (Appendix 6(d)) outlines the scope of the master planning process which will commence in January 2022 with completion projected to be in August 2022.

Appendix 6(d) - Park Development Plan Process

Introduction

In order to ensure high quality parks and open spaces in Blackpool, Park Developments are being developed for each site. Park Development plans will include maps, objectives for the park, a programme of improvement and funding priorities. Each Park Development Plan will be unique to the open space and the communities' requirements and aspirations.

Objective of the Development Plans

The objectives of the plans is to further improve the parks and green spaces within Blackpool by aligning targets and criteria's with Green Flag Award, Green Flag Community Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation where applicable. In order to achieve the objective several criteria's are needed depending on which parks are to be associated with one of the three types of awards. The criteria's are as follows:



1. A Welcoming Place
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Well Maintained and Clean
4. Environment Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heriage

6. Community Involvement
7. Marketing and Communication
8. Management



1. Condition of Historic Features
2. Use and Enjoyment of Historic Features
3. Maintaining Historic Character and Appearance

Open Spaces Assessment

The majority of Blackpool's parks and open spaces were assessed in 2018 using Green Flag Criteria. This assessment will be used to prioritise the order in which parks undergo a Park Development Plan. Parks and Open Spaces with exiting Friends Groups and/or a poor assessment result will be prioritised first.

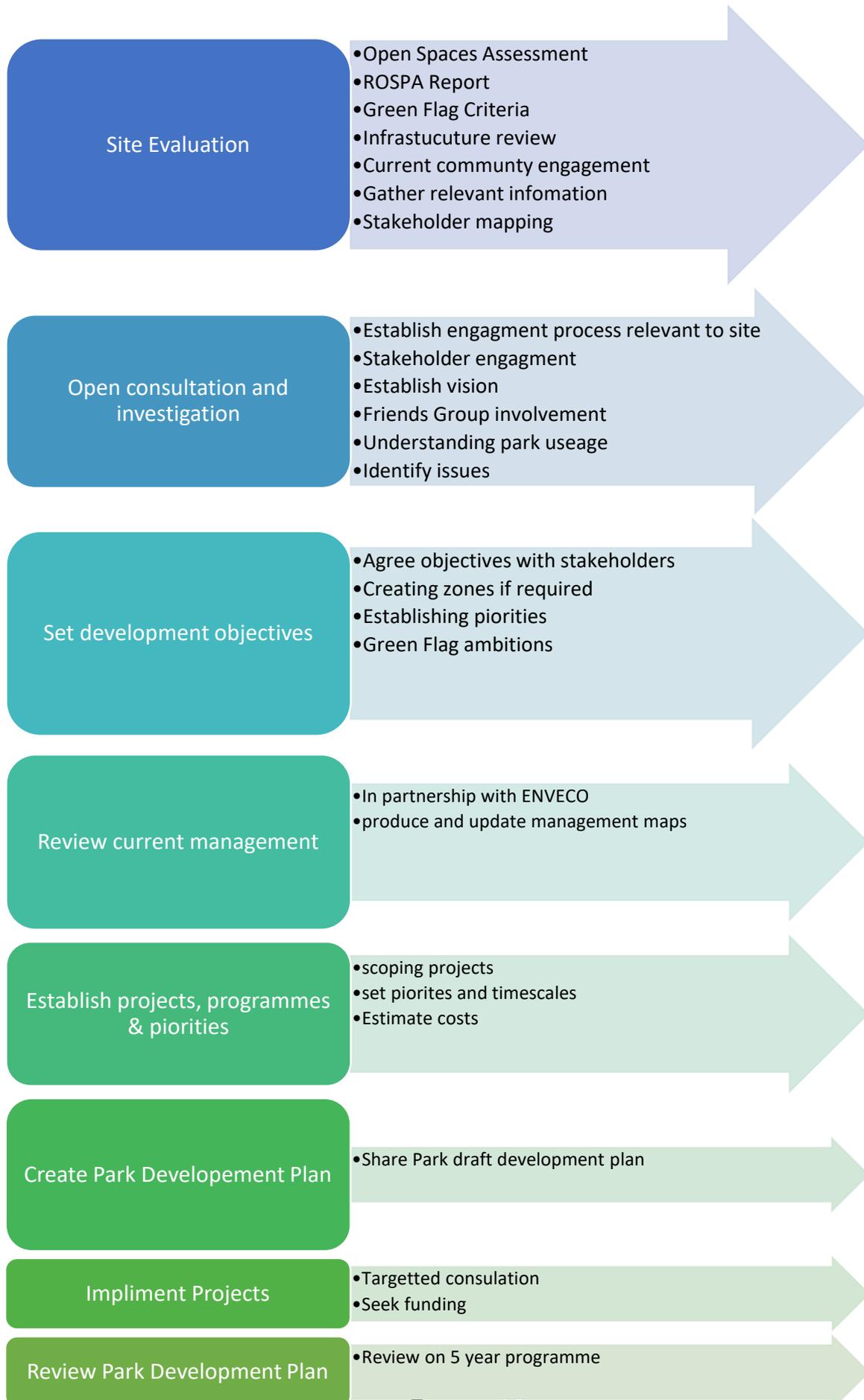
The open spaces assessment categorises Blackpool's Open Space into the following groups:

Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively, found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.
Green Corridor	Green corridors including towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycle ways, rights of way and disused railway lines.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction specifically designed as equipped play facilities.
Allotments and Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
Outdoor Sports Facility	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation.

Creating a Park Development Plan

Each Park Development Plan will be specific to the site to

To ensure a consist approach, each Park Development Plan will follow a process of site evaluation, consultation and project creation



Creation of projects and programmes

Each Project will include the following information:

- Short term, medium term, long term
- Green Flag criteria
- Additional consultation required
- Anticipated cost
- Potential funding bids
- Priority
- Stakeholders

Park Development Plan DRAFT Template

1. Introduction
2. Park/Open Space Description
3. Site Evaluation
 - 3.1 Open Spaces Assessment
 - 3.2 Playground
 - 3.3 Community involvement
 - 3.4 Key issues
4. Stakeholder engagement
5. Development Objectives
6. Site Management
7. Projects
 - 7.1 Playground
 - 7.2 Infrastructure (benches, signage etc)
 - 7.3 Horticulture
 - 7.4 Biodiversity
 - 7.5 Heritage

8. Programmes

8.1 Community engagement/involvement

8.2 Activities

8.3 Events

9. Marketing and Promotion

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Appendix 6(e) – Website Structure outline

Broad Themes	Pages	Sub pages	Associated documents
Parks and Sites	Interactive map of the sites	Each individual site has a separate page with further detail about facilities, parking, community involvement and activities	
	List of sites, symbols to show category and facilities		
Get involved	Friends Groups	Create a new group. Information about how to create a new group	Friends handbook
		List of existing groups - link to map if possible	Friend/Community Event manual (to be created)
		Information for existing groups such as how to run an event or suggestions for project	Code of conduct Generic risk assessments
	Volunteer	Why volunteer	Volunteer handbook
		Volunteer enquiries	application form
		Volunteer stories/case studies	Code of Conduct
		Volunteer opportunities	
	Information for existing volunteers		
Give us your views	Feedback link		
Events	Up and coming events	List of events and how to book if required	
	Run an event	Contact information	Application form
		Support available	Fees and Charges
			Friend/Community Event manual (to be created)
Memorial benches/trees	Apply for a memorial	Information about trees	Application form
		Information about benches	
	Existing users	Access to the map of your tree	
	Make a donation		
Park rangers	What's happening	List of up and coming events and activities and how to book if required	
	Get involved	Information on how to volunteer	
	About the rangers	Information on the team and what they do	
Trees	Got a tree	TPO information and pruning guidance	
	Tree planting	Advice on how to plant a tree	
		What and where trees are being planted	
Green up Blackpool	What you can do if resident	Information on how to keep and encourage GBI	

	What you can do if business		
	What you can do if school		
	GBI Strategy	what the council is doing	GBI strategy document
			GBI action Plan

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications
Date of Decision/ Meeting	30 March 2022

TOURISM PERFORMANCE UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide information on tourism performance including the final four months of 2021 and the opening two months of 2022. The report assesses the impact of the extended Illuminations season and enhanced Christmas offer, as well as providing an update on plans for the 2022 season.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the performance of tourism and associated services and to identify any further areas for scrutiny as appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the report, which has been requested by the Committee.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 During 2021, Blackpool Council unveiled a £1m package to kick-start the town's tourism economy after businesses suffered large-scale losses over the course of the pandemic as a result of lockdowns and trading restrictions. The main activities associated with this investment were a two-month extension of the Illuminations season and the biggest package of marketing and events ever delivered in the resort during November and December.
- 6.2 Attached at Appendix 7(a) is a detailed report which shows the impact of the Illuminations extension and the Christmas By The Sea village which was staged on the Tower Festival Headland from mid-November until the start of January. This impact is measured using Visitor Insight data which measures footfall via mobile phone technology.
- 6.3 The attached report also includes the plans to assist further resort recovery during 2022. These include:
- Large-scale investment in a destination marketing campaign for the summer of 2022 in partnership with Merlin and other resort partners;
 - Another two-month extension to the Illuminations season, stretching to January 2, 2023;
 - The return of key events including the two-day Air Show in August – the first time we have been able to stage this event since 2019 due to pandemic restrictions
 - Working with the newly-established Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) to develop new events and support resort marketing activity
 - Utilising the Welcome Back Fund to develop a new events guide and business tourism guide
 - Ongoing business support via the Tourism Recovery Group which continues to meet on a weekly basis to discuss common issues such as staffing and recruitment, as well as sharing insights on performance and visitor numbers
- 6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 7(a) – Report on Resort Recovery Plans

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 Appendix 7(a) outlines the use of a £1m package to assist tourism recovery during 2021 following the losses incurred during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 8.2 The private sector led Tourism Business Improvement District is expect to raise up to £1.4m of investment in tourism for Blackpool over five years following its establishment in July 2021.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Non

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None

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APPENDIX 7(a) TO TOURISM SCRUTINY REPORT**30 MARCH 2022****TOURISM RECOVERY 2021****Background**

As the tourism, retail and hospitality industry began to emerge from COVID lockdowns and restrictions during the first half of 2021, the Council committed a £1m investment in events and marketing to kick-start the recovery process.

This included a two-month extension of the Illuminations season, an extensive autumn marketing campaign and the most ambitious Christmas events programme ever launched in the resort.

The Christmas By The Sea village, which ran on the Tower Festival Headland from November 19 to January 3, included a free skating rink, artificial snowfalls, light projection shows, log cabins, and large-scale light installations.

In the town centre, a Winter Wonderland was created with food stalls and family entertainment around St John's Square and the Winter Gardens.

Both events were complemented by a heavily discounted parking offer across most Council car parks.

Results

The two-month extension of the Illuminations, coupled with Blackpool's biggest ever Christmas campaign, delivered record footfall across the resort.

Footfall figures for the town centre and Promenade show exceptional increases across all four months of the autumn/winter season compared to 2019, the last year unaffected by the pandemic.

The Christmas By The Sea campaign resulted in a 75% increase in footfall on the seafront compared to 2019.

The additional Christmas activity around St John's Square and the Winter Gardens, combined with discounted parking, resulted in town centre footfall increasing by almost 28% over the same period.

Promenade Footfall

	2021	2020	2019	2018
September	4,230,460	3,305,710	2,997,048	3,016,977
October	6,314,918	3,305,710	3,516,766	3,393,376
November	3,471,686	1,367,556	2,095,888	1,980,209
December	3,202,584	1,703,969	1,857,419	1,877,807
Total	17,219,648	9,682,945	10,467,121	10,268,369

Town Centre Footfall:

	2021	2020	2019	2018
September	2,902,003	2,278,259	2,531,173	2,527,674
October	4,145,177	2,115,648	2,894,629	2,721,229
November	2,598,018	914,430	1,970,406	1,875,572
December	2,555,608	1,383,238	1,903,537	1,995,875
Total	12,200,806	6,691,575	9,299,745	9,120,350

Footfall during the Christmas campaign (November 19 to January 3)

	2021-22	2019-20	% change from 2019-20 to 2021-22
Town centre	3,924,036	3,068,688	+27.9%
Promenade	4,966,570	2,835,421	+75.2%

Visitor Interest

The footfall figures are supported by record amounts of visitor interest recorded on the VisitBlackpool website over the extended Illuminations season with all four months showing huge increases over 2019 (the last full year of tourism activity):

Unique Website Visits on VisitBlackpool

	2021	2020	2019	2018
September	366,224	263,529	179,004	183,415
October	408,025	262,361	194,366	214,405
November	231,564	66,381	73,108	74,828
December	179,213	98,763	45,808	51,893
Total	1,185,026	691,034	492,286	524,541

Page views on VisitBlackpool website

	2021	2020	2019	2018
September	1,030,044	765,971	611,544	697,654
October	1,239,013	696,907	722,253	821,841
November	651,865	141,859	232,075	249,597
December	457,825	232,786	131,575	161,607
Total	3,378,747	1,837,523	1,697,447	1,930,699

Car park patronage

There was a similar picture on parking usage during the Christmas campaign with both town centre and Promenade showing large increases in patronage. For most of this period, car parking was offered at a special rate of £1 for three hours across most Council car parks.

	November - December		% change from 2021 to 2019
	2021-22	2019-20	
Town Centre	37,893	23,681	37.50%
Promenade	10,199	4,879	52.20%

TOURISM RECOVERY 2022

January/February Performance

Footfall

2022 has started well with significant increases in footfall on the Promenade and in the town centre compared to the same months in 2020 (the last year to be unaffected by COVID lockdowns and restrictions).

The Promenade footfall figures for February are particularly encouraging given that the main half-term week was heavily disrupted by a series of storms. This was partly offset by some areas of the UK having a later half-term week than usual and this effectively gave us two half-term weeks. During the second week, the weather was much kinder and a number of tourism and hospitality business reported strong trading figures.

Promenade Footfall

	2022	2021	2020	2019
January	2,456,409	1,118,051	1,716,674	1,795,353
February	2,658,926	1,251,873	1,946,396	1,859,344
Total	5,115,335	2,369,924	3,663,070	3,654,697

Town Centre Footfall

	2022	2021	2020	2019
January	1,867,827	674,882	1,809,279	1,856,634
February	1,967,118	780,223	1,905,308	1,831,720
Total	3,834,945	1,455,105	3,714,587	3,688,354

Visitor Interest

Similarly, the levels of visitor interest on the VisitBlackpool website over the first two months are very encouraging, with unique visits in January and February ahead of 2019, which was our last full year of tourism.

Page views on VisitBlackpool website (year to date)

	2022	2021	2020	2019
January	287,645	71,814	188,437	242,312
February	225,559	90,117	193,167	241,178
Total	513,204	161,931	381,604	483,490

Unique Website Visits on VisitBlackpool

	2022	2021	2020	2019
January	96,346	26,768	59,848	63,307
February	69,393	29,493	57,017	66,766
Total	165,739	56,261	116,865	130,073

New Tourism Season

To mark the start of the new tourism season we are planning a Season Launch event for the first time since 2019. This will be held on March 31 at the new Conference & Exhibition Centre and gives VisitBlackpool, the Winter Gardens, Merlin and other key partners an opportunity to showcase new events and attractions for the forthcoming season.

Attendees will receive a copy of the new 2022 Events Guide, which includes comprehensive month-by-month listings from the beginning of April to the end of December. The guide has been funded using the Government's Welcome Back Fund which is aimed at helping tourism recovery.

New Destination Guide

At the end of last year, we launched the new destination guide for the 2022 season.

The guide showcases the return of major events including the annual Air Show, a vast range of top-quality shows and entertainment, and a two-month extension of the annual Illuminations season.

The guide, illustrated with stunning photography, also celebrates a very special milestone - the 50th anniversary of Blackpool Zoo – as well as featuring an extensive range of hotel and guest accommodation to suit all pockets.

Highlights within the 88-page glossy publication include:

World Class Events: A sneak peek at the resort's multi-million pound events programme including some established favourites such as Air Show Weekend, Rebellion Punk Festival, Ride The Lights, World Fireworks, Lightpool Festival, Illuminations Switch-On weekend and Christmas By The Sea.

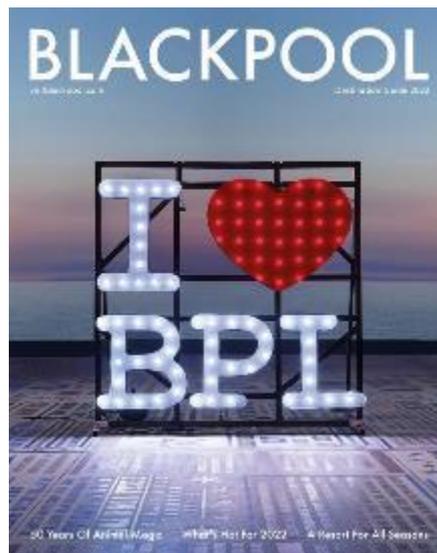
Curtain Up: A chance to book ahead for a brilliant line-up of shows at venues including the Opera House, Grand Theatre and Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Shows already announced include The Osmonds, A New Musical; The Cher Show; Jersey Boys; Dream Girls The Musical; Strictly Ballroom The Musical; Gangsta Granny and Rapture, a brand new production of Hot Ice.

Child's Play: A list of kid-friendly things to do in Blackpool including family attractions such as the Sandcastle Waterpark, the Blackpool Tower Circus, three piers, donkey rides, Marvel superheroes – and not forgetting the miles of glorious beaches.

Insta-worthy Locations: A visitors' guide to how to create the best photographic memories of a trip to Blackpool. Images of our glorious sunsets over the Irish Sea are definitely high on the list of favourites!

Baywatch, Blackpool-style: Spotlight on Blackpool's Beach Patrol team who work tirelessly, around the clock, 365 days a year, to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who flock to our beaches every year.

Access All Areas: A visitor guide to how Blackpool rolls out the welcome mat to make the resort accessible for everyone whether people have physical, sensory, mental health or learning difficulties.



Check Out, Check In: A must-have guide to Blackpool’s diverse accommodation ranging from traditional guest house to luxury hotel, from budget bolthole to boutique chic – there is something to suit all tastes and pockets and all carrying the Blackpool seal of approval.

To view the guide online, please head to visitblackpool.com/guide

Illuminations Extension

As referenced above, we have already confirmed that the Illuminations display is to be extended by two months for a third consecutive year.



Photo Credit: Gary Mitchell

This year’s Illuminations season will now start on Friday 2 September and run until Monday 2 January, 2023. Although the Illuminations were extended for the first time in history in 2020, the final part of the year was heavily disrupted by tier restrictions and lockdowns.

The extension of the Illuminations season was intended to give the resort’s tourism industry an added boost after the pandemic created severe disruption over the first few months of the year.

It was repeated in 2021 as part of a £1m Council-led investment in marketing and events to help kick-start Blackpool’s tourism recovery plans.

This year’s Illuminations display will include the new Odyssey installation which has been created by international designer Jack Irving and Lancaster University. It will be situated on the Tower Festival Headland.

Destination Marketing

This year will see the reinstatement of the annual collaborative destination marketing campaign. The large-scale campaign, which will include elements of TV and radio advertising, digital and PR, will be led by Blackpool Council and Merlin Entertainments as senior partners, with support from the new Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). It is intended that the campaign will run from late May until the end of July.

Major Events Programme

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (June 2-5)

While there is much focus on community events such as street parties for the four-days of celebrations, we are also exploring how we can maximise the tourism opportunity given that there are two consecutive bank holidays ahead of the weekend. VisitBlackpool, the TBID and other partners are actively exploring a celebratory event on the promenade. The Illuminations team is also working on ways in which we can capitalise on our part in the national beacon lighting programme.

Air Show

The two-day air show will return to the Tower Festival Headland on August 13 and 14 for the first time since 2019. We are still awaiting final details of the aircraft that will fly on each of the days. As always, this is a free event.

World Fireworks Championships Blackpool

We have now announced dates for three World Firework Championships. These free to access events will be held on alternate Saturdays – September 17, October 1 and October 15. The fireworks will again be launched from the beach with the Tower Festival Headland providing a large-scale viewing area.

Lightpool Festival

The festival continues to gather momentum each year and the 2021 event featured a record number of light installations including some never seen before in the UK. The provisional dates for this year's festival are October 14 to 29. Details of the programme will be finalised over the second quarter of this year.

Christmas By The Sea

After the outstanding success of the 2021 festive programme, we are working with the TBID and other resort partners on how we can build on that this year. The launch date has been provisionally set for November 18 with the village remaining in place until the end of the Illuminations on January 2, 2023. The full programme of content will be finalised over the next two to three months.

Tourism Recovery Group

The group that was established during the first lockdown in 2020 continues to meet on a weekly basis with representation from attractions, venues, and transport and accommodation providers. It remains an invaluable forum for sharing performance (and particularly booking trends) and common issues such as recruitment and staff training.

Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID)

The TBID was established in July 2021 and is now firmly established with a management steering group in place. Its mandate is to support destination marketing as well as establishing new events. It has a five-year mandate and has the potential to generate around £1.5m to support the tourism industry over that period.

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration and Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting	30 March 2022

MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ART ON THE PROMENADE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide members with an understanding of the maintenance procedures in place and resources available to commission and maintain public art works on the promenade.
- 1.2 To inform members about the recent maintenance programme for the Great Promenade Show on South Promenade.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee note the report and identify any areas for potential additional scrutiny.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To demonstrate that a short and medium term plan with identified resources is in place for maintaining art works on the promenade.
- 3.5 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.6 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- 4.1 The Council could leave the art works to deteriorate over time but this could leave the Council open to potential claims on health and safety grounds. It would also damage the Council's reputation working with national and international artists on which the Council has a strong track record. The Council's investment in commissioning artists contributes to creating a sense of place and an attractive town for both residents and visitors.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

6.0 Background information

6.1 This report has been prepared to allow scrutiny of the commissioning and maintenance of the public art installations on the promenade.

6.2 Appendix 8(a) presents a brief background report on maintenance of public art on the promenade.

6.3 Appendix 8(b) presents a schedule of public art works owned by the Council across the borough.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 **Appendix 8(a)** – Maintenance Of Public Art Works On The Promenade

Appendix 8(b) - Inventory Of Public Art Works Owned By Blackpool Council (March 2022)

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 A revenue budget of £30k a year has been identified and is managed by Property Services in the Resources Directorate.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Maintenance of the public art works is important in terms of health and safety considerations and to limit potential claims being made against the Council.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The art works need to be maintained to limit the risk of claims against the Council.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 N/A

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Maintenance is an important consideration in the Council protecting and sustaining its assets for the medium to long term.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 External consultation takes place with the commissioned artists and specialist contractors on the most appropriate action to protect and maintain art works on the promenade. Internal consultation takes place between the Head of Arts, Property Services and Communications to agree a course of action before any works are undertaken.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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APPENDIX 8(a): MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ART WORKS ON THE PROMENADE

1. Background on Maintenance of Public Art across the borough

Many public art programmes commissioned by local authorities are funded through external regeneration grants (as was the case with Blackpool for The Great Promenade Show and the Comedy Carpet). The local authority is not allowed to build in endowment funding to create a future pot for maintenance and no public art works are totally maintenance free; any on-going maintenance then has to come from the Council's budget.

Local authorities, like Blackpool, are important commissioners of artists and creatives, often giving them their first paid professional opportunity to create work for the public domain. One of the most recent public art commissions by the Council is 'Call of the Sea' - this involved wide consultation particularly with young people, was the first permanent public art work by artist Laurence Payot and has an environmental message. The Comedy Carpet by Gordon Young has won various international awards and is a much loved work by visitors and local people. It celebrates Blackpool's rich entertainment and comic heritage of which the town is proud.

A report was taken to the Corporate Asset Management Group in September 2019 asking them to consider the condition of the town's public art collection, and determine an appropriate maintenance strategy and budget to ensure that the art works owned by the Council can continue to be displayed as designed, or decommissioned when they reach the end of their artistic and economically viable life.

The CAM Group approved an annual maintenance budget of £30K for the public art assets, following initial capital investment funded via the CRRM budget to undertake condition surveys and remedial works to restore the public art works to their original state wherever possible or decommission them at end of life if this was more appropriate, taking into account safety issues, economic viability and the artists' wishes.

Responsibility for a schedule of planned preventative and reactive maintenance for the public art collection resides with Property Services, in line with condition surveys and liaison with the Head of Arts. It was also agreed to include a sinking fund to be accrued for each asset to undertake more substantial maintenance works in accordance with a planned programme of lifecycle management.

Priority was also agreed to be given to key public art assets which the Council would consider as high profile, or sensitive in nature and should be prioritised, beyond safety issues – for example the Mirror Ball or Baby Cemetery Memorial.

Appendix B sets all the public art works presently owned by the Council, their location and maintenance issues/requirements.

2. Great Promenade Show – Maintenance Programme

The Great Promenade Show public art programme was delivered over a 4 year period between 2000 and 2004 with funding from the North West Development Agency and the

Single Regeneration Budget for Blackpool. The Tide Organ was installed in May 2003. The promenade art works originally had an intended life-span of 10 to 15 years and due to the marine environment have inevitably suffered significant corrosion with some works now in poor condition but they have done well to last beyond the intended life-span.

The Mirror Ball was considered a priority for refurbishment and this major project was successfully completed in February 2022. The Tide Organ was de-commissioned in December 2021 after detailed discussions with the artist Liam Curtin and on the recommendation of structural condition surveys.

A plan to refurbish or de-commission is now being considered for the Frankenstein Project in consultation with the artist.

3. Future Plans for Public Art

The Council will continue to consider opportunities for commissioning original art works within its regeneration projects on a case by case basis.

The Council's new Local Plan includes Policy DM25 for Public Art to encourage developers to commission artists to contribute to the quality design and sense of place in developments. The detailed Supplementary Planning Guidance Document for Policy DM25 will be going out for public consultation in June 2022.

Carolyn Primett
Head of Arts

APPENDIX 8(b) - INVENTORY OF PUBLIC ART WORKS OWNED BY BLACKPOOL COUNCIL (MARCH 2022)

EXTERNAL

PROMENADE

Title of Work/Artist/Brief Description	Site/Location	Notes
<p>Great Promenade Show is a collection of 10 artworks commissioned over a period of 4 years from 2001 to 2005 forming an 'outdoor' contemporary art gallery along 2 km of New South Promenade from Squires Gate to South Pier.</p> <p>Each artwork has a short description carved onto a Lakeland slate plaque. The plaques are cemented into the ground near each piece.</p>	<p>South Promenade from Squires Gate to South Pier.</p>	<p>A one-off maintenance was allocated by the Chief Executive to the Arts Service to oversee maintenance of the works between 2009 and 2015. The Illuminations Team did undertake regular checks and this is now part of Property Services remit.</p>
<p>'The Sound of the Wind Looks Like This' Stephen Hurrell 2002</p> <p>6x 6 metres high aluminium poles house a series of coloured lights units powered by wind turbines.</p>	<p>Behind the Tram Depot, Squires Gate</p>	<p>Works being undertaken to address corrosion of poles. Contact has been made with the artist.</p>
<p>The Frankenstein Project Tony Stallard 2001</p> <p>A painted metal chamber/tank containing a neon sculpture. The sculpture is a resin model of a killer whale skull with a neon skeleton. Silica gel lines the bottom of the chamber to reduce moisture. the tank has portholes through which the skeleton can be viewed.</p>	<p>To the south of Solaris Centre on the promenade</p>	<p>Council in conversation with the artist looking at potential of refurbishment or de-commission.</p>
<p>Water Wings Bruce Williams 2001</p> <p>8m x4m laser cut stainless steel painted panels. Laser cut from 10mm stainless steel in 4m x2m sections which are bolted together in a structural framework. Painted deep blue on site.</p>	<p>To the south of the Mirrorball</p>	<p>The artwork needs repainting regularly.</p>

2022/06/07

<p>Glam Rocks Peter freeman 2001 3 giant pebbles, made of concrete, rendered and sprayed white. Cast in anchor bolts and fitted to the ground. each has numerous stainless steel and glass light points, through which fibre optic lights shine. Lights are powered by three light sources which are housed in a nearby bench in a water tight box.</p>		<p>The fibre optics are failing, which means the light effects are diminished. Rocks look in need of painting.</p>
<p>They Shoot Horses Don't They Mirrorball, steel framework, fibre glass shell and 45,000 mirror squares. 6 metres in diameter and rotates once a minute.</p>	<p>Opposite the Solaris Centre on the promenade</p>	<p>Major refurbishment undertaken and now complete (2020/21) New projectors to light the art work are due to be installed by end of April 2022.</p>
<p>Desire Chris Knight 2001 Coreten Steel with stainless steel spikes. 7.2 metres high. Metal parts are welded and structure is bolted into concrete foundation beneath the promenade.</p>	<p>North of the Mirror Ball on South Promenade</p>	<p>Commissioning of a structural survey in present maintenance programme.</p>
<p>'Life as a Circus' by Sir Peter Blake 2003 Originally 2 bronze statues located on separate concrete plinths facing each other. Materials: bronze casts, steel base plates, concrete plinths. Size: 274.3 cms high including base.</p>	<p>Located opposite Pleasure Beach site</p>	<p>Vandalism to one of the bronze sculptures in summer 2011 resulted in the works being removed. A resin replica pair were produced and installed in 2014 but were vandalised beyond repair within a few months. The bronzes were restored and are now housed in a specially designed case at Bickerstaffe. The sculptures are also now formally part of the Grundy Art Collection.</p>
<p>The Swivelling Wind Shelters (2) designed by architect Ian McChesney with Liam Curtin 2005</p>	<p>Opposite Pleasure Beach site.</p>	<p>Work being undertaken to resolve failure of the bearings.</p>
<p>Lighting installation on South Beach Car Park by Sandcastle</p>		<p>The lighting scheme has not been working properly for several years and needs repairing.</p>

<p>Orrery Project Carolyn Murphy 2007 (?) Glass Mosaic studded concrete balls, representing the planets, mercury has metal ring, cemented into hard landscaping.</p>	Solaris Centre grounds	May need occasional replacement of glass studs and cleaning
<p>Comedy Carpet by Gordon Young unveiled 2011 320 slabs make up the artwork which has 160,000 letters made of 30mm solid granite are cast into high-quality concrete panels.</p>	Tower Headland, in front of the Tower to the beach.	Cleaning regime in place through Property Services with budget put aside on a regular basis.
<p>'Choir Loft' Ruth Barker unveiled 2008 Letters carved into granite blocks and treated with gold leaf.</p>	Integral to landscaping works around existing war memorial.	Cleaning regime to be put in place.

Public Art in External TOWN CENTRE

<p>'The Wave' Lucy Glendining 2009 Mirror polished Stainless steel wave structure; internal lighting shows through a laser cut pattern with transparent blue resin insets, resin swimmer figure in clear blue. Around the base are resin blue 'pebble' sculptures, which act as seats and protection from traffic. 10.5m high and 2.5m wide.</p>	St. John's Square	Resin pebble sculptures – lighting does not work and needs repairing.
<p>Ballet Dancers Phil Bews, Diane Gorvin 1990s Bronze figures on stainless steel mount</p>	Either end of Clifton Street	Recently repaired in past few years following damage by vehicle.
<p>Stone Sculpture near BHS</p>		
<p>Quality Corridors Scheme – The following public art commissions installed in 2020/21:</p>		Maintenance schedules provided and low maintenance has been a key requirement of the brief.

<p>Andy Hazell – 2 tram benches for Talbot Square; 2 to be sited on completion of Tram Interchange at North Station - individual designs in stainless steel with wooden seats</p> <p>Tina Dempsey – 2 benches fabricated by Lightworks – colourful abstract designs – in fibreglass – sited on King Square and Edward Street.</p> <p>Laurence Payot – ‘Call of the Sea’ bronze painted sculpture on Talbot Square.</p>		
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External – STANLEY PARK

<p>Soldier Sculpture Thompson Dagnall 2009 Figure carved from Lancashire Mill stone with metal helmet and rifle.</p>	Sited on Pill Box in Salisbury Gardens (near Zoo entrance)	Minimal maintenance, some graffiti on figure in 2010, clean up was partially successful. Parks Dept maintain
<p>Archway – wood carving – Bat, wood pecker and Deaves Thompson Dagnall 2010</p>	Entrance to Salisbury Gardens	Minimal –Parks Dept maintain
<p>Bronze Lions (2) Copies of Medici lions, material? Originals Purchased 1921, replicas installed 2013</p>	Steps to Stanley Park Italian gardens	Replicas of original lions, which have now been returned to Stowe House Preservation Trust on 50 year loan agreement.
<p>Baby Cemetery Memorial Shane Johnstone 2010 Mosaic tiled moulded concrete sculpture (hand holding baby) and two inscribed mosaic tiled moulded concrete benches</p>	Carleton Cemetery Babies Burial/Memorial Area	Minimal maintenance, recent refurbishment of mosaic benches by the artist.
OTHER BLACKPOOL WARDS		

INTERNAL WORKS

<p>Central Library Stained Glass Window Panels 2010</p>	Central Library	Minimal
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Central Library Shane Johnstone 2008 Glass Mosaic tiled Mirrors x 3 (2 on display)	Central Library Young People's area	Minimal
Palatine Library Glass Panels in stairway Sarah Galloway Fused and etched glass panels	Palatine Library	Minimal – cleaning.
Magic Carpet Rag Rug Lynne Stein pre 2006 Rag Rug Wallhanging	Boundary Library	Minimal – cleaning dust
Aliya Hussain – Ceramic Mural for @The Grange, Grange Park 2018	Inside on corridor	Minimal – cleaning dust
Glass Chandelier John Ditchfield 2002	Grundy Art Gallery	Grundy Art Collection
Things Martin Creed 2000 Neon light	Grundy art Gallery above doorway	Minimal, careful dusting
Synthetic Worlds (Two Women) Ruth Claxton 2013 Painted aluminium, acrylic mirror, found ceramic figurines, with mirrored blown glass	Grundy Art Gallery on stairway	Minimal, cleaning.

Public Artworks **Not** owned by Council

Memorial to emergency services Artist – not known 2013 5 linked 6ft high figures, material?	Sea Front - Gynn Square Gardens	
Sprayed and painted Wall artworks produced by various Graffiti artists for Sand, Sea and Spray Festival 2011/2012/13	Various locations in town centre and in other wards. Car Parks, Talbot Road, Cookson Street & Palatine Road. Adelaide Street – rear of Winter Gardens. Tower buildings and North Pier.	Contact: Organiser Robin Ross, Old Rock factory http://www.sandseaandspray.co.uk/about/ Council not responsible for maintenance

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Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2022

SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Workplan, monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, note the outcome of the Community Safety Partnership Review Panel and agree the Temporary Hotel Accommodation Scoping Document 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 2021-2022, 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 Community Safety Partnership Review Panel
- 2.4 To approve the Temporary Hotel Accommodation Review Scrutiny Review Scoping Document
- 2.5 To note the next steps for the Arts and Culture Scrutiny Review

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 2021/2022

5.1.1 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 11(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 11(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.

6.0 Community Safety Partnership Review Panel

6.1 On Monday, 31 January 2022 members of the Committee held a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Review Panel. A copy of the review's report containing the outcomes of the meeting is attached at Appendix 9(e)

7.0 Temporary Hotel Accommodation Scrutiny Review Scoping Document

- 7.1 At its November 2021 meeting the Committee agreed to hold a review of temporary hotel accommodation in Blackpool.
- 7.2 Following this a scoping document had been drafted for the review, including input from members provided at the meeting and officers in Tourism and the Public Protection Teams.
- 7.3 The Committee is therefore requested to consider the scoping document attached at Appendix 9(f) for approval. If approved the Scrutiny Officer will seek to arrange an initial meeting to which all members of the Committee will be invited.

8.0 Arts and Culture Scrutiny Review

- 8.1 On January 2022 members of the Arts and Culture Scrutiny Review Panel undertook a tour of arts and cultural installation in Blackpool. This included artist studios, the Grundy Art Gallery, the Grand Theatres the Old Electric Company and the Art BandB.
- 8.2 Following this tour Officers will be undertaking work to develop a Cultural Plan for Blackpool. This work will include consultation with partners across the town. In order that the Committee retains an overview of this project, the timescales for the plan and details of the consultation will be brought to the June 2022 meeting for consideration.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

8.3 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(d) – Community Safety Partnership Review Panel Report
- Appendix 9(e) – Temporary Hotel Accommodation Scrutiny Review Scoping Document

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 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

15.1 None

16.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

16.1 None.

17.0 Background papers:

17.1 None.

Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2022-2023	
30 March 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parks and Green Environment Annual Report 2. Tourism Performance Update 3. Art Installation On the Promenade – To consider arrangements for the maintenance of art installation on the Promenade. 4. Community Safety Partnership Review Panel – To consider a report on the outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership Review Panel. 5. Arts and Culture – An update on the outcome of the 28 January 2022 Arts and Culture Tours.
29 June 2022 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leisure Services Annual Report 2. Engagement of Consultants Annual Report 3. Climate Emergency Update – Steps taken following declaration of Climate Emergency in Full Council July 2019 and the outcome of the Climate Assembly.(Subject to change) 4. Public Rights of Way Update – To update the Committee on progress with work on Blackpool’s Public Rights of Way 5. Arts and Culture Update – To update the Committee on progress with work to develop a Cultural Plan for Blackpool
21 September 2022 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Housing and Homelessness Update – To include information on the implementation of the recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Panel. 3. Town Centre Regeneration Update - To include information on the progress and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects and how these will support job creation in the town. 4. Customer Feedback Annual Report.
23 November 2022 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Car Parking Annual Report 2.
1 February 2023 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waste Services Annual Report 2. Flood Risk Annual Report 3. Bathing Water Quality Annual Report
21 June 2023 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Centre Regeneration Update – To include information on the progress of current and planned regeneration projects and how these will support job creation in the town. 2. Tourism Performance - To include a representative of a Blackpool Tourist attraction and details of Business Tourism. 3. Parks and Green Environment Annual Report

Scrutiny Review Work	
27 July 2021	CCTV Scrutiny - Details of work being undertaken in relation to CCTV in Blackpool.
27 September 2021	Economic Development - Details of the impact of Covid-19 on Economic Development within Blackpool, including details of the Town Deal
1 December 2021	Public Rights of Way – Details of work to maintain and improve rights of way in Blackpool, including a possible site-visit.
31 January 2022	Community Safety Partnership – To consider the CSP Annual Report and details of the draft Community Safety Plan.
28 January 2022	Arts and Culture Scrutiny review Panel – An ongoing review of the recovery of the arts and culture sector in Blackpool following Covid-19.
TBC	Temporary Holiday Accommodation in Blackpool – To consider the scope and scale of temporary holiday accommodation in Blackpool and its impact on communities and tourism.
TBC	Sustainability Strategy Policy development scrutiny of the draft strategy.
TBC	Air Quality 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
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 2 February 2022.	Ongoing
11	27 July 2021	That the Committee be involved in the consultation for phase 2 of the upgrade of Blackpool's CCTV infrastructure.	Ongoing	John Blackledge/John Greenbank	The Committee will be invited to input into plans for the upgrade of Blackpool's wider CCTV infrastructure following the agreement of the upgrade to the core system in September 2021	Ongoing
12	6 October 2021	That the issue of temporary holiday accommodation in Blackpool to the work programme.	Ongoing	John Greenbank	It is envisioned that this will be a scrutiny review panel. The scoping document was submitted for consideration to the 30 March 2022 meeting of the Committee.	Completed

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Report to:	TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Mr John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny)
Date of Meeting:	30 March 2022

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update on the work undertaken by scrutiny members on the review of The Blackpool's the Community Safety Partnership.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the update, the recommendations made and identify any further work to be undertaken on the Community Safety Partnership.

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.

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Council's Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee acts as its statutory Crime and Disorder Panel. As such it is required to meet at least once a year to consider crime and disorder issues.

ongoing engagement in communities with representatives of the CSP. The CSP would also seek to ensure that police representation was present at meetings so that crime and disorder issues raised could be addressed.

- 6.13 It was recognised by the Panel that the Police had faced significant challenges during the pandemic. This included the enforcement of Covid regulations that often changed due to Government policy. Connected to this was the rise in cases of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) which had increased in part due to reporting of regulation breaches. There was also reported concern that the Police and services were unaware of the scale of unreported crimes, such as domestic abuse, that had occurred during the pandemic.
- 6.14 In order to resolve the rise in ASB during the pandemic Blackpool Council's Public Protection team had worked with the Police out-of-hours. This had led to a reduction in the reported levels of ASB in 2021 to being the lowest ever recorded in Blackpool.
- 6.15 The Police had also assisted the Council in moving all Blackpool's homeless into hotel accommodation during the pandemic to protect them. This had allowed Council social services to engage with many of them, but had also created issues with the accommodation such as violence and substance abuse that require Police intervention.
- 6.16 Road Safety remained an ongoing concern in Blackpool and as such had been identified as a priority in the CSP Plan. The PCC had expressed a desire for more speed and traffic monitoring cameras in Lancashire and the CSP was considering what other interventions could be undertaken to address the issue. This included the possibility of more traffic calming measures across Blackpool.
- 6.17 The Issue of Begging in the town centre was also discussed. In order to address the issues the Public Protection team worked with the Business Improvement District and Police. It was noted however that the BID did not share any data it collected regarding begging, which could restrict the ability of partners to address the issue.
- 6.18 Methods of addressing begging included the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders and Civil Injunctions. Of these legal methods Civil Behaviour order had been shown to be difficult to impose and enforce, particularly during the pandemic. This was in part due to a reluctance of the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute in begging cases. Civil Injunctions resulted in more successful outcomes and included tougher sanctions if breached, such as imprisonment for persistent offenders.
- 6.19 Where begging was shown to be the result of wider challenges in an individual's life, such as homelessness, the Council would also seek to use their engagement with public protection to refer them to services for help.

- 6.20 It was highlighted that the use of civil injunctions had assisted in reducing begging related ASB by 25% in 2021.
- 6.21 “Don’t Beg” signs had also been used across the town centre by the Council to discourage begging and create a safer feel for visitors. Although some areas of the town centre remained a challenge, it was reported that the signs had been successful.
- 6.22 The Council also remained in contact with communities and businesses across Blackpool to gain feedback and ensure that the work of the CSP addressed the addressed their needs. This engagement was managed through the Council’s website and direct engagement at meetings.
- 6.23 Ongoing challenges faced by the CSP were also highlighted to the Panel. These included;
- 6.24
- Cannabis Cultivation. Whereby gangs could register an address for Council Tax under a fake name and then use the property for the cultivation of cannabis. This caused significant damage to the property involved and harmed the communities in which they were located. Officers therefore were looking at how these abuses of the Council Tax system could be resolved.
 - County Lines. The use of young and vulnerable people to facilitate the drug trade in Blackpool was an ongoing problem. Criminal gangs would use such people to transport drugs and other illicit material into and out of the town, exposing them to significant threat.
- 6.25 Following the meeting officers informed the Panel that the draft CSP Plan would be considered at a February 2022 meeting of the CSP’s BSafe Board before approval by the Council’s Executive in March 2022.
- 6.26 The Review Panel recommended that the TEC consider the update on the meeting and identify an areas for additional scrutiny regarding the CSP in Blackpool.
- 6.27 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

7.2 Financial considerations:

7.3 None.

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Risk management considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

11.1 There were no sustainability, climate change or environmental considerations raised at the review panel meeting.

12.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

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Scrutiny Review Scope	
Proposed Title	Scoping Date
Temporary Holiday Accommodation in Blackpool	30 March 2022
Criteria and reasons for selecting topic	
<p>In recent years Blackpool has seen an increase in the renting out of properties and rooms to holiday makers on a temporary basis using the model established by the website Air BnB. These types of accommodation, by being only available for letting for a limited number of days in a year can avoid having to meet some of the regulatory requirements of traditionally run hotels and bed and breakfasts. The scale of this industry within Blackpool and its impact on the wider tourist industry is unknown. Many lets of this nature are also based in properties in residential areas. The impact on the areas where they are located and their residents is likewise unknown.</p> <p>At its 6 October 2021 meeting the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed that a review should be undertaken into this type of holiday accommodation to determine its scale and scope and its impact on Blackpool's tourist economy and communities.</p>	
Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address?	
<p>The relevant Council priority are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool • Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience 	
What are the main objectives of the scrutiny?	
<p>To determine;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale of temporary holiday accommodation lets, how many are there? • Where are they located? • What types of lets are being offered, e.g. full houses, flats and individual rooms. • What regulations are temporary holiday lets subject too • How has the increase in temporary holiday accommodation lets affected the communities in which they are located and the wider tourist industry. 	
What specific issues will be addressed as part of the scrutiny?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of temporary holiday lets in Blackpool • How has temporary holiday impacted on the wider tourist industry. • Where are lets located, if they are in residential areas how has this impacted on communities • What powers does the Council have when dealing with temporary holiday accommodation 	
What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?	
<p>Allow a greater understanding of a new industry in Blackpool and its impact on the resort and the communities in which they are located. This understanding will allow the review to make realistic recommendations seeking to address any issues identified.</p>	
How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)	
<p>Possible consultation with traditional hoteliers, bed and breakfast owners, those who operate temporary hotel accommodation.</p>	

How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?
<p>The scale of temporary accommodation in Blackpool is currently unknown. While it is understood that by offering accommodation for only part of the year operators can avoid regulations imposed on hotels and bed and breakfasts, how that impacts on the quality of what is being offered is unclear. Wide spread low quality accommodation would have a negative impact on Blackpool's reputation as a family holiday resort and therefore be detrimental in its role in the local economy and regeneration of the town.</p> <p>Knowledge of the powers available to the Council in regulating holiday accommodation will allow the review panel to make realistic recommendations.</p>
What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of lets • The location of the lets • The types of lets available • Details of regulations that hotels and bed and breakfast are subject to for comparison with the regulations applicable to temporary accommodation. • Details of the powers available to the Council to regulate the sector
What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any crime and disorder issues related to temporary holiday accommodation in Blackpool • What is the experience of other seaside towns with this type of accommodation
Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications • Public Protection • Licensing
What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of traditional holiday accommodation • Operator(s) of temporary holiday accommodation <p>(It is noted that operators of temporary accommodation may be unwilling to cooperate with the review, which would impact an understanding of how the industry operates from their viewpoint)</p>
What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?
<p>The review could potential hold one or more fact finding/evidence gathering meetings, as well as meeting with representatives from traditional and temporary holiday lets.</p> <p>A survey of operators could also be undertaken</p>
Timescales / likely duration of enquiry
<p>An initial meeting to receive the initial report on the scale of the industry in Blackpool, with the possibility of more meeting depending on the information received and discussions held.</p>

Lead Scrutiny Officer
John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Advisor
Scrutiny Panel Members
Members of the TEC Scrutiny Committee

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