

# Blackpool Council

31 January 2023

To: Councillors Collett, Galley, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, M Mitchell, Walsh and Wilshaw

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 6.00 pm  
In Committee Room A, 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 23 NOVEMBER 2023** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 November 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 7 - 16)
- To consider the Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions within the remit of the Committee, taken since the last meeting.
- 5 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 17 - 24)
- To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, February 2023 – March 2023, within the remit of the Committee.
- 6 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS** (Pages 25 - 60)
- To consider an update on the progress of the actions within the Climate Action Plan.
- 7 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023** (Pages 61 - 96)
- To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council's statutory duties in respect of flood risk management.
- 8 BATHING WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023** (Pages 97 - 104)
- To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council's statutory and other duties in respect of bathing water management.
- 9 WASTE, CLEANSING AND STREETSCENE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 105 - 154)
- To provide a basis for the Committee to review the services in relation to delivery with an emphasis on headline data and performance indicators.
- 10 COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE POLICY SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL** (Pages 155 - 160)
- To inform the Committee on the work undertaken by the Community Flood Resilience Policy Scrutiny Review Panel.
- 11 AIR QUALITY STRATEGY SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL** (Pages 161 - 168)
- To inform the Committee of the work undertaken by the Air Quality Strategy Scrutiny Review Panel.
- 12 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL** (Pages 169 - 174)
- To inform the Committee of the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel.
- 13 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 175 - 188)
- To consider the Workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for

scrutiny review topics.

#### **14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 21 June 2023, subject to confirmation at Annual Council.

##### **Venue information:**

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

##### **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](mailto:john.greenbank@blackpool.gov.uk)

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# Agenda Item 2

## MINUTES OF TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2022

### **Present:**

Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors

Galley	Kirkland	Walsh
Hutton	M Mitchell	Wilshaw

### **In Attendance:**

Councillor Mrs Maxine Callow, Scrutiny Lead-Member

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

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

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications

Vikki Piper, Head of Housing

Richard Williams, Production Manager

John Greenbank, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser (Scrutiny)

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Paul Galley declared a personal interest in respect of Executive Decision EX43/2022 “Enhanced Bus Partnership and Revised Bus Service Improvement Plan” contained with item 4, Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions, as the Chair of the Blackpool Transport Company Ltd Board.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no applications for public speaking on this occasion.

### **4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Committee considered and noted the Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions taken since the last meeting.

### **5 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan December 2022 to March 2023 of upcoming decisions.

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MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2022**

Members considered Town Centre Investments and asked that in advance of the public announcement of any future major investments by the Council that Councillors be informed. It was noted that this would allow members to be better able to address constituent queries that could arise as the result of investments.

Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, agreed that this would be undertaken in advance of any future announcements regarding major investments, recognising the benefits providing this information to members would have.

The Committee also asked that it be noted that Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council, had not been in attendance at the meeting due to her taking part in the Lancashire 2050 event in London.

**The Committee agreed:** That the update be noted.

## **6 PARKING SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications, presented the Parking Services Annual Report.

Members raised the offer to park in Blackpool for £1 available via the Parking app. It was queried if having this offer exclusively available through the app could be seen as discrimination by some people who did not use the app. It was also noted that in some circumstances those using the app had paid more than at the pay-machines in car parks. Mr Welsh responded that there had been not been any complaints received regarding the offer to park for £1. He added that this offer was only available via the app as it was simpler to reconfigure to allow the offer than re-programming machines in car parks.

It was further stated that in respect of the cost of parking using the app, this should be the same as at machines in car parks and that Mr Welsh would investigate why this had not been the case at the locations highlighted by members.

The possibility of developing an in-house parking app instead of using an external provider was discussed. Mr Welsh informed members that this approach had been undertaken due to the complexity and cost of developing a Blackpool specific app. Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, added that the current provider was a nationally established company which provided parking services to a number of councils. This benefited the Council due to the economies of scale they could provide and the technical support available that would otherwise have to exist in-house.

Plans for the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points for on-street parking bays were raised by the Committee. It was noted that EV charging points were available in Blackpool's indoor car parks, with Mr Welsh stating that plans for the installation of points were not the responsibility of Parking Services but that her would clarify the information and share with Members.

**The Committee agreed:**

**MINUTES OF TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
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1. That the update be noted;
2. That the instances of higher parking cost on the parking app be investigated and details of the outcome be provided to the Committee; and
3. That details of plans for charging points for on-street electric vehicle charging be provided to the Committee.

## **7 ILLUMINATIONS UPDATE**

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications, presented an update on work to deliver the illuminations and future plans.

The Committee noted that the Illuminations remained a popular tourist attraction and welcomed the variety of light displays created. With the addition of the Lightpool festival members queried how the substantial archive of previous illuminations attractions could be used to further generate tourism to Blackpool. Mr Welsh responded that consideration had been given to how pieces from the archive could be displayed, adding that the new Conference Centre at the Winter Gardens provided a floor space that could be utilised.

Members also raised concern that gaps could be created in the illuminations along the promenade due to the tramway extension work taking place. It was suggested that other methods of displaying lights be considered in these areas to prevent the creation of gaps.

The inclusion of the Spitfire Island in future light displays was discussed by the Committee. Members queried if the inclusion of a military themed display was appropriate in a festival of light and if offence could be caused to some visitors. Mr Welsh responded that there had been positive feedback to the plans and noted that Blackpool had historical connections to military aviation. Mr Richard Williams, Production Manager, added that Blackpool had purchased three Spitfire aircraft during the Second World War, and that the display would highlight this link to the town's history.

The use of the £4.5m in Town Fund money was raised, with it being asked what the money would be spent on. Mr Williams explained that this would be used to expand the Illuminations infrastructure off the promenade and into the town. This would allow an expansion of the illuminations and access of more visitors on foot.

### **The Committee agreed:**

1. That the update be noted; and
2. That the Committee be provided will details of how gaps in the Illuminations caused by the tramway extension will be addressed.

## **8 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms Vikki Piper, Head of Housing, presented the Housing and Homelessness Annual Report. She informed the Committee that significant Levelling-Up work had been taking place and was planned in relation to housing and homelessness. It was also reported that the majority of the housing projects being undertaken were on schedule.

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In respect of homelessness Ms Piper stated that the pressure on services had grown significantly and was an area of concern. This had been attributed to the ongoing national economic situation including the cost of living crisis.

The Committee discussed the levelling-up work taking place, with Ms Piper reporting that this was focussed on housing work. She informed members that the work with the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) involved two ongoing projects. The first project related to an enforcement pilot of new standards by the Council with support from DLUHC seeking to address exploitation in the local private rented sector and supported housing market improving housing quality and protecting the most vulnerable people in Blackpool.

The second project involved DLUHC support for further economic regeneration that would allow Blackpool's housing stock to match the investments seen into the Town Centre.

Members of the Committee discussed the role of housing in supporting the work of Children's Services in Blackpool's Central Area. It was noted that many of the problems experienced in the area were related to the poor quality housing located there. Ms Piper explained that the Council had recognised the joint working required by services to address the problems faced by children in the Central Area and that Housing Services worked with Children's Services in addressing these.

The Committee considered the impact of house prices on residents, noting that historically rising house prices had been seen as a positive and a driver for further investment. However increasing prices would also mean some properties became unaffordable for Blackpool's residents and first time buyers. Ms Piper explained that Blackpool's housing market was very complex, but that house prices had stabilised since Covid. However increasing rental costs remained an issue. The increase of landlord's costs due to the ongoing cost of living crisis had been passed on to renters. The impact of this was noted as having been heaviest on those living in houses of multiple occupancy (HMO).

Noting recent reports in the media regarding the housing of asylum seekers in Blackpool hotels, the Committee queried the Council's role in their care. Ms Piper responded that those housed in Blackpool would only remain until their asylum claim had been processed, but that responsibility for their care was the responsibility of the Home Office. She also reported that there had been a number of media reports that contained factually incorrect information regarding migrants in Blackpool and that the Council would be seeking to clarify these reports in the future.

The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was discussed by the Committee with it being noted that details had yet to be finalised. Ms Piper explained that the details of where rough sleepers would be accommodated had yet to be agreed and that this would not be with bed and breakfasts as during the Covid pandemic. She added that these locations would remain private but that the SWEP would be activated for winter 2022 and that it would remain in place until spring 2023.

Funding for homelessness prevention was also outlined for the Committee with Ms Piper



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reporting that the Council received £600k in Homelessness Prevention Grant and £200k over three years of funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative. These were important sources of ring fenced revenue however it was noted that further funding from council resources was needed to meet the demand being experienced by services.

**The Committee agreed:** That the update be noted.

### **9 SHORT TERM LETTINGS SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT**

The Committee considered the final report of the Short Term Lettings Scrutiny Review Panel for recommendation to the Executive.

Members welcomed the report but asked that details of the revenue lost through short term lettings failing to pay the Council's change of use fee be added to the final report. It was considered that this information would help highlight the negative impact that unregulated lettings had on communities and Blackpool as a whole.

**The Committee agreed:**

1. That details of the revenue lost caused by Short term lettings failing to register a change of use with the Council be added to the report; and
2. That, with the amendment outlined above, the Short Term- Lettings Scrutiny Review Final report be agreed and recommended for approval to the Executive.

### **10 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

The Committee considered its Workplan for 2022/2023 and noted the items within.

### **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The Committee agreed:** To note the date of the next meeting as 8 February 2023 at 6.00pm.

### **Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 7.00 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser  
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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2023

## 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 Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
- 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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DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><b>BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE ANNUAL REVIEW</b></p> <p><b>The Executive resolved:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree that Appendices 6c and 6d to the Executive report Revised Delivery Plan and Comparative expenditure and income graphs, are not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it includes detailed costings that enable the Enterprise Zone to continue to be viable. The publication of such information could prejudice continuing and future negotiations.</li> <li>2. To note the progress made on the delivery of the Enterprise Zone Masterplan to date.</li> <li>3. To note the higher levels of risk associated with the overall whole life expenditure and income forecasts, given the increasingly volatile nature of the economy and uncertainty over the long term format of business rates.</li> <li>4. To approve the forecast expenditure budget to the end of financial year 2023/24 of £44.20m, increasing the total approved cumulative expenditure by £14.48m from £29.72m to £44.20m, plus associated costs of Prudential Borrowing, as set out in section 6.11.</li> </ol>	<p>This report sets out the further progress on the delivery of the Enterprise Zone and related activity at Blackpool Airport since the Executive in February 2022, outlines activity planned for the next fifteen months to the end of financial year 2023/24 and seeks approval to the further investment (as anticipated in February 2022) required to ensure the delivery of the Enterprise Zone economic benefits in a timely manner.</p>	EX51/2022	5/12/2022	Councillor Mark Smith, Executive Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

<p>5. To note:</p> <p>a) The total estimated cumulative expenditure from April 2016 to end of March 2023 of £23.06m; the whole life expenditure forecast to the end of the Enterprise Zone in 2041 of £79.75m at present values, which with the current anticipated prudential borrowing costs currently totals £84.36m, and the estimated forecast whole life income of £71.93m as set out in paragraph 6.11.</p> <p>b) These figures will inevitably change in the future and the Council will only commit resources essential to the delivery of the Enterprise Zone within the anticipated income forecast notwithstanding the projections above, will keep progress under close scrutiny and will continue to report annually to the Executive.</p> <p>6. To note the increase in the commitment to provide match funding for the Towns Fund project from £10.5m by an additional £5.90m to £16.40m which is contained within the approval in resolution 4.</p> <p>7. To approve the delegation to Director of Communications and Regeneration, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to authorise expenditure on individual schemes and property acquisitions within the Enterprise Zone and inter-related airport holdings of Blackpool Airport Properties Ltd (BAPL).</p>				
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**APPENDIX 4(a)**

<p><b>BLACKPOOL TOWN DEAL: UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Executive resolved: To note the progress with Blackpool’s Town Deal Programme.</p>	<p>To provide an update on progress with the delivery of the Town Deal Programme.</p>	<p>EX52/2022</p>	<p>5/12/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Executive Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
<p><b>PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF LAND ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF RIGBY ROAD BLACKPOOL</b></p> <p>The Executive resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To delegate authority to the Director of Communications and Regeneration to undertake the appropriation processes in respect of the Subject Land and to agree the timing of the implementation and all matters relating to the appropriation, to deal with all matters arising from the decision and complete the appropriation process and conditional on the grant of Planning Permission subsequently to invoke section 203 and section 204 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 (“HPA 2016”).</li> <li>2. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into any such documentation as may be necessary to give effect to or flowing from the appropriation for planning purposes of the Subject Land.</li> </ol>	<p>This report seeks approval to appropriate for planning purposes, a parcel of land as shown edged red on the attached plan at Appendix 8a (Plan 1) (“the Subject Land”) pursuant to Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 (“LGA 1972”), for the delivery of the Revoe Community Sports Village project that is being supported with funding through the Town Deal programme and significant private investment through Blackpool Football Club. The project involves the regeneration of land adjacent to the Blackpool Football Club and the surrounding area. It includes the delivery of sports pitches for use by community groups and Blackpool Football Club and is inclusive of public realm space and will lead to further private investment in the Bloomfield Road stadium with the redevelopment of the east stand. (subject to necessary planning approvals).</p>	<p>EX53/2022</p>	<p>5/12/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Executive Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>

**APPENDIX 4(a)**

<p><b>TOWN CENTRE CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN</b></p> <p>The Leader agreed: To adopt the Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan attached at Appendix A of the report.</p>	<p>To request formal adoption of the Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan.</p>	<p>PH78/2022</p>	<p>16/12/2022</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture</p>
<p><b>CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT</b></p> <p>The Leader agreed:</p> <p>Page 14</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document attached at Appendix A for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks</li> <li>2. To give the Head of Planning Strategy delegated authority to make appropriate minor amendments including editorial and presentational amendments to finalise the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document prior to consultation</li> </ol>	<p>To consider the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (refer Appendix A) which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expands on Policy CS14: Affordable Housing in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2016) providing further guidance on the requirements for affordable housing in new housing developments in Blackpool, including conversions; and</li> <li>• explains why affordable housing is required and how it should be delivered.</li> </ul>	<p>PH1/2023</p>	<p>16/01/2023</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture</p>

**APPENDIX 4(a)**

<p><b>SHARED PROSPERITY FUND</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the report.</li> <li>2. To delegate to the Chief Executive, the Director of Communications and Regeneration or the Director of Strategy ( Assistant Chief Executive) the authority to sign off any agreements within their area of responsibility, necessary for taking forward the Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan including any internal Service Level Agreements for Council led-projects.</li> <li>3. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into any contracts necessitated by the successful funding approval</li> </ol>	<p>To provide an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Investment Plan submitted by 1 August 2022 under the terms of delegation agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 16 May 2022(EX20/2022) and the subsequent approval received from the Government on 5 December 2022.</p>	<p>EX05/2023</p>	<p>23/01/2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Executive Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE POLICY 2023-2025</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed: To adopt the draft Community Flood Resilience Policy 2023-2025 attached at Appendix 4a, to the Executive report, and any associated communications and work streams with effect until 31 December 2025.</p>	<p>To seek approval for the adoption and implementation of Blackpool Council’s Community Flood Resilience Policy 2023-2025.</p>	<p>EX03/2023</p>	<p>23/01/2023</p>	<p>Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment</p>

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2023

## FORWARD PLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council’s Forward Plan February 2023 to March 2023, 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 Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council
- Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
- Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation
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Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a) - Summary of items contained within Forward Plan February 2023 to March 2023.

## **6.0 Financial considerations:**

6.1 None.

## **7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Human Resources 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 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****FEBRUARY 2023 TO MARCH 2023)****\* Denotes New Item**

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
February 2023	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
February 2023	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
February 2023	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
February 2023	Update of the Car Parking Strategy	13/2022	Executive	Cllr Smith

Appendix 5(a)

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
February 2023	Central Area Masterplan	18/2022	Executive	Cllr Taylor
February 2023	To confirm the preferred option from a number of delivery options considered by Officers and Members and in relation to completion of housing on the West site at Foxhall Village.	21/2022	Executive	Cllr Taylor
February 2023	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	22/2023	Council	Cllr Brookes
February 2023	To consider the level of rents and service charges to be made in connection with Housing Revenue Account dwellings during 2023/24.	23/2022	Council	Cllr Taylor
February 2023	To consider and recommend approval of the Council's Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26	24/2022	Council	Cllr Williams
February 2023	Preparatory site assembly works in relation to the delivery of the 'Revoe Community Sports Village' project.  To agree, in principle, that if other options are exhausted then the Council would consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to assemble the site required for the delivery of the scheme.	1/2023	Executive	Cllr Smith

Appendix 5(a)

Anticipated Date of Decision	Matter for Decision	Decision Reference	Decision Taker	Relevant Cabinet Member
February 2023	To seek approval to adopt the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies including the Modifications	2/2023	Council	Cllr Williams
*February 2023	Approval to undertake demolition and subsequent redevelopment of the Whitegate Manor site (Whitegate Drive) as dedicated Sheltered Housing (25 apartments) with associated communal greenspace and parking. Delegated authority to enable officers to deliver the scheme including submission to Planning, bid to Homes England for grant funding, procurement and appointment of construction contractor.	6/2023	Executive	Cllr Taylor
*February 2023	<i>Full update on Levelling Up activity, including the commencement of the Enforcement Pilot to be provided to Executive.</i>	7/2023	Executive	Cllr Taylor

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Scott Butterfield, Strategy Policy and Research Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2023

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update the Committee on the progress of the actions within the Climate Action Plan.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Committee notes the report and requests a further update in six months.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered: None

### 4.0 Council Priorities:

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

### 5.0 Background Information:

5.1 Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, agreeing that the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee would receive 6-monthly updates on progress.

5.2 This report is the second progress update. Since June 2022, the Council has continued to strengthen our position as a local leader in climate emergency action. In July 2022, we were 'Highly Commended' at the LGC 2022 Awards in 'the Climate Response' category, with the judges noting, amongst other comments:

*"The judges were impressed at the range of measures and initiatives, and felt there were many strong examples of pragmatic leadership. They liked that the measures were clearly tailored to address local circumstances, with affordability and approaches such as Eco Coaching being great examples. They admired that the team truly seemed to be responding*

*to the climate change emergency like it is an emergency, and acting with urgency. But recognise that the strategy needs to catch up. The judges appreciated the reflective nature of the presentation, where the team were very honest about learning on the job in some respects, and really admired the can-do spirit of the plucky underdog”.*

5.3 A full update on the climate action plan is attached as an Appendix. The initial draft of the action plan aimed to understand and develop a response to the agenda, meaning that some of the exploratory actions have concluded without an associated project being delivered. Since the previous update a further 18 actions have been concluded, bringing the total to 46. Work will continue on some of the concluded actions as these are now considered “business as usual”. For example, the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board has adopted Climate Change as a priority, discussed potential joint projects, and now discusses this work as a regular agenda item.

5.4 75 actions are still in progress, of which 27 are behind schedule. This is primarily due to staff turnover and recruitment and the identification and prioritisation of other actions. As a new area of focus for the Authority, some of the actions behind schedule reflect the scale of change needed to address the Climate Emergency. In particular, the further development of working relationships within and outside the council has taken more time than anticipated, as has activity to strengthen our overall approach in light of internal and external assessments.

Action status		Number of actions		Examples of headline actions
Live	Live: On track and ongoing	74	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of an Air Quality Strategy</li> <li>• Establishment of Staff Travel Plan</li> <li>• Rollout of Carbon Literacy (now including the development of an iPool module)</li> <li>• Biodiversity promotion and tree planting</li> <li>• Exploring sources of finance</li> <li>• Engagement with government on climate policies</li> <li>• Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy implementation</li> <li>• Tree Strategy Implementation</li> </ul>
	Live: Delayed		28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Management Plan revision</li> <li>• Development of a Solar farm at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone</li> <li>• Municipal waste strategy</li> <li>• Water Action Plan development</li> <li>• Renewable Power Infrastructure Strategy development</li> </ul>
Changed		5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Blackpool Digital Connectivity Strategy changed to Implementation of district heating network, including development of net zero data centres</li> </ul>
Concluded		47		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Climate Action Fund</li> <li>• Launch of the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership</li> <li>• Cross-borough collaboration as a part of Fylde Economic Prosperity Board</li> <li>• Input into the Greater Lancashire Plan</li> <li>• Development of ‘shovel-ready’ projects</li> </ul>

- Web content refresh

- 5.5 Short-term staffing capacity issues have now been resolved via the appointment of a Low Carbon and Sustainability Officer and two new Graduate Climate Action Officers in August/September 2022, to fill vacancies created by internal and external promotions. A further one-year fixed term post funded by Headstart of Engagement Youth Climate Worker has also been filled, subject to references. This role will work directly with community to focus on the development of the Eco Schools offer and the Blackpool Youth Climate Group. It should be noted that the team continues to develop its knowledge and skills “on the job”, with recruitment to senior and experienced roles particularly difficult in this field of expertise.
- 5.6 Efforts continue to shift the Council’s culture to support our 2030 net zero goal. A Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool has been cascaded through Departmental Management Team meetings to ensure consideration of environmental issues at the project inception stage. The rollout of training to staff to develop knowledge of climate change and climate action continues, with 77 members of staff now having attended full Carbon Literacy training or a half-day session highlighting the most relevant issues. In response to comments from frontline staff, and concerns about the length of these courses, we are developing a further course tailored to their needs, in addition to piloting a new climate iPool module. Weekly “Eco Friendly Friday” articles on a range of topics are available via the council intranet.
- 5.7 Governance arrangements are now well established, with the Director of Community and Environmental Services convening the Climate Emergency Steering Group quarterly to discuss key projects, strategies and topics and to progress the climate action plan. The Strategic Group consisting of directors named in the action plan also meet with the portfolio holder for climate change quarterly. The Blackpool Climate Action Partnership met for a second time in December 2022, with some partners expressing a wish to continue discussions on specific projects outside formal meetings. The team are also supporting the Fylde Youth Climate Conference taking place in March 2023 organised by Blackpool Sixth Form College. At a regional level, the Strategy and Climate Manager is providing leadership across other councils in Lancashire to increase local cross council collaboration on the Net Zero agenda, chairing the bi-monthly Lancashire Climate Officers Group meeting, and convening a Fylde Coast Workshop on Climate Priorities and Projects in December 2022. The workshop was attended by representatives from Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and Lancashire Councils Economic Development and Climate teams, with a range of potential cross boundary collaborative projects being discussed. The Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board has established Climate Change as a new priority and will consider the findings of the workshop in March.
- 5.8 The council is in the process of developing two strategies supporting the delivery of the action plan. Public consultation on the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy concluded in December, which showed support for the aims and objectives of the strategy. The final document is due to be brought forward for approval imminently. The Air Quality Strategy is at an earlier stage of development, with a session of scrutiny considering the emerging priorities in mid-December, and further internal engagement taking place prior to public consultation. The draft strategy covers six main themes that will address a wider range of actions in climate action plan, such as Transport, Active Travel, Domestic Heating, Green Infrastructure, Engagement

and Communications and Business.

5.9 The Council has been clear that tackling the climate emergency across Blackpool within the timeframe established by our action plan would require investment that is significantly beyond our means. Some external funding is available from the government and private sector, and work to prepare suitable projects aligned to the requirements of the funders continues. Since the last report, the Council included projects in our Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan totalling £745k of spend on:

- An 'Eco-hub' – a Council building retrofitted with a low carbon technology, likely including solar panels and a heat pump, to produce an operationally net-zero building in Blackpool. In addition to direct carbon emissions reduction achieved, the hub will serve as a demonstrator of various low carbon technologies for Blackpool residents as well as providing support to residents to access funding available from other sources for improving domestic efficiency.
- A project operating town-wide based on the successful ERDF-funded "eco-coaches" scheme on Grange Park, which will deliver small measures and practical guidance to householders across Blackpool on how to reduce emissions and their energy costs.
- A community flood risk reduction scheme to increase the amount of rain water captured, and stored, reducing the impact on areas from heavy rainfall events.

In addition to this funding, several other projects intended for investment via the SPF Plan will include elements addressing low carbon or environmental issues, including £100k for The Edge, new office space for emerging businesses in the centre of Blackpool. Other funding received includes money from Defra for the Commemorative Project, a tree planting scheme set up to honour and remember the late Queen Elizabeth II which will allow for 315 new trees to be planted.

5.10 Internally, the council is drawing on its own resources where possible, and has now established a Climate Action Fund to invest in initiatives that make a tangible contribution to outcomes detailed in the Action Plan. An initial £42,000 of funding has been used to establish a town-wide "Green Doctor" post in collaboration with Groundwork. The 12-month post will support residents through the cost of living crisis in a sustainable way, helping to lower domestic energy bills through energy efficiency measures, therefore saving carbon emissions. Groundwork will also provide some Council staff with training to enable them to reach vulnerable residents through the Libraries at Home service to deliver similar support. This work will also provide additional resource to the SPF-funded project referenced in section 5.9 can commence sooner than anticipated.

5.11 In addition to the Climate Emergency Action Plan, a series of internal improvement plans have been identified. A report to Audit Committee on January 19<sup>th</sup> highlighted good progress against the recommendations of the Audit Review on Climate Change, whilst we are working on addressing some of the areas highlighted by the Climate Emergency UK review of our plan. The same organisation has announced a revised methodology for assessing Council's progress in 2023 which focuses on activity, and the Climate Team is looking to address these issues proactively wherever possible, using the external challenge as a way to galvanise activity on this agenda across the council. The council also volunteered to undertake an assessment by



the Carbon Disclosure Project for the first time, which highlighted the need to develop a climate risk and vulnerability assessment along with a climate adaptation plan.

- 5.12 A particular focus of improvement in 2023 will be the gathering and monitoring of performance data across the council's scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, allowing us to quantify progress more effectively. Members of the team are attending a carbon data management course in January, and there are plans to procure a tool which automate the estimation of scope 3 emissions following the rollout of the new accounting system in April. This will then increase efforts which focus on the 80% of emissions which fall into scope 3 as a result of the procurement of services.
- 5.13 In addition to delivering the action plan, in 2023 the Strategy and Climate Team will prioritise work on climate adaptation. With the 1.5 degree Celsius target for peak global warming set by the Paris Agreement in 2015 increasingly at risk, and the consequent increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, we need to focus on short, medium and long-term actions to fundamentally shift how we plan and build our town. Further to the CDP assessment (see section 5.11), the first step will be to resume work on developing an Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. This will review all of the council's activity to identify ways in which we can protect our community from these effects wherever possible.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **6.0 List of Appendices:**

- 6.1 Appendix 6(a): Climate Action Plan overview and update

## **7.0 Financial considerations:**

- 7.1 Impacts were considered in the development of the original actions, with project finance being considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **8.0 Legal Considerations**

- 8.1 None.

## **9.0 Equalities considerations:**

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

## **10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 None

## **11.0 Sustainability, climate change and ethical considerations:**

- 11.1 This work is essential to delivering our climate change declaration.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 As detailed in the action plan update.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

ID	Action	Status	Deadline	Update
<b>Theme 1: Housing</b>				
1.	<b>Accelerate delivery of insulation and glazing of all housing, reducing net energy demand</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-30	This action would cost approximately £7.8bn across Lancashire. Following the cessation of the Green Homes Grant schemes, the Government launched the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and Blackpool on behalf of Lancashire received £8.6m to install fabric and green measures including Heat Pumps to properties without gas central heating. HUG2 is a 2 year programme starting in April 2023 and Blackpool is bidding for £52m and will target eligible properties in Blackpool. The £1bn ECO+ scheme, available to households in council tax bands A-D, will commence in April 2023 and the council will take measures to maximise the take-up of this funding across the town.
2.	<b>Accelerate delivery of “electrification” of heating and the transfer away from natural gas e.g., via ground and air-source heat pumps</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-30	As above. In addition, the council is exploring ways to electrifying heating across its estate, including exploring the use of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) for new developments and boiler replacements, such as the pilot installation of the ASHP at @TheGrange in early 2023.
3.	<b>Develop and deliver strategic proposals to install solar panels on every suitable domestic rooftop</b>	Live: On track	Dec-30	A study of a pilot project and potential financial model for solar on BCH and My Blackpool Home rooftops is due to conclude in February 2023, following which a decision will be made on viability. A subsequent study has been commissioned to identify all rooftops in the borough that are suitable for solar panel installations (subject to site surveys). HUG funding is available for Solar PV and Solar Thermal on domestic properties with no gas central heating and this is something we plan to maximise take-up of.
4.	<b>Raise issue of energy efficiency standards in new housing with Government, ensuring that Blackpool is able to implement planning regulations consistent with a net zero target</b>	Live: Delayed	Mar-22	The levelling up pilot in inner Blackpool will explore issues around housing quality including 'Excess cold' and Action 2. The council responded to the consultation on the implementation of the ECO+ highlighting Blackpool’s housing challenges to progress this action further, and is planning to continue raising awareness of the issue.

5.	<b>Build 30 new Council houses and retrofit 120 more with enhanced insulation and air-source heat pumps, plus deliver and learn from “eco coach” training on energy saving techniques</b>	Live: On track	Mar-23	The new housing development on Grange Park - at Dinmore Ave is progressing well, with land at the second site (Chepstow Road) being cleared ready for work to commence. The installation of ASHPs will commence in January 2023. Over 400 home visits have been conducted as a part of an Eco Coaching scheme delivered by Groundwork, with another 300-400 likely to be carried out by the end of the programme, saving residents money on energy bills as well as carbon emissions. Energy workshops are being held at @TheGrange, providing training on energy savings techniques - as part of the Winter Warm Hub, which is generating more referrals for the Eco Coaches.
6.	<b>Encourage take-up of low energy demand appliances and LED lighting solutions via marketing and publicity</b>	Changed	November 2022 (initial campaign)	The council has earmarked SPF funding to develop an Eco-hub and provide an Eco Coach-style service (see Action 5) across the town. The location of the Eco-hub will be chosen based on the suitability of the site to act as a base for Eco Coaches, to be near to communities most in need of direct support. The building will be retrofitted with low carbon technology (ASHP and solar), and will also be located to be accessible to households able to invest in this technology, with the building acting as a demonstrator of how it works. CHIL has funding to provide LED lighting and other low cost measures to eligible households. This service is being developed and from April the Little Van of Warm electric vehicle will be on the road continuing this service.
7.	<b>Undertake pilot work to quantify cost of delivering housing refurbishment to higher energy efficiency standard</b>	Concluded	Feb-22	The action has been successfully completed and delivered: the council has received a report that outlines what the costs would be of a MyBlackpoolHome refurbishment scheme with the highest level of energy efficient standards, informing future project design. The purchase of the Parity Projects data set enables similar work to be undertaken based on modelled data on any home in Blackpool.

8.	<b>Explore resources needed to enforce EPC ratings via landlord licensing scheme</b>	Concluded	Mar-22	The Council is involved in a pilot scheme in inner Blackpool which focuses on the quality of properties (see Action 4). Following the evaluation of this pilot, we will consider how wider application to private sector properties across the borough will be achieved. Full Stock Condition Survey of the inner area is planned, which will give an accurate and up to date overview of the stock to enable further action.
9.	<b>Campaign to raise Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard for private landlords to band C</b>	Concluded	Mar-22	The action has concluded, as the Minimum Energy Performance of Buildings Bill has been introduced to parliament. The authority will need to ensure resources are available for enforcement if it is enacted. Checks are carried out on homelessness cases to ensure they are placed in properties meeting the current standard (E) and separate work will be undertaken to research how frequently properties are advertised which do not meet this standard.
10.	<b>All new council housing to be built to the highest energy standards (EPC 'A' or 'B')</b>	Concluded	All future schemes	The action has been successfully completed and delivered: It has been agreed that all specifications for future BCH developments will meet EPC ratings of A or B standard.
11.	<b>Establish action plan to raise all Blackpool Coastal Housing properties to EPC band C</b>	Live: On track	Dec-30	This action is on track to be successfully completed in 2030. BCH proposed to trial high heat retention storage heaters. Tools like Parity Projects and SAVA are being used to model the process. BCH's Head of Asset Management and Operations will put measures in place to understand how the impact of the new SAP 10 rating system would affect this goal, with updated software being used to undertake a full recalculation of the work needed.

12.	<b>Consider the installation of solar PV on council owned homes following a roof and energy usage survey</b>	Live: On track	Dec-30	See also Action 3 – the Local Government Associated has funded a study into the feasibility of Distributed Local Renewable Power Generation based on Council housing stock. A financial model is due to be presented to officers in February, to be updated as energy prices change. Should the model be feasible, engagement work would be needed to consider delivery models.
13	<b>Deliver the Cosy Homes In Lancashire (CHIL) programme, maximising the contribution of the programme to reducing emissions by boosting local demand</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	Delivery of the CHIL programme is ongoing.
<b>Theme 2: Buildings and Built Environment</b>				
14	<b>Develop proposals to promote, support and persuade landlords and businesses to adopt actions 1-3 for commercial properties i.e. installation of solar, insulation and electrification of heat</b>	Live: On track	Jun-23	Proposals to take forward a scheme to support private home owners and business owners to install solar panels (iChoosr) have not been taken forward due to concerns around liability. Meetings have taken place between the Low Carbon and Sustainability Officer and interested businesses to signpost and support on low carbon issues. Further discussions are planned on how the council can support businesses more generally through the Business Support Team.
15	<b>Ensure the Climate Emergency is explicitly addressed in the Town Centre Strategy Review</b>	Concluded	Mar-22	Following the completion of the update of the Town Centre Strategy by CBRE in March 2022, further internal work is ongoing to complete a detailed Action Plan. A specific workshop addressed climate issues and outlined specific climate-related actions, with a key theme in the strategy being the need for enhanced green spaces, which will help with climate adaptation and potentially biodiversity.

16	<b>Campaign for government to improve regulations, ability to enforce and resources around commercial property Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's)</b>	Concluded	Mar-22	This action has been completed and will be removed from the action plan: A lack of capacity within the enforcement team has meant this action was deprioritised due to the extent of resources needed to enforce improved EPC rating of commercial properties.
17	<b>Develop Air Quality Strategy</b>	Live: On track	Mar-23	A draft Air Quality Strategy is being developed with input from the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee, with a draft document being circulated for further comment in February. The strategy covers six themes: Reducing vehicle emissions; Active Travel; Domestic Heating and Burning; Green Infrastructure; Reducing the impact of new developments; and Engagement and communications. Further work on the 2023 Annual Status Report (ASR) and an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Blackpool Air Quality Management Area has been identified and is underway.
18	<b>Use the Local Plan Core Strategy review to maximise adoption of pro-climate measures</b>	Live: On track	Dec-24	We will investigate the potential to maximise climate change mitigation and adaption measures where feasible through the development of strategy and policy for the new Blackpool Local Plan, and the wording of this action will be changed to reflect this. The Local Plan is unlikely to be adopted before 2026. In progressing it, a series of position papers on specific topics including Climate Change are being developed and considered by the Member and Officer Local Plan Working Group. In addition evidence will be commissioned to inform the direction of strategy and policy within the new plan (including Action 104)
19	<b>Explore use of an incentive and loans scheme or auction to increase take-up of solar e.g. Solar Together</b>	Concluded	Jan-22	It was not possible to confirm the lead organisation for the iChoosr's 'Solar Together' project due to members' concern over reputational risk around targeting residents and concerns over issues with delivery. This action will be removed from the climate action plan.

20	<b>Develop and implement a retrofit programme for planned refurbishments to business premises owned by the Council, including setting a target for stock improvement</b>	Live: On track	Dec-30	The Asset Management Plan is being revised and is in draft form. The council is exploring options for work to decarbonise our properties through various routes.
21	<b>Portfolio size optimisation and disposal to reduce energy use, in line with move to flexible and remote working</b>	Live: On track	Dec-30	Reduction of energy use in council properties forms a key part of the Council's 23-24 budget proposals. The Asset Management Plan includes details of how the council's portfolio would address the size of the portfolio relative to the business requirement.
22	<b>Revise Asset Management Plan to ensure alignment with net zero vision</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-22	Asset Management Plan is currently under revision. The draft has been written and discussion have taken place to align the plan with the councils net zero vision.
23	<b>Deliver programme to replace existing street lighting with LEDs</b>	Live: On track	Dec-24	The work is in progress to deliver this action. A letter has been issued in December 2022 to the Contractor to proceed with stage 1 of this project. Installation is planned to go ahead later in 2023.
<b>Theme 3: Transport, Getting Around and Digital</b>				
24	<b>Develop Electric Transport strategy for Blackpool, including role of public and private sectors, provision of charge points, visitor demand and review of policies on provision and car park charging</b>	Live: On track (full strategy)	Electric Cars: July 2022; full strategy March 2024	A draft Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was made available for public consultation in October and is due to go before Executive in February 2023. The full transport strategy will follow as part of work on modal shift (see action 25).



25	<b>Develop modal shift action plan linked to Active Lives Strategy – including measures to improve walking, cycling, frequency and quality of bus, tram and train transport, plus consideration of innovations e.g. e-scooters, trolleybuses</b>	Live: On track	Jun-23	The new Active Travel Officer has worked in partnership to offer grant funding to businesses to buy improved cycle storage. A range of campaigns have been delivered in schools and workplaces encouraging active travel with evidence of campaigns having influence on the way children travel to school. Active Travel officer have addressed bike theft by installing safe cycle lockers at the Blackpool Sports Centre, and supported the purchase of 6 electric bicycles for the police. Development of the modal shift action plan is underway.
26	<b>Optimising network management through optimising traffic signals, introduction of road schemes and consideration of speed limits to reduce pollution from static traffic</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Town Centre Access Scheme to develop this action was unsuccessful in the first round of the levelling up fund bid. A revised bid has been enhanced with additional active travel measures as well as a comprehensive overhaul of the scheme and its timescales, delivery programme and costs. The primary outcome for the scheme is to deliver a more efficient and resilient highway network and for it to support active travel, easier routes for pedestrians and clear support for public transport. The scheme covers the same network area and has a town centre focus as before the streets listed are relevant to the amended scheme. The decision on the award of Levelling Up funding is anticipated by the end of January and will be reported to the meeting if so.
27	<b>Blackpool Transport electrification - support round two of ZEBRA work, and Implement Bus Service Improvement Plan to encourage use of public transport</b>	Live: Delayed	Sep-23	BTS' Rigby Road depot is set to be transformed to accommodate the vehicles and provide one of the cleanest, most modern bus networks in the country. Funding is now in place via ZEBRA and also assisted by the Council via the Business Loans Fund, The first 40 vehicles should be in service from 21 June 2024 and the fleet will be totally zero emission by 25th June 2025 - 115 buses. Once in service, these vehicles are projected to save 111,000 tonnes carbon dioxide annually or 965 tonnes per vehicle per annum, compared with diesel, as well as other pollutants.

28	<b>Explore potential of joint bus and private vehicle charging infrastructure at Rigby Road depot</b>	Live: Delayed	Sep-23	With safety concerns around vehicle movements, the project will now focus on the provision of public charging at the site separate from the equipment used by the buses, making use of the additional electricity grid capacity created by the project, ensuring this can be used 24 hours for visitor parking, and potentially offering options on discount public transport ticketing for patrons.
29	<b>Undertake a review of evidence on Park and Ride schemes, including evaluation of summer 2021 scheme</b>	Concluded	Dec-21	Based on past schemes, an exploratory report concluded that a permanent Park and Ride facility would require substantial ongoing subsidy. It was decided not to take this action further and will be removed from the action plan in the short term. Temporary sites at times of peak demand (e.g. events) have been used and will be considered in the future.
30	<b>Establish baseline of promenade emissions and consider pilot of traffic-free days during Blackpool Illuminations</b>	Concluded	May-22	A baseline of promenade emissions has been obtained. Initial discussions, including at TEC scrutiny, raised concerns regarding the impact of traffic free days on businesses and the displacement of traffic, although these have not been quantified. Consideration will continue, as currently, for closures in line with suitable events seeking to use the promenade e.g. Ride the Lights.
31	<b>Explore incentives for taxi trade to switch to low emission vehicles e.g. infrastructure requirements, financial incentives and trial options</b>	Concluded	May-22	The incentivisation of low carbon taxi schemes has been discussed with relevant departments, however it was decided that currently the charging infrastructure is insufficient to encourage a switch in the short term. This will be revisited as chargepoints are installed via the EV strategy. The action will be removed from the climate action plan in the short term.
32	<b>Implement Blackpool Digital Connectivity Strategy to ensure availability of ultrafast broadband</b>	Changed	TBC	An opportunity exists to exploit waste heat from the digital connectivity project at the Enterprise Zone. The net zero (or potentially net carbon negative) data centre infrastructure powered by windfarms would generate heat which could be used as a resource to fuel a district heat network operating on the site. The project is in the planning/feasibility stage, with Catapult Connected Places set to support the development of a business case.

33	<b>Explore potential to promote or pilot a zero emission shared car club in Blackpool</b>	Concluded	Apr-23	Feasibility of the car club was initially explored and it was found that the interest in the scheme would be low. This action will be removed from the plan in the short term to focus efforts on the promotion of active travel and transport mode shift.
34	<b>Explore the options for early adoption of Hydrogen refuelling and battery charging technology for aircraft at Blackpool airport</b>	Live: On track	Sep-23	The goal of the Blackpool Airport is to explore the adoption of hydrogen refuelling and battery charging technology for aircrafts. Their vision is to be at the forefront of hydrogen or battery operated planes. The plans are on-going and will progress in line with technological development. Proposals to support the airport have been included in the proposal to work with Catapult Connected Places (see Action 32) who have an expert air mobility and airports ecosystem team with the technical expertise to advise on the infrastructure needed to enable electric or hydrogen flight, and the potential funding available.
35	<b>Establish Staff Travel Plan</b>	Live: On track	Mar-23	A Staff Travel Survey has been carried out and preliminary findings have been collected for sharing with the Active Travel group in February. These include suggested actions which will be further discussed in February prior to concluding an action planning process in March.
36	<b>Explore options to increase EV use amongst staff, including business case for staff EV car pool as per EST work and our staff lease car offer</b>	Live: Delayed	May-22	Work was undertaken in 2019-20 to develop a business case for the development of a pool of Electric Vehicles, but implementation was delayed by the pandemic. The Energy Savings Trust provided an update to some of the figures in the study but was unable to resource a full re-write of the business case. Work is underway to assess the feasibility and practical operation of the scheme, but it is not clear that this would deliver a saving compared to staff mileage claims. After the withdrawal of a service from a potential pilot, a further service has been identified and work is underway to assess service mileage against the costs of a vehicle.

37	<b>Campaign for government to take measures to decarbonise and reduce road haulage e.g. provision of rail freight, HGV charging, promotion of zero emission “last mile” deliveries</b>	Concluded	Feb-22	This action was deprioritised due to resources and pending the publication of Mission Zero, the net zero review by Chris Skidmore MP commissioned by the UK government. This includes a recommendation to accelerate decarbonisation of the freight sector through modal shift and new technologies, which we would support. Action 37 will be removed from the action plan, but will continue to be part of our representations to government in the future.
<b>Theme 4: Power and Heat</b>				
38	<b>Explore development of a Solar farm at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone</b>	Live: Delayed	Mid 2023 (if economically viable)	The business case for the Solar Farm is close to an advanced draft, this is expected in early 2023, with delays due to the changes in the airport development. A decision on this project is expected to be made in April 2023.
39	<b>Seek interest and options for a community energy generation scheme</b>	Concluded	Sep-22	With limited evidence of local groups in a position to lead such a scheme, this action was deprioritised. Work on projects that could still include or become a community energy generation scheme continues, with consideration being given to maximising the involvement or ownership of the public in future solar schemes. We are also exploring schemes which offer community groups solar panels for their buildings. Should a community energy generation scheme emerge, officers will offer all possible support on the delivery of a viable project.
40	<b>Collaborate with public and private sector organisations to help stimulate the deployment of renewable energy projects at scale, including pilots of new technology</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Climate and Strategy Lead had led on this collaboration via the Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board, with a workshop exploring the development of renewable energy projects, green growth, skills and finance. The group will develop a specification for identifying and supporting local projects suitable for collaboration and report back on options to the Economic Prosperity Board.

41	<b>Develop and explore decentralised heating systems, including providing guidance for developers</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Net-Zero Data Centre in Blackpool (See Action 34) would seek to include a district heating component in the project utilising energy from the data centre. There are also early discussions about decentralised heating being provided via other regeneration schemes which we will continue to support. We will develop evidence to support guidance for developers as required.
42	<b>Revisit existing outline schemes for wind power and assess their feasibility</b>	Changed	Ongoing	This action has been on hold due to a lack of clarity around onshore wind power generation over the previous 12 months. The most current stance has been that Government is in support of wind power where there is community support for a scheme. A study of feasibility of onshore wind generating schemes and other power options in Blackpool will be undertaken as part of the review of the local plan.
43	<b>Develop and implement renewable energy programme including: Replace gas heating @thegrange with ground source heat pump; Roof-mounted Solar panel programme across council assets</b>	Concluded	Dec-21	This action is being further progressed under other items in the action plan (2, 20-22), and will be removed.
44	<b>Develop Decarbonisation of Heat Strategy including consideration of renewable alternatives and a move to green gas where unavoidable; Energy audits</b>	Concluded	TBC	This action is being further progressed under other items in the action plan (2, 20-22), and will be removed.

45	<b>Implement advanced metering and building management systems, including voltage optimisation</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The metering system is nearing completion - major buildings have been fitted with the system, with new and small buildings remaining. The council is looking to retrofit sub-metering systems into larger buildings. The Voltage Optimisation trial is paused pending the imminent allocation of electricity supply contract. The Council is reviewing new potential providers of Building Management Systems.
46	<b>Explore potential for battery storage facility on EZ to maximise potential of energy use or resale</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	This action will be further considered and progressed through delivery of Action 32 as a battery storage facility will be considered as a part of the net zero data centre.
<b>Theme 5: Cleansing, Waste, Food and Water</b>				
47	<b>Continue to review potential of Energy From Waste (EfW) facility</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	The review of the development/procurement of an EfW facility in Lancashire by the Lancashire Waste Partnership, involving Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, has concluded that the facility will not be built in the near future. ENVECO are instead working on the work of the implementation of food processing with Lancashire Waste Partnership, which would generate enough electricity to operate the waste facility. Timescales for the project are yet to be determined.
48	<b>Influence 10 year municipal waste strategy</b>	Live: Delayed	Mar-22	Work has focussed on the development of the Waste Processing Strategy 2022 - 2027 with Lancashire County Council, which is in draft form. The strategy is aimed to achieve the best environmental and social outcomes possible from the waste managed, within the realistic processing and financial options available.
49	<b>Use data to identify high and low waste areas of Blackpool for targeted support on improving recycling rates</b>	Concluded	Nov-21	The piece of work of the identification of high and low areas of waste has been completed. Further work on modelling this data and using it to promote recycling will be undertaken to tie in with ENVECO's work increasing recycling rates.

50	<b>Respond to the provisions of the Environment Bill when enacted – including introduction of new recycling streams</b>	Live: On track	TBC Pending enactment of Bill	The provisions of the Environment Act 2021 are being responded to. Delays at a government level on policies such as the extended producer responsibility, deposit return scheme, polluter pays principle have prevented further work. ENVECO has been actively responding to consultations on these policies, which will have a positive impact on waste minimisation and recycling rates.
51	<b>Continue work with Keep Britain Tidy and the LoveMyBeach campaign to reduce beach and street litter</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	Keep Britain Tidy announced the withdrawal of the support and funding for reduction of beach and street litter in Blackpool. ENVECO will continue supporting the involved organisations and volunteers through provision of equipment and other support.
52	<b>Further roll out provision of recycling facilities to HMOs and flats</b>	Live: Delayed	Mar-22	The work on this action is ongoing, however due to resource and staffing issues it has been delayed. The Service Improvement Plan has been implemented and is currently being delivered. 400 properties have been moved from using bags to bins, which should impact positively on recycling rates. Similar work is planned in the Claremont area. Two Waste Minimisation Officers have been appointed to minimise waste and improve recycling rates.
53	<b>Promote the environmental and financial benefits of the circular economy, including reduction of consumption, re-use of goods and increasing recycling</b>	Live: On track	Mar-23	The Climate and Strategy team has produced a summary of the opportunities for Blackpool in moving towards a circular economy. The relevant portfolio holders will consider the recommendations of the report at a meeting on January 17th.

54	<b>Promote benefits of eating seasonally and locally, including the use and further provision of allotments and community gardens, and develop zero waste community shops</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals have submitted a funding bid in partnership with Groundwork to undertake various improvement schemes including a community and staff planting and growing project with vegetable plots, herb garden, greenhouse and polytunnel which the Climate team will provide additional support on if successful.
55	<b>Investment in streetscape and beachscape furniture that facilitates smarter recycling and minimises the impact of littering</b>	Live: Delayed	Mar-22	The current focus of ENVECO's is litter bin provision is ease of use to decrease the rates of littering, aiming to prevent waste entering the sea. On-street recycling has been scaled back, as not all users sort the waste appropriately when disposing. ENVECO have trialled 'Litter Bin Centres' - the smart signalling system of whether the bin is full which is preventing unnecessary journeys made by staff decreasing carbon emissions. ENVECO initially installed 20 bins which has been increased to 100.
56	<b>Develop and implement joint food waste and energy generation project between Hospital and Council catering services</b>	Concluded	Oct-22	Action 47 will provide a larger scale facility for food waste from across the borough, so this project is not being progressed.
57	<b>Develop Water Action Plan to reduce demand and waste and consequently impact on emissions, install water saving technology and increase resilience to water-related issues</b>	Live: Delayed	Jan-23	Due to demands for service due to rising utilities prices - implementation phase is in progress, bypassing the planning phase that will follow shortly after. Service manager agreed to finish the action plan in the new year.



58	<b>Engage with schools to ensure meals are delivered in accordance with the Eatwell Guide, improving the quality but reducing the quantity of meat used</b>	Live: Delayed	Mar-22	The Climate Team is continuing to work with catering services and explore a range of energy efficiency measures to minimise carbon footprint of food served.
59	<b>Develop a low carbon/plant-based food award scheme for participating restaurants/hotels/cafes</b>	Live: On track	Mar-24	The Climate Team scoped options for delivery of a plant based food award scheme based on existing projects. Graduate Climate Policy Officer will develop a delivery plan for the scheme with support of new the Climate Engagement Officer. The council has also had discussions with Blackpool Zoo regarding the Sustainable Palm Oil City Initiative to positively impact on rainforest deforestation.
60	<b>Introduce edible schemes in council parks and open spaces, at schools and via community groups</b>	Live: On track	Mar-23	Community garden spaces have been developing in recent years across the town with a variety of different management models specific to each site. A range of schemes have been delivered by partnering organisations with support of Blackpool Council, such as project at @theGrange, Revoe Community Garden, Strawberry Gardens. Further developments are planned, some as a part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy, such as Adopt-an-Alleyway scheme set up to encourage and empower local residents to adopt their alley and improve the space.
61	<b>Improve building recycling rates</b>	Live: Delayed	Mar-22	The Graduate Climate Policy Officer carried out an investigation and identified the areas of need scoped. The officer will work with waste services and the chair of the Staff Sustainability Alliance to progress the action. Progress has been delayed partly due to the chair for the Staff Sustainability Alliance leaving the council.
62	<b>Review material use to aim to minimise and repurpose leftovers e.g. in grounds maintenance</b>	Concluded	May-23	This action will be closed and picked up as part of Action 53.
<b>Theme 6: Community Leadership, Communication and Involvement</b>				

63	<b>Pilot entry-level qualifications in sustainability</b>	Concluded	Oct-21	The opportunity to obtain entry-level qualifications delivered by internal adult learning tutors was advertised across the Council's social media, with no expressions of interest. Action 63 will be removed from the action plan but the new Climate Engagement Officer will promote knowledge on sustainability issues in a less formal format.
64	<b>Engage with community groups on climate change agenda, including scoping of donation of garden areas and their re-use</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-21	An initial scoping of the state of the sector was generally positive, but highlighted that groups wanted to focus on their core projects. Links have been made to individuals with an interest in the agenda and the team continues to seek funding and support for this initiative. The appointment of the Engagement Climate Worker in February will result in more resources to progress this action.
65	<b>Promote and support Eco Schools initiative, aiming for 100% of schools with an award by 2024</b>	Live: On track	Mar-24	Council is in the process of appointing of a new Youth Climate Engagement Officer, who will focus on the promotion and support of Eco-Schools initiative. The new role is expected to be filled out by February 2023 - so the action will continue progress then.
66	<b>Develop full communications and marketing plan</b>	Concluded	Jul-22	A draft of the Communication and Marketing Plan has been completed. Various press releases and internal and external communications have been published, including pages in Your Blackpool and specific climate emergency email. This action is completed successfully and will be removed from the climate action plan.
67	<b>Introduce programme of behaviour change initiatives to encourage adoption of environmentally-positive lifestyle changes</b>	Live: On track	Mar-24	Climate Team has been actively engaging with staff member through communications campaign - Weekly Eco Friendly Fridays and Staff Sustainability Alliance to begin programme of behaviour change. Newly appointed Youth Climate Engagement Worker will start delivering engagement campaigns in schools and work with young people to promote environmentally friendly lifestyles. This action is also partly progressed through the SPF funded project - 'Eco-coaches' and 'Eco-hubs' promoting sustainable actions to many residents in Blackpool. The project delivery will start as soon the SPF funds reach Blackpool. Further, similar project are constantly considered.
68	<b>Improve and extend the Council's online climate and environment resources</b>	Concluded	Jan-22	An initial refresh of the website content has been completed. This will be reviewed and updated quarterly, with important new initiatives, projects or funding opportunities added as and when they arise.

69	<b>Scope the potential establishment of an Energy Hub(s) in the town, providing signposting and assistance to sources of funding, advice etc.</b>	Live: On track	Jun-23	See Action 6. A specification for the equipment needed by the hub has been drafted with procurement expected to start shortly. In addition to general energy efficiency advice, the hub will potentially include a member of the Cosy Homes In Lancashire Team to support residents with applications for support and book residents in for Retrofit surveys.
70	<b>Deliver specific events and support to international and national climate or sustainability events</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Climate Team has developed a tracker of events, and is organising support and communications around these internally and externally as appropriate.
71	<b>Establish approach to Community involvement, including theme leads, liaison with community groups and community champions, enabling grass roots actions and positive change</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The approach to community involvement is under development with six phases planned: scoping, mapping, setting priorities, building relationships, community engagement, monitoring and review. Currently, this action is in the mapping phase, looking at the landscape of the community, needs and support needed. Phase 5 will be delivered by Action 64 with help from the new Youth Climate Engagement Worker.
72	<b>Approach to involving young people, support Youth Climate Action Group</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Engagement Worker (see Actions 59, 63, 65 and 67) is expected to successfully deliver the Eco Schools project, as well as supporting schools to engage with and complete the Eco Schools Green Flag Award. They will also build positive relationships with young people and be in a position to grow the Blackpool Youth Climate Group. They will also support Blackpool Sixth Form with their Fylde Youth Climate Conference in March 2023.

73	<b>Establish a Climate Action Fund to incentivise and “pump-prime” schemes, pilot initiatives and invest-to-save projects to help with transition measures</b>	Concluded	TBC – discussion on priority in budget setting process	The Climate Action Fund has been established successfully, with the first project funded being a 12 month Green Doctor post to be delivered by Groundwork which will support residents with ways of reducing their energy bills and therefore carbon emissions, including the provision of some low-energy alternatives to other equipment.
<b>Theme 7: Working with others</b>				
74	<b>Launch Blackpool Climate Action Partnership, “encouraging and empowering” businesses, organisations and the community to act</b>	Concluded	Nov-21	Blackpool Climate Action Partnership has been established, with the latest meeting taking place in December. Meetings will be held on quarterly, in addition to work between partners to progress specific projects.
75	<b>Work with Blackpool Business Leaders’ Group and BITC Responsible Business Network to establish a relationship with businesses sector by sector</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-21	Blackpool Council is in the stage of building relationships with interested stakeholders, although initial work suggests that sector-by-sector engagement will not be required. Sessions are being delivered on climate issues at the Blackpool Business Leaders Group covering sustainability and have generated interest in support for business decarbonisation, which is being followed up in collaboration with the Business Support Team.
76	<b>Co-produce action plan to address development of skills for future green jobs, including CRF project on green and digital skills</b>	Changed	Oct-22	Bid by an external organisation for CRF funding was unsuccessful, with skills projects in the subsequent SPF funding focusing on different aspects of skills development. Conversations have taken place with DWP regarding the nature of opportunities in the renewable sector, including whether jobs can be deskilled to match the profile of the labour force.
77	<b>Work with Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board to ensure cross-borough collaboration</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	This action will be delivered through Action 40, and will be removed.

78	<b>Shape the development and rollout of the Environment workstream of the Greater Lancashire Plan</b>	Concluded	Dec-21	The Lancashire 2050 Plan was published in November 2022 and included considerable input from Blackpool officers. It includes environment and decarbonisation as a distinct priority area, but also recognises the cross-cutting nature of the issue, incorporating it into other priorities including housing, the economy, and transport amongst others.
79	<b>Identify opportunities to promote Blackpool's work and approach to sub-regional, regional and national organisations and partnerships</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Climate Team has been working to promote Blackpool Council's efforts to decarbonise, taking a "Highly Commended" award from the LGC in July 2022. The team are making use of established sector networks and organisations to discuss and promote our work, as well ask learning from best practice elsewhere.
80	<b>Start to roll out Carbon Literacy Training at the Council and offer to interested partners and local organisations</b>	Live: On track	December 2022 (Council); ongoing	The team is in the process of delivering an adapted version of Carbon Literacy Training to staff members and volunteers - currently 77 members of staff and 11 volunteers have received CLP training. An iPool module has been developed to speed up the rollout of knowledge on the topic, and an alternative course for frontline staff is also under development.
81	<b>Develop a series of "shovel-ready" projects with interested partners</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	The team has developed a number of 'shovel ready' projects, ready to be implemented as external funding becomes available. Development of these schemes both pro-actively and in response to funding opportunities now happens on an ongoing basis, so this action will be removed.
82	<b>Establish to bring latest thinking and expertise to future activity planning</b>	Live: Delayed	May-22	Links have been made with various universities including Lancaster, Edge Hill, UCLAN, Liverpool, Exeter and the National Centre for Oceanography. A working group with academic support is taking forward work to deliver the Motion for the Ocean, whilst the Team is involved in discussions for a climate event to be held by Edge Hill University in May looking at innovative responses to the climate emergency which could be delivered across the county.
<b>Theme 8: Business</b>				

83	<b>Work with businesses to promote the environmental and financial benefits of the circular economy, including reduction of consumption, re-use and re-sale of goods, use of sustainable packaging, reducing waste and increasing recycling</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	This action is integral to the delivery of Action 53 and will be progressed via this route.
84	<b>Promote and support take-up of a sustainable tourism accreditation programme</b>	Concluded	March 2022 then ongoing	The introduction of a sustainable tourism accreditation programme has been explored and a potential pilot programme created. Despite considerable initial interest from the sector, there has been no take up for the scheme with businesses citing cost barriers. This action will be marked as complete, but measures to continue to promote ways of making tourism businesses sustainable will be promoted through Actions 14 and 75.
85	<b>Explore role of incentives in achieving positive change</b>	Concluded	Oct-22	This action will be progressed as part of Action 67.
86	<b>Develop Blackpool Travel to work survey across large employers in Blackpool</b>	Concluded	Jan-22	Blackpool Travel to work survey has been developed and delivered in Blackpool Council. The survey has been made available to other employers in Blackpool to undertake combined analysis with other workplaces. This action has been marked as complete and will be removed from the action plan.
87	<b>Develop low carbon skills transition plan including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of need</li> <li>• Opportunities for business and service growth</li> <li>• Green apprenticeships</li> <li>• Liaison with education providers</li> </ul>	Live: On track	Mar-24	This work will be progressed via the Fylde Coast Green Growth Group (see action 40).

88	<b>Work with the borough's largest employers to set targets for energy and emissions reduction</b>	Concluded	March 2023 then ongoing	This action will be progressed as a part of Action 89 as the work with SME's done as a part of the Action 89 will include energy emission reduction as a part of resource efficiency. The Action 89 will also target larger employers, hence Action 88 will be removed from the action plan.
89	<b>Promote resource efficiency to Small and Medium Enterprises</b>	Live: On track	March 2023 then ongoing	The team developed a project to target SME businesses applying behavioural change across complex systems, seeking to deliver carbon emission reduction across SMEs. Ultimately the financial cost was prohibitive and work was discontinued. Alternative work continues with businesses as described throughout the action plan.
<b>Theme 9: Natural Environment</b>				
90	<b>Consider declaring an Ecological Emergency</b>	Live: Delayed	Apr-22	Discussions started in September 2022, with additional work to consider and recommend signing up to the Motion for the Ocean. Further work has been delayed due to staff turnover.
91	<b>Explore opportunities for use of Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) technology across the Fylde Coast</b>	Live: On track	Mar-24	Mission Zero, the net zero review by Chris Skidmore MP, highlights the need for a national Biomass Strategy and calls for market incentivisation of an approach to engineered and nature-based Greenhouse Gas Removals. Local work on this action will commence as the strategic landscape becomes clear and frontrunners emerge amongst competing technological solutions.
92	<b>Encourage and support Parks Friends Groups, Beach Guardians, Tree Wardens and other community led environmental stewards to explore ways of supporting the carbon emissions reduction agenda</b>	Live: On track	Mar-24	The Climate Team is exploring ways in which the community could own and increase access to greenspace. Community land scheme was proposed as one of the solutions. The possible land has been identified and proposed for the scheme - with a deadline of a year to purchase. Funding options are being considered, with possible exploration of the scheme being funded by Go Fund Me or businesses as their way to contribute to social value. Newly appointed Youth Climate Engagement Worker is expected to further contribute to this action in February 2023.

93	<b>Introduce measures to promote biodiversity on verges and other underused spaces.</b>	Live: On track	Mar-27	Several projects have been underway to introduce measures to promote biodiversity on verges. A community-based orchard has been planted on an underused spaced on Bloomfield Road. The Parks service is having discussions to highlight grass verges and discussions with the relevant services for unused allotments and unadopted land.
94	<b>Double the existing commitment in the GBI strategy to plant 10000 trees, including at sites outside the borough if necessary</b>	Live: On track	Mar-27	Over 10000 trees have been planted as a part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy by Groundwork. More planting is planned to take place this planting season - over 1000 trees are planned to be planted in several parks and green spaces, working with existing and new partners. The revised green and blue infrastructure strategy will include an indicator to monitor the successful establishment of trees. The council is also working with partners across Lancashire to implement a county-wide tree planting programme with Blackpool being one of them.
95	<b>Implement the Green and Blue Infrastructure Action plan, including introducing a Supplementary Planning document and protecting, growing and enhancing other Green Infrastructure, promoting biodiversity</b>	Live: On track	Mar-27	The implementation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan is on track. The audit of the strategy recently took place, with only minor recommendations highlighted. A Supplementary Planning Document has been produced, which will assist in a material consideration when assessing relevant planning application. Further implementation is under way.
96	<b>Implement the Tree Strategy, including reviewing planting locations, encouraging trees on private land, and protecting existing trees and woodland</b>	Live: On track	Mar-27	The Tree Strategy is under implementation, as planned. New Tree Protection Orders have been made to protect the identified trees. Most tree protection and planting has been taking place on council land, not private land.



97	<b>Implement enhanced environmental measures including phasing out peat use, redesigning mowing regimes, changing weed spraying, planting only native species and supporting adaptation measures such as tree planting for carbon sequestration and 'cooling-off' benefits</b>	Live: On track	Mar-27	The council continues work with ENVECO to work on implementation of the enhanced environmental measures, such as changing of weed spraying and mowing regimes. Planning development, through the Supplementary Planning Document, is encouraging planting of native species. Work on town centre greening is underway and will be enhanced further through Shared Prosperity Funding
98	<b>Use Council owned land to increase biodiversity and carry out tree planting and other habitat restoration measures</b>	Live: On track	Mar-27	Council land has been used to increased diversity in the last few years and there are further plans to continue tree planting and habitat restoration efforts. A further 3000 trees have been planted on council land on Bridgehouse Farm, the field which has now been turned into useable space. Another project is planned in pipeline at Black Path, Grange Park lead by My Blackpool Home. Lawson Field will see a 10-year habitat enhancement plan, and a 10 year management plan for Marton Mere. A variety of tree species are being used on site to provide biodiversity, species resilience and increase awareness/amenity.
99	<b>Conclude the ERDF-funded Grange Park tree planting programme</b>	Live: On track	Mar-23	The programme is on track, with a plan for winter planting lead by Groundwork to be delivered shortly. Due to unfavourable conditions in autumn/winter 2022 the tree-planting programme may be delayed - but will resume as soon as the weather will allow.
<b>Theme 10: Building knowledge, capacity and financial resources</b>				

100	<b>Explore all sources of finance, including: Grant funding, collaboration, borrowing, local voluntary or compulsory levies, crowdsourcing, co-operative purchasing, joint ventures, and profit sharing</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Team regularly checks funding opportunities to match them to potential projects, exploring all sources of funding and various grant funding available. Several funding opportunities have emerged which are being considered for funding bids. The team has led discussions with colleagues across Lancashire about finance opportunities from the private sector and has built a relationship with the Green Finance Institute, and is seeking discussions with the UK Infrastructure Bank regarding potential large-scale projects.
101	<b>Engage with government policy announcements on climate in light of their implications of our net zero goal</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	Recent changes at a Government level including their stance on energy production has reduced engagement opportunities. The publication of the net zero review gives an opportunity to re-engage in the near future.
102	<b>Conduct an audit on the council's carbon data capture and implement recommendations</b>	Concluded	Jul-22	An audit of council's carbon data capture will be included in the monitoring arrangements noted in Action 103. Action 102 will be marked as complete and will be removed from the climate action plan.
103	<b>Establish performance indicators and monitoring arrangements to check trajectory</b>	Live: Delayed	Feb-22	The Climate Team has reviewed the process needed to start monitoring carbon emissions through carbon accounting. The need of training in the team has been highlighted and delegates will attend carbon management course to enable the team to implement in-house carbon accounting system. Blackpool Council works with Carbon Disclosure Project - reporting our progress on climate mitigation every year to improve carbon monitoring. Performance indicators have been incorporated into Council Plan performance reports to enable the accurate monitoring of reductions in emissions. In addition to the headline KPIs, a number of supporting KPIs have been identified to provide further detail and context. KPIs will be monitored and updated on an annual basis.

104	<b>Develop and implement a Renewable Power Infrastructure Strategy, including update of 2011 Renewable Energy Potential study</b>	Live: Delayed	May-22	No further progress at this stage. The work will be undertaken at the appropriate time as part of developing renewable energy policy for the new plan.
105	<b>Review all Council strategies and explore potential for further measures to support emissions reduction</b>	Concluded	Nov-21	The action has been successfully completed and delivered –as per previous update - see 5.10 of past covering report.
106	<b>Identification of specific development needs across all Council services via IPA and Carbon Literacy processes</b>	Concluded	Feb-23	The action has been successfully completed and delivered. Climate related objectives and success measures are now included with manager and email/non-email employee IPA processes. The further roll out of training may identify additional development needs.
107	<b>Establish staff group across Climate Action Partnership members to promote and encourage positive environmental behaviours and initiatives</b>	Concluded	Dec-21	The action has been successfully completed. Discussions have been held with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals about collaboration on joint staffing initiatives and additional conversations with private sector companies operating in the energy sector have been held.
108	<b>Develop “climate champions” in service areas and buildings</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-21	Three Climate Champions have been identified across Council departments, with further representatives to be sought via Directors. There is a draft role outline which includes a description of actions that the Representatives will be responsible for, including increase of the collaborative cross-departmental work to support the delivery of the climate action plan.
109	<b>Develop and deliver internal communications campaign about sustainability</b>	Concluded	Jun-22	The action has been successfully completed, with a range of communications channels and content now in place and planned via the Communications Team.

110	<b>Co-ordinate sustainability efforts across the council's companies</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	The action has been successfully completed and delivered. Blackpool Climate Action Partnership and Climate Emergency Steering Group involves representatives from wholly-owned companies which are involved in sustainability efforts and report to the group on a quarterly basis.
111	<b>Develop climate change resilience, mitigation and adaptation plan, including consideration on people and households, the built environment and our heritage assets (piers, listed buildings, parks etc)</b>	Live: On track	Dec-23	The Climate Team has reviewed recommendations made by the charity, Climate Emergency UK on our action plan, developing improvement actions to address the feedback. A new methodology was launched in November and the team is preparing the authority for this assessment with a planning workshop in March. Feedback from Climate Emergency UK and CDP showed that our approach to adaptation needed to evolve and extend across all council services, and this is a priority for 2023. An SPF-funded project, Community Flood Risk Reduction, will be delivered this year.
112	<b>Review scope of emissions included in 2030 target to consider inclusion of further scope 3 upstream and downstream categories</b>	Live: On track	Sep-23	The target setting process is being reviewed as a part of CDP reporting and actions arising from Climate Emergency UK. Initial work is underway to determine the best approach to a carbon accounting process.
113	<b>Adopt "Climate First" approach, where all Council strategies and initiatives must demonstrate their ability to contribute to achieving net zero</b>	Live: Delayed	Nov-21	Work has concluded on the corporate systems needed to enable this work. A Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool has been introduced to officers through Departmental Management Team meetings and promoted to use when filling out CLT reports and encouraged to use in other projects. The Strategy Review is available for use in future strategy planning, supported by the Strategy and Climate Team. Further work is needed to fully embed the approach, with support offered across directorates to achieve this including the development of a carbon calculator for use in capital projects over £100k.

114	Work with Lancashire councils and Towns Fund support to develop a process to review the environmental cost/benefits of new developments	Concluded	Nov-21	The project to work with Lancashire councils has been concluded. Blackpool Council will continue working with Lancashire Councils, as a part of Lancashire Climate Officers group and through delivery of Lancashire 2050 Plan.
115	Develop and explore feasibility of implementing a carbon costing process	Live: Delayed	Feb-22	The progress of this action has been delayed due to the change in accounting system - this action will be revisited later this year. Council officers have reviewed tools offering automated carbon calculations of scope 3 emissions from third party spend and will revisit this when the new system is in place.
116	Fully implement Sustainability Impact Assessment process	Concluded	Nov-21	The action has been successfully completed and delivered. The Sustainability Impact Assessment tool has been developed and delivered as part of the Action 113 - implementing 'Climate First' approach in BC.
117	Set minimum environmental social value targets for all Council procurement decisions, where appropriate	Changed	Nov-21	Blackpool TOMS including the environmental indicators (KPIs) have now been embedded in the procurement process. Further work is underway to aid the reporting and monitoring of KPIs. This action will be changed to include actions 118 and 119 to <b>'Implement Blackpool TOMS through contract management with focus on the environmental dimension of indicators'</b>
118	Adopt specific environmental measures for suppliers as part of the rollout of TOMS (Themes, Outcomes, Measures) social value indicators	Concluded	Nov-21	See Action 117.

119	<b>Link implementation of social value indicators directly to upskilling on environmental skills, including future work skills, business opportunities, legacy projects and improved well being</b>	Concluded	Dec-22	See Action 117.
120	<b>Implement our revised Suppliers Charter and tendering processes, with a view to promoting an ethical stance to contractors</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	This action will be marked as complete, as the Suppliers Charter has been revised to promote ethical stance of the contractors. The charter will continue to be updated and reviewed to further promote sustainability.
121	<b>Liaise with Lancashire Pension Fund to encourage divestment from fossil fuels at a greater rate</b>	Live: On track	Ongoing	The Climate Team had various conversations with the Lancashire Pension Fund board members and councillors, however it is challenging to gain engagement from the stakeholders due to the way that the pension fund operates. Their position is that the investment in fossil fuels fulfils their fiduciary duty, despite other pension funds taking an alternative position. As an alternative, we are planning to further promote climate friendly investment within the borough to progress this action. This action may gain traction with the growth of renewable energy and Government policy.
122	<b>Adopt socio-economic duty to ensure consideration of lower income groups in delivering climate objectives</b>	Live: Delayed	Dec-22	The Head of Equality and Diversity prepared a paper covering authorisation to formally consult key stakeholders on the adoption of socio-economic duty during the next few months as part of our review of Equality Objectives, which was agreed by CLT. The review will be updated after June 2023.

123	<b>Adopt pro-active stance on Blackpool's needs from environmental legislation, funding and action, raising local issues with government officials and ministers as necessary</b>	Concluded	Ongoing	The Climate Team adopted a proactive stance on raising local issues with government officials - responding to consultations, such as responding to Government review of 'Net-Zero- call for evidence' in October 2022. This approach is now embedded and the action will be removed from the climate action plan.
124	<b>Explore role of incentives in achieving positive change and map employer policies on volunteer days with a view to using them for environmental benefit</b>	Live: Delayed	Jul-22	This action has been partly delivered. Staff are able to take part in the Staff Sustainability Alliance Events and Meetings and BC is looking to support external businesses to take climate action through their employer policies on volunteer days. This will be progressed through actions relating to businesses covered elsewhere.
125	<b>Undertake a feasibility study to explore requiring BREEAM standard Good to smaller schemes or raising the standard to Excellent</b>	Concluded	Dec-23	The upgrade of the BREEAM standard was found to not be feasible in Blackpool at the current moment through planning changes. The council will seek to implement the highest standard of BREEAM possible on schemes it is developing, subject to available funding.
126	<b>Develop an approach to gathering Town Deal project carbon baselines and monitoring schemes as they progress</b>	Live: On track	Dec-23	The Climate Team provide representation at all town deal meetings and have been involved in the decision making process. Officers have been engaging with various projects and ensuring the carbon impact of them. A carbon modelling tool has been developed to support carbon reduction on future schemes.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Clare Nolan- Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 February 2023

## FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council's statutory duties in respect of flood risk management. The report will provide a brief outline of the various statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act including the duty to publish the Lancashire Flood Risk management Strategy (Local Strategy) and our agreement to publish an annual monitoring report. The report provides information on proposed legislative changes under the Flood and Water Management Act.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To scrutinise the delivery of the Council's Statutory Duties in relation to flood risk management, the actions in the Lancashire Flood Risk management Strategy (Local Strategy) and also to consider challenges and highlight any areas for further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the report and provide confirmation that the Council is delivering its statutory duties in respect of flood risk management.

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

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

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 The Council has statutory duties as set out in the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny (England) Regulations 2011.
- 5.2 Following the completion of a Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Review in 2013, the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee is to receive a report on an annual basis, relating to progress on flood risk management.
- 5.3 The Flood and Water Management Act has been enacted at various times through secondary legislation since receiving royal assent in 2010. Part of the Act is a duty to cooperate with others at risk management authorities and to share information. As part of this, Blackpool is part of the Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership (LSP) the LSP is made up of Member and officer representatives from Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, the Environment Agency and United Utilities. The LSP provides updated reports on flooding on a quarterly basis to the Environment Agency’s Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- 5.4 Funding for the delivery of statutory duties is received in the allocation from Department for Levelling up Communities.
- 5.5 The Council works proactively with its partner organisations, in particular the Environment Agency and United Utilities to ensure that any available funding to allow studies or contributions is explored.

## **6.0 Challenges and Communication with residents**

- 6.1. The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England was published in Autumn 2020 and recognises that as a result of climate change England will experience wetter winters and drier summers with an increased likelihood of wetter weather and flooding.
- 6.2 Blackpool has the added challenge of being a coastal town and so one of the biggest challenges is that of ensuring that the town is resilient to future flood events. The asset register and associated mapping will assist in ensuring we understand the areas of flood risk in the town.
- 6.3 In addition to carrying out our statutory duties and the physical resilience measures such as sea defence, the challenge will be to ensure that we engage with Communities and that they can recognise their own challenges and become resilient.

- 6.4 Following the Community Forum Events in 2020 and 2022, a Community Resilience Policy has now been published to enable a consistent response to requests for assistance in a flood event and it is anticipated that a Community Flood action groups will be formed where possible. Support will also be provided to any other areas that would ordinarily consider forming a flood action group or that are at risk to flood events but that may not be in a position to form a formal flood action group.
- 6.5 Members will recall in previous reports that staff commenced training and working with Partner organisations across the Fylde Peninsula to provide a flexible and knowledgeable work force to deal with our Statutory flood risk duties, this training has continued throughout 2022.
- 6.6 Further training has also been carried out during 2022 with the Council's Emergency Planning Team and external partners. The exercise was attended by all officers across the Council involved in flood risk and provided excellent training to strengthen the understanding of all officers in their roles and responsibilities during and following flood incident.
- 6.7 Further training days will be scheduled for 2023 to ensure that we have a robust response team in all aspects of delivery of our Emergency Plan.
- 6.8 Blackpool Council, Fylde Council and Wyre Council recognise the challenges of surface water flood management across the Fylde Peninsula and are working together in The Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership (which also includes representatives from United Utilities and the Environment Agency) to address common issues and share resources to manage surface water issues.

## **7.0 Consenting and Enforcing on Ordinary Watercourses.**

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to consent on applications for works which impact on ordinary watercourses. To date, since the implementation of the duty seven applications have been formally received, there were no applications by developers or residents in 2022. In addition, the Council has powers under the Land Drainage Act to enforce action where works have been undertaken without appropriate consent. This is undertaken on a reactive basis upon becoming aware of a problem. The Council have responded to a number of land drainage issues in 2022.
- 7.2 The flood risk team are receiving more enquiries in respect of historic watercourses where consent have not been granted. The Council has discretion to exercise its powers in this regard.

## **8.0 Duty to investigate flood incidents**

- 8.1 On becoming aware of a flood incident within Blackpool, the Council has a duty to investigate flooding incidents to the extent that it considers appropriate and necessary. A policy has been implemented stating the criteria that would trigger a formal investigation. Other incidents of flooding are investigated when appropriate but results are not published.
- 8.2 The Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) has now been published on the Council's web site and accompanying that strategy is a business plan the plan includes actions to review our policies. The adoption of a standardised section 19 report is included in these actions.

### **9.0 Maintenance of asset register**

- 9.1 Blackpool Council continues to develop the asset register within the Geographical Resource Platform.
- 9.2 The Head of highways will make the asset register publically available on the Council's Flood Risk web site as this is developed in 2023. The asset records to accompany the register do contain some sensitive information which cannot be published.

### **10.0 Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy)**

- 10.1 The Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local strategy) and Business Plan was published in October 2021 on the Blackpool Council Flood Risk web site.

The Local Strategy has a business plan contains 6 themes together with actions, the themes are

- Delivering Effective Flood Risk Management Locally (8 Actions)
- Understanding our Local Risks and Challenges (9 Actions)
- Supporting Sustainable Flood resilient development ( 9 Actions)
- Improving Engagement with our flood family ( 11 Actions)
- Maximising Investment Opportunity to Better Protect our Businesses and Communities (9 actions)
- Contributing towards a Sustainable Climate Resilient Lancashire (7 Actions)

- 10.2 Regular meetings have been set up between Blackpool Council Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Council to monitor the actions in the business plan. A quarterly report will also be issued to the LSP so that the delivery of actions is transparent across the Partnership.

- 10.3 The delivery of the business plan spans the life of the strategy 2022 – 2027 but it is recognised that during its lifetime some changes may be required.
- 10.4 The business plan requires multi organisational working and relies on the strength of the Partnerships and a copy of the 2022 Annual monitoring report is attached to this report in Appendix A.

### **11.00 Regional Flood and Coast Committee**

- 11.1 Blackpool Council is represented at the Environment Agency’s North west Regional Flood and Coastal committee which is attended by Cllr Jane Hugo. This forum forms part of the formal governance for managing flood risk in the regions and Blackpool Council pay an annual levy towards the alleviation of flood in the North west region.
- 11.2 The levy can be used for the Partnership funding of projects in the region including Blackpool.
- 11.3 Blackpool Council have been successful in obtaining £65,000 from the £100,000 quick win levy allocation for Lancashire to carry out sustainable drainage systems that not only help provide flood resilience but that also create habitat. These schemes will provide case studies for the Lancashire Strategic Partnership to transfer these projects across the Lancashire County.
- 11.4 Blackpool Council report to Regional Flood and Coastal Committee on flood and coastal erosion risk management actions through the Partnership Officer a shared resource currently based at Lancashire County Council.

### **12.0 Proposed Legislative Changes - Sustainable Drainage Systems Review**

- 12.1 Members may recall that Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was not enacted, however, on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the government “confirmed plans to ensure new sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are adopted under Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010”
- 12.2 Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 sets out a framework for the roll out of drainage systems, a sustainable drainage system approving body, the national standards on design, construction, operation, and maintenance. It also makes the right to connect surface water to sewers conditional upon a drainage system being approved before any construction work can start.
- 12.3 How this sits with or alongside the planning process is subject to further consultation. A consultation to collect views on the new proposals will launch later this year as the government seek to finalise the new rules ahead of their implementation throughout 2024”

12.4 This proposal should enable the Council to ensure that there is a responsible approach by developers to managing drainage and flood risk on new developments.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a): Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Business Plan  
Annual Monitoring Report

**13.0 Financial considerations:**

13.1 The Department for Environment Flood and Rural Affairs along with the Department for Communities and Local Government provide some funding to undertake flood risk projects and studies.

**14.0 Legal considerations:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Risk management considerations:**

15.1 Failure to implement the statutory duties could lead to unquantified and unmanaged flood risk to Blackpool.

15.2 Blackpool Council needs to retain the expertise and resource to deliver the statutory duties in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and the Land Drainage Act In order to remain resilience, we will continue to extend the expertise and ensure that Council has a flexible workforce, during 2023 more officers will be trained to carry out statutory duties in respect of flood risk management and Blackpool will work with partners to provide a cohesive approach to delivering our duties. This training will continue to be expanded to the Emergency Planning Role

**16.0 Equalities considerations:**

16.1 Flooding has the potential to impact on vulnerable residents to a greater extent and will need to be managed accordingly.

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

17.1 Sustainability, climate and environmental considerations are covered in the main body of the report.

**18.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

18.1 Blackpool Council is part of the Lancashire Flood Risk Partnership and also chairs the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership which review flood risk in the wider area.

**19.0 Background papers:**

19.1 None.

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Appendix 7(a)

# Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire

## 2021 - 2027

### 2022 Annual Monitoring Report



Blackburn with  
Darwen Council

Blackpool Council

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**Abbreviations**

<b>Table of Abbreviations</b>	
Lead Local Flood Authority	LLFA
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	LFRMS
Lancashire County Council	LCC
Blackburn with Darwen Council	B-w-D
Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	RFCC
Risk Management Authorities	RMAs
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership	FCERM
Red, Amber, Green	RAG
Flood Action Groups	FIAGs

## What is the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire?

### Our Vision

*By 2027, Lancashire will be a flood resilient place responsive to risks, challenges and opportunities supporting a sustainable future for the people of Lancashire.*

Following the [Pitt Review](#), in 2010 the Government introduced the [Flood and Water Management Act](#) to give new powers and responsibilities to local authorities to better manage the risk of local flooding in their areas. Under this legislation, County and Unitary Councils became Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA).

Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire County Council, as Lancashire's Lead Local Flood Authorities, have worked together to produce a joint Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for managing local flood risks in Lancashire.

One of the statutory duties of a Lead Local Flood Authority is to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), supporting the delivery of the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#) ambitions and the Government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#). Links to the Strategy and the Non-Technical Summary can be found on the [Council's website](#).

### Why are we doing an Annual Monitoring Report?

The Annual Monitoring Report will focus on objectives with a delivery milestone between November 2021 and December 2022. This includes an update on objectives with milestones, which are ongoing to 2027.

An annual monitoring report will be produced each year by the Lead Local Flood Authorities, reflecting on actions delivered within the reporting year. The annual monitoring report will hold each Risk Management Authority accountable for delivering their objectives. It will also provide more transparency to our communities who will be able to view our progress.

The annual monitoring report is produced for the following:

- Our communities, including [Flood Action Groups](#)
- Councillors, including scrutiny committees
- [Flood Risk Management Authorities](#)
- [Lancashire Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership](#)
- [North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee](#)

Successful delivery of our Strategy relies on partnership working. We have and will continue to report on progress and monitor delivery transparently and cooperatively with our partners at the [Lancashire Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership](#) meetings.

## How do I to interpret the Annual Monitoring Report?

The annual monitoring report will highlight the progress on objectives delivered between November 2021 and December 2022.

The progress of each action will be given a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status. The RAG status is broken down into four categories:

RAG Status	
	<b>Red</b> - This means the objective has not yet been started.
	<b>Amber</b> – This means the objective is in progress. Work has started but is not yet complete.
	<b>Green</b> – This means the objective has been completed and there is no further action.
	<b>On Hold</b> – The objective is hold. This may be used where the objective owner is awaiting policy updates which may significantly impact on delivery of the objective.

This report presents an overall RAG status, highlighting the progress made by Lancashire's Lead Local Flood Authorities as a collective, shown in the 'progress status' column.

'Delivery milestones' are not deadlines, but a desirable target date for the completion of each business plan objective. Flood risk management authorities in Lancashire will work together to manage local flood risks and deliver the objectives set out in the strategy.

However, it is impossible to predict future events and legislative changes which could impact on the delivery of these objectives, and therefore 'delivery milestones' have been included to allow flood risk management authorities the capacity to respond to local flooding as and when they may occur; this is where the status 'on hold' may be used.

Each delivery objective has an 'objective owner', and it is their responsibility to lead and carry through the action. If the objective owner needs input from others to complete their action, they can contact those listed in the 'support from' column. Partners will work together to deliver the expected objective output or outcome.

The business plan includes objectives which will run the entirety of this strategy, from November 2021 to March 2027. These will be marked with a delivery milestone 'ongoing to 2027' but will be progressed, monitored, and reported on each year. A RAG status for the current years progress will be given.



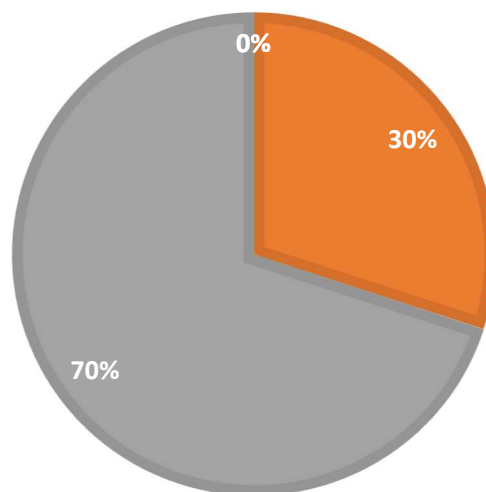
### What we have delivered

Lancashire's Lead Local Flood Authorities have worked collaboratively with other flood risk management authorities and wider partners to make progress on the delivery of 30 objectives in 2022. Details of progress of each in-year objective can be found in the subsequent tables. In summary:

- **0 (0%)** of objectives have not started
- **9 (30%)** of objectives have started and are in progress
- **21 (70%)** of objectives have been completed
- **0 (0%)** of objectives have been put on hold

#### 2022 OBJECTIVE STATUS

■ Not Started ■ In Progress ■ Complete ■ On hold



### A forward look to what we will be delivering in 2023

The annual monitoring report is not only a reflection on the work each objective owner has carried out since the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was published in November 2021; it is also a forward look to the objectives intended for delivery in 2023.

Looking ahead to 2023, there are 8 new objectives which the Risk Management Authorities will aim to deliver. Objectives which are ongoing to 2027, will have a refreshed RAG status in the 2023 annual monitoring report. An overview of next year's objectives can be found below.





### Theme 1: Delivering effective flood risk management locally

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
1.1 Maintain, apply and monitor the Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management (LFRM) Strategy 2021 - 2027	A monitoring framework for the Lancashire LFRM Strategy is established and delivery monitored.	LLFA	Lancashire FCERM Partnership ( <i>Strategic and Tactical</i> )  Partnership Coordinator	Ongoing to 2027	Complete
1.4 Work proactively with Local Planning Authorities to ensure effective local policies are in place for managing flood risk and coastal erosion through the Land and Marine Planning Processes	Local Plan policy and evidence base review are informed by direct input from flood risk management authorities.	Local Planning Authorities	Environment Agency  LLFA  Water & Sewerage Companies  Coast Protection Authorities	Various and Ongoing	Complete
1.7 Deliver LLFA actions and engage with the delivery of actions that require partnership working contained within the National FCERM Strategy Action Plan.	Relevant actions identified in the National FCERM Strategy Action Plan are delivered.	LLFA	Environment Agency	Various	Complete

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
			Water & Sewerage Companies  District Councils  Others as identified		

Objectives planned for delivery in 2023 include:

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
13 Address the need for a Highway Drainage Connection Policy.	Highway Drainage Connection Policy is created, adopted and implemented by the Highway Authority.	Highway Authority	LLFA	March 2023	In Progress

## Theme 2: Understanding our local risks and challenges

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
2.1 Deliver any outstanding Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP), and identify further studies needed.	Surface Water Management Plans are delivered and used to inform bids into the Investment Programme as appropriate. Further SWMPs are added to Investment Programme.	LLFA	Project Advisor  District Councils  Environment Agency  Water & Sewerage Companies	Ongoing to 2027	In Progress
2.3 Bid for funding to map all ordinary watercourses in Lancashire, and feed this mapping and any modelling into national maps to improve all risk management authority understanding of local ordinary watercourse networks	All ordinary watercourses in Lancashire are mapped and fed back into national mapping collated by the Environment Agency.	LLFA	Project Advisor  Environment Agency	Ongoing to 2027	In Progress
2.5 Continue to populate the Flood Risk Asset Register and Record and utilise this data in managing local flood risks.	Flood Risk Asset Register will grow in size to include new and existing flood risk assets, and is integrated appropriately for use	LLFA	Asset Management	Ongoing to 2027	In Progress

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
	within each LLFA e.g. through GIS.				

**Objectives planned for delivery in 2023 include:**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
2.6 Spatially map all historic and new known flooding incidents across Lancashire since 2013 and categorise accordingly e.g. internal / external property / business etc.	GIS mapping system showing locations which have flooded including key details in the attribute table.	LLFA	District Councils  Water & Sewerage Companies  Environment Agency  Highway Authority	March 2023	In Progress
2.8 Consider how Council processes can be improved to make it easier to gather information from residents and businesses which are affected /have been flooded from	Established and consistent process in place for gathering information from residents and	LLFA	Environment Agency	March 2023	In Progress

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
local sources (i.e. from ordinary watercourses, from surface water, from groundwater).	businesses that have been flooded from local sources.				
2.9 Benchmark LLFA datasets to ensure all available data is utilised in understand risks.	Baseline LLFA datasets are understood and 'other sources' of data are scoped, considered and implemented into databases.	LLFA	Environment Agency  Water & Sewerage Companies  District Councils  Partnership Coordinator	March 2023	<b>In Progress</b>

**Theme 3: Supporting sustainable flood resilient development**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
<p>3.1 Support and provide input to Local Planning Authorities during plan making to ensure evidence base documents, policies and guidance are suitable and take account of best practice, climate change, biodiversity net gain and amenity aspirations.</p> <p>Page 82</p>	Effective Local Plan policies for flood risk, coastal erosion and sustainable drainage are adopted, and informed by high quality evidence provided by flood risk management authorities.	<p>Water &amp; Sewerage Companies</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>LLFA</p> <p>Highway Authority</p>	District Councils	Ongoing to 2027	<b>Complete</b>
3.3 Be represented on the North West RFCC's Planning Sub Group to ensure Lancashire is contributing to and learning from best practice across the region and nationally in relation to planning, development and SuDS.	Nominated representatives represent Lancashire at the group and feed back to the partnership, flood risk management authorities and local planning authorities as required.	Nominated Representative	Partnership Coordinator	June 2022	<b>Complete</b>
3.7 Encourage all flood risk management authorities in Lancashire to become members of the Association of SuDS Authorities (ASA).	Increase in member of ASA from flood risk management authorities in Lancashire.	Partnership Coordinator	LLFA	March 2022	<b>In Progress</b>

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
3.9 Produce 'LLFA Standing Advice for Minor Planning Applications' to enable Local Planning Authorities to assess minor planning applications in relation to local flood risks without direct LLFA consultation in most circumstances.	LLFA Standing Advice for Minor Applications is produced and issued to all Local Planning Authorities in Lancashire.	LLFA	Local Planning Authorities	September 2022	Complete

**Objectives planned for delivery in 2023 include:**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
3.2 Work with Local Planning Authorities to encourage adoption of the SuDS Pro-forma through their Local Planning Validation Checklist for 'Major' development.	Local Planning Authorities will require a locally adapted SuDS pro-forma to be submitted for every major planning application.	Local Planning Authorities	LLFA  Partnership Coordinator	December 2023	In Progress
3.4 Establish a process which ensures 'as built' SuDS assets are validated and captured in Flood Risk Asset Registers.	'As built' SuDS assets are captured in Flood Risk Asset Register.	LLFA	Local Planning Authorities	March 2023	On Hold

#### Theme 4: Improving engagement with our flood family

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
4.1 Improve the 'The Lancashire Partnership' webpage on The Flood Hub, including by setting out who our flood family is.	The Lancashire Partnership webpage on The Flood Hub is refreshed and improved, including a 'Lancashire Flood Family' section which identifies immediate and wider partners, and key communities and business, as appropriate, that we engage with.	Partnership Coordinator	Partnership Chair	March 2022	Complete
4.2 Update Local Authority 'flooding' webpages and ensure they link to The Flood Hub to support community awareness, engagement and resilience	All Local Authority webpages in Lancashire are refreshed and include a link to The Flood Hub website to support community resilience.	LLFA District Councils	Partnership Coordinator	March 2022	In Progress
4.3 Continue to support maintenance and development of The Flood Hub, including the launch of a new material.	Lancashire is represented at The Flood Hub website maintenance meetings, and a communications plan is developed for how Lancashire changes, news and issues can be fed up to The Flood Hub team.	Partnership Coordinator	LLFA District Councils Water & Sewerage Companies	Ongoing to 2027	Complete



Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
			Highway Authority		
<b>4.4</b> Ensure Flood Action Groups (FIAGs) in Lancashire who consent to their 'get in touch' details being shared on The Flood Hub are published on the map and on the Partnership webpage.	Following GDPR consent, contact details for FIAGs in Lancashire are published on The Flood Hub so that those at risk in the community can easily find and contact their local FIAG.	Partnership Coordinator	LLFA	June 2022	<b>Complete</b>
<b>4.6</b> Continue to attend and work proactively with Catchment Partnerships to identify local opportunities to work together to co-fund and co-deliver natural flood management and other schemes within the community and private landownership.	Natural flood management and other schemes and projects are funded and delivered in Partnership where possible.	Partnership Coordinator	LLFA, Environment Agency	Ongoing to 2027	<b>Complete</b>
<b>4.8</b> Ensure Lancashire is represented at every North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's (RFCC) and its sub-groups as formed, to ensure we are working effectively with regional partners, sharing best practice and influencing any decisions or recommendations made to the	The Lancashire FCERM Partnership has an appointed representative(s) to attend every RFCC meeting, and RFCC sub-groups as formed. Lancashire shares best practice and learning with colleagues across the North West region, and feeds back to the Partnership from other areas.	Councillor Representative	Partnership Coordinator	December 2021	<b>Complete</b>

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
RFCC and sub-regional FCERM Partnerships.					
<b>4.9</b> Ensure all flood risk management authorities are proactively engaged with the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) to continually improve our multi-agency and operational responses to flooding incidents.	Continuous improvement is built into both the LRF and operational flood responses.	LLFA, District Councils  Water & Sewerage Companies  Environment Agency  Highways Authority	Partnership Coordinator	June 2022	<b>Complete</b>
<b>4.10</b> Include separate Highway Authority and infrastructure provider representation on the Lancashire FCERM Partnership, at relevant levels, as appropriate, to ensure highway and other infrastructure flood risks are also captured.	Highway and other infrastructure flooding issues are better understood and, where possible, used to inform capital bids in the Investment Programme 2021 – 2027 to increase long term infrastructure resilience to help build a more flood resilient economy.	Highway Authority  Infrastructure Provider	Partnership Coordinator	March 2022	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4.11</b> Promote the educational resources provided on The Flood Hub and United Utilities SuDS for Schools programme via Local	Educational material on flood risks are distributed to schools and teachers throughout Lancashire in order to embed	LLFA	Environment Agency	March 2022	<b>In Progress</b>

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
Authority Schools Portal / Educational Leads.	into key stage syllabus and lesson plans relation to geography and climate change.		Water & Sewerage Companies  The Flood Hub		

**Objectives planned for delivery in 2023 include:**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
4.7 Develop a Communication and Engagement Plan showing clear lines of communication and supporting, within and amongst flood risk management authorities, wider partners and the people of Lancashire. This will include proactive communications and responsive communication to, for example, flood/weather alerts. This should also include a progress for how good practice is captured from across Lancashire, including from Catchment Partnership and wider partners, and shared appropriately with our flood family and the people of Lancashire.	Communication and Engagement Plan for Lancashire.	Partnership Coordinator	Corporate Communications  The Flood Hub	March 2023	<b>Complete</b>



**Theme 5: Maximising Investment Opportunities to Better Protect our Businesses and Communities**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
5.1 Deliver schemes within the Investment Programme 2021 – 2027 to time and cost, including meeting partnership funding and efficiency requirements of grant funding.	Schemes in the Investment Programme 2021 – 2027 are delivered by March 2027.	Environment Agency  LLFA  Highway Authority	Water & Sewerage Companies  Project Advisor	Ongoing to 2027	In Progress
5.2 Proactively monitor the delivery of the programme at every level of the Lancashire FCERM Partnership and hold delivery leads accountable and ensure this is consistent with best practice established from across the region and/or other RFCC areas.	A collective monitoring framework is established and shared at all levels of the Partnership and measured against quarterly with a progress report provided. Monitoring must include against delivering efficiencies and achieving the required partnership funding contributions, as well as timescales and outcomes projected.	Partnership Councillors	Project Advisor  Partnership Coordinator	June 2022	Complete
5.3 Share the programme with partners at all levels and with Catchment Partnerships to identify any collaboration opportunities.	Investment Programme 2021 – 2027 is shared with Catchment Partnerships, and opportunities for collaboration in delivery are identified to	Partnership Coordinator  Project Advisor		June 2022	Complete

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
	drive efficient and successful partnership working projects, as appropriate.				
5.4 Continue to identify opportunities / need for investment in flood risk management infrastructure and ensure these are captured in the Investment Programme 2021 – 2027 at the earliest opportunity to secure an allocation, where viable.	New schemes continue to be identified from flood risk management authority investigations, studies and partnership meetings.	LLFA Environment Agency Water & Sewerage Companies Highway Authority District Councils	Project Advisor Partnership Coordinator Catchment Partners	Ongoing to 2027	Complete
5.6 Establish a process for the Partnership which facilitates quick allocation, approval and delivery of 'Quick Win' funding allocated annually to the Partnership. This includes governance and a re-allocation of 'Quick Win' funding allocated annually to the Partnership. This includes	A 'Quick Win' Protocol is established for The Lancashire FCERM Partnership and shared with colleagues across the North West as best practice.	Partnership Chair	Project Advisor Partnership Coordinator	March 2022	Complete

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
governance and a re-allocation of funding if not spent as agreed.					
5.8 Where opportunities arise and where appropriate to do so, make government aware of funding challenges experienced in Lancashire, relating to funding duties of flood risk management authorities and investment in areas at risk of local flooding.	Government are made aware of funding challenges Lancashire experiences, relating to both funding flood risk management authority duties and investment in areas at risk of local flooding (surface water, groundwater and flooding from ordinary watercourses) where it is appropriate to do so.	LLFA	Project Advisor  North West RFCC	Ongoing to 2027	Complete
5.9 Ensure The Flood Hub is updated with flood risk schemes in progress and completed on a periodic basis.	The Flood Hub reflects delivery of flood risk management schemes in Lancashire.	Partnership Coordinator	LLFA  Project Advisor	Ongoing to 2027	In Progress

**Objectives planned for delivery in 2023 include:**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
5.5 Develop a 'funding catalogue' of all potential sources of funding from public, private, voluntary, and other sectors. Explore opportunities to collate this for the region,	'Funding catalogue' is created, shared, maintained, and used to enable delivery of identified projects, particularly those	Project Advisor	Water & Sewerage Companies	March 2023	In Progress

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
working with other Project Advisors to achieve this.	which are not viable or borderline.		Environment Agency  LLFA  Highway Authority  District Councils		



**Theme 6: Contributing to a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Lancashire**

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
6.1 Work with climate change action groups set up following Local Authority declaration of a climate emergency to ensure actions to address flood risk and coastal erosion are incorporated within climate change action plans.	Attendance at and input to products and outcomes from climate change action groups. Climate change action plan includes measures to address flood risk and coastal erosion.	LLFA  Environment Agency  Water & Sewerage Companies  District Councils  Highway Authority	Partnership Coordinator	March 2027	Complete
6.2 Ensure a climate change allowance is incorporated into all proposed new sustainable drainage systems on developments consistent with national and/or local planning requirements and published guidance.	All new sustainable drainage systems on developments incorporate an allowance for climate change consistent with national and/or local planning requirements.	Local Planning Authorities	LLFA  Environment Agency  Water & Sewerage Companies	December 2021	Complete

Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone	Progress Status
			Highway Authority  District Councils		
6.6 Support Local Planning Authorities in undertaking a climate change review of Planning Policy and the Use and Management of Water in Lancashire to identify actions they can take to better manage flood risks presented by development and urban creep.	Local Plans in Lancashire are reviewed in the context of climate change and development management actions identified to better manage urban creep. Flood risk management authorities will support and engage with the Climate Change and the Use and Management of Water workshop.	Local Planning Authorities	LLFA  Environment Agency  Water & Sewerage Companies	September 2022	Complete
6.7 Work with The Flood Hub and partner flood risk management authorities to promote property flood resilience measures and land flood resilience measures, and signpost to reputable suppliers if this is possible.	The Flood Hub promotes property flood resilience and land flood resilience campaign via social media at least once a year. Reputable supplier list is provided on The Flood Hub.	The Flood Hub	LLFA  Environment Agency  Water & Sewerage Companies	September 2022	Complete

Objectives planned for delivery in 2023 include:

There are no objectives planned for this Business Plan theme for delivery in 2023.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Clare Nolan- Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2023

## BATHING WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council’s statutory and other duties in respect of bathing water management. The report will provide a brief outline of the various statutory duties including statistics and highlight areas of challenge and concerns and information on the work of love my beach and turning tides.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To scrutinise the delivery of the Council’s statutory and other responsibilities in relation to bathing water management, note the performance and highlight any areas for further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the report and provide confirmation that the Council is delivering its statutory duties and other responsible duties and actions in respect of bathing water management.

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Council has statutory duties as set out in the Bathing Water Directive 2006 (BWD) implemented through the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (BWR) in respect of its four bathing waters which are, Blackpool South, Blackpool Central, Blackpool North and Bispham.

5.2 Following the completion of Bathing Water Management Scrutiny Review in 2013, the Scrutiny Committee is to receive a report on an annual basis, relating to progress on its bathing waters.

#### **5.3 Statutory Duties**

The BWR requires Blackpool Council to erect signage at all its bathing waters providing specific details of the bathing water, the quality of the water and any links for the public to enquire at any time during the bathing season about the quality of the water. In addition, the BWD set stricter standards to be adhered to in respect of bathing waters quality compared to previous directives. These stricter standards were imposed following the 2015 bathing season. Blackpool Council responded to the challenges by forming a partnership with Wyre, Fylde and Lancashire County Councils, the Environment Agency United Utilities and Keep Britain Tidy to take collective and collaborative action to ensure our Fylde Peninsula Bathing Waters are the best quality possible and meet the stricter standards directed by the BWD.

In addition to forming a local partnership, Blackpool also embraced a regional approach to improving bathing waters via the Turning Tides Partnership

#### **5.4 Budget Information**

There is no official funding for the delivery of our statutory duties under the BWR. However, the Council works proactively with its partner organisations in particular the Environment Agency and United Utilities to ensure that any available funding to deliver projects or campaigns is explored.

The Turning Tides Partnership are working together to establish funding for a three year period to enable the re-establishment of the Love my Beach campaign and for project works to improve bathing waters.

## 6.0 **Statutory Duty**

Blackpool Council has consistently complied with its duty to erect signage at its four bathing waters, Blackpool South, Blackpool Central Blackpool North and Bispham. The signage provides the relevant information about the sampling point which is used by the Environment Agency when they sample. To date, the Council has not received any adverse comments from the Environment Agency regarding its statutory signage.

In addition, Blackpool Council has responded to pollution risk forecasting in order to advise the public against bathing if there is likely to be increased pollution at a bathing water on a set day. In 2021 the Environment Agency changed its pollution risk forecasting applications to bathing waters which has significantly reduced the number of pollution risk forecasts in the 2021 and 2022 bathing water seasons.

## 6.2 **What has changed**

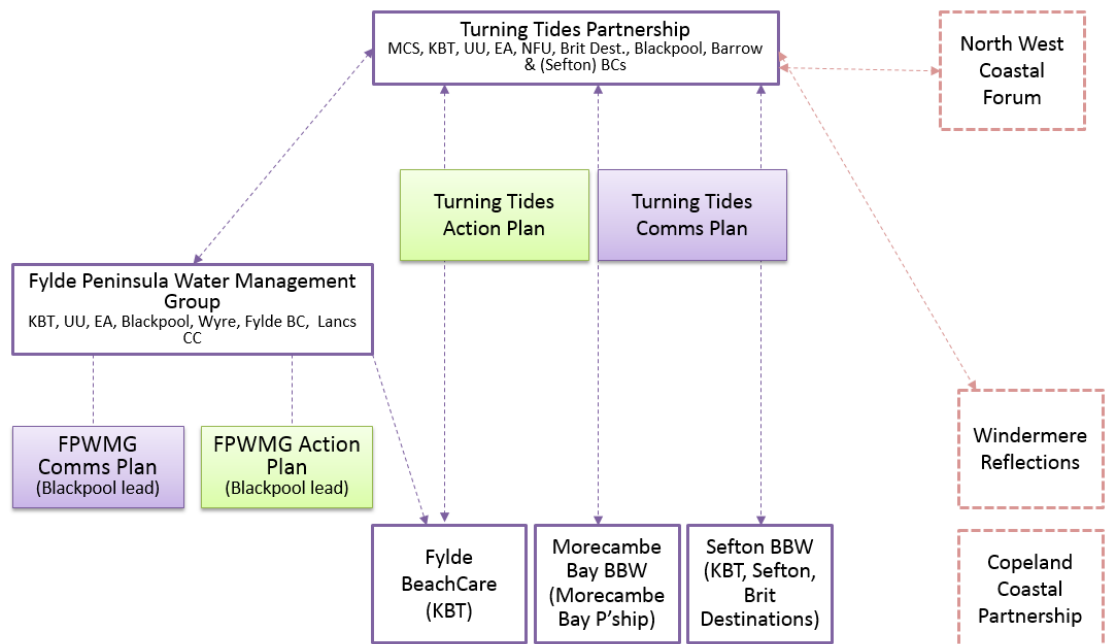
### 6.3 **Bathing water predictions in 2011**

In 2011, it was predicted that seven of the eight bathing waters along the Fylde Peninsula would be poor at the end of the 2015 bathing water season, which would have meant having to erect signage advising against bathing.

In order to ensure Blackpool Council and its partners achieved the best possible results, the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership was formed and the Turning Tides Regional Partnership was formed, as it was recognised that more could be achieved to ensure the messages and campaigns to improve bathing waters by working with the wider region.

### 6.4 **Governance**

The original Governance for the partnerships set up to improve bathing waters and promote the benefits of the beach and bathing waters is detailed below, during 2023 the Fylde Peninsula Partnership will review the communications and action plan to continue to improve bathing waters.



## 6.5 Challenges

The most significant challenges to bathing waters are described below in respect of source pollution, however Blackpool also needs to provide the resources to work in partnership and expand the knowledge base.

In respect of the latter, during 2022 officers continued to be trained and upskilled to continue the work to maintain bathing water standards.

Investment is required by Partners to continue the work started by Turning Tides and to re-establish the Love my Beach campaigns, work is progressing to establish funding as stated in 5.0 above.





## 6.6 Source pollution

Typically the source of pollution is described below, however due to the deterioration in results in the North West for the 2022 bathing season the Environment Agency have carried out DNA sampling and Blackpool Council are waiting for further information on the source of pollution for the 2022 bathing season.

Outfall sewers – Members may recall that United Utilities have invested in providing long sea outfalls in the South of Blackpool at Harrowside and at Anchorsholme in the North. United Utilities will be asked to provide an update on the impact of this investment. This is particularly important as the classification at Blackpool North has been classified as poor in the 2022 bathing season.

Animals – animal waste in particular from areas of salt marsh grazing on the river Ribble are regularly reported and the council erects warning signs to prevent bathing during this type of pollution risk forecast. This will continue to be a challenge in maintaining standards. However, the Environment Agency have not provided pollution risk forecasting in respect of animal waste during the 2022 bathing water season, Blackpool Council have challenged this decision.

Dogs and Birds – Work has continued to monitor the impact of pollution from dogs and birds. Public space protection orders are in place during the bathing season between North Pier and South of South pier in respect of dog control orders.

In respect of birds, the Environment Agency have advised that sea birds continue to present a pollution risk to bathing waters.

Surface water run off continues to be a challenge in terms of monitoring and will be included in the action plan for monitoring source pollution during 2023

Misconnections – Blackpool together with its partners the Environment Agency and United Utilities continue to investigate and enforce on any misconnections or pollution directly to sea from piped sources.

## 6.7 Results at the end of 2022

The results for 2022 are:-

Blackpool South – Good

Blackpool Central – Satisfactory

Blackpool North – Poor

Bispham – Excellent

We will continue to work with Partners at the Environment Agency and United Utilities to understand the source pollution in samples and improve the quality of water.

#### **6.8 Short Term Pollution and pollution Risk Forecasting**

Blackpool Council officers continued to display short term pollution signage at bathing waters when rainfall is expected to be heavy potentially reducing the bathing water quality for short timescales. The advantage is that the public receive additional advice about quality and results can be discounted for providing this advice.

Blackpool Council continued to apply pollution risk forecasting signage at bathing waters when pollution events are expected or known to potentially reduce bathing water quality. Results can be discounted for providing this advice. It was important to ensure we provide this health and safety advice to bathers.

However as stated above the Environment Agency have significantly reduced the number of pollution risk warnings in the 2022 bathing water season.

#### **6.9 Awards**

The results from the 2022 bathing water season mean that Blackpool have the opportunity to seek Seaside Awards for Blackpool South and Central, and a Blue Flag award for Bispham.

Motion for the Ocean

Blackpool Council have now declared a motion for the ocean and have had significant interest from external partners including academic institutions who can assist in studying the source pollution and also assess opportunities to make best use of our critical asset and in line with our climate emergency response.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:** - None

#### **7.0 Financial considerations:**

7.1 Funding by partners to Blackpool Council and the Turning Tides Partnership is required to ensure standards continue to be met and campaigns to raise awareness.

**8.0 Legal considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Risk management considerations:**

9.1 Failure to implement the statutory duties could lead to action from the Environment Agency against Blackpool Council and failure of the bathing water standards resulting in Blackpool having to erect signs advising residents and visitors against bathing in our waters.

9.2 Blackpool Council needs to retain the expertise and resource to deliver the statutory duties in respect of bathing waters and ensure it works with its partners in developing and implementing the action plan to maintain the quality of the bathing water. The expertise in this area needs to be further expanded and include upskilling officers so that the Council remains resilient.

**10.0 Equalities considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Sustainability, Climate change and environmental considerations:**

11.1 Sustainability and environmental considerations are contained within the main body of the report.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Blackpool Council chairs both the Turning Tides Partnership and the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership and Councillor Hugo is the lead representatives for the water quality sub-group of the Local Government Association (LGA) Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG). Blackpool also represent the LGA SIG at the National Bathing Waters communications forum which is chaired by the Environment Agency.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John-Paul Lovie, Head of Waste (Policy and Partnerships)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 February 2023

## WASTE, CLEANSING AND STREETSCENE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a basis for the Scrutiny Committee to review the services in relation to delivery with an emphasis on headline data and performance indicators. It will provide a brief outline of the various elements of the services delivered, identify areas of good performance and highlight any current or anticipated barriers or challenges as well as enabling opportunities.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To review the performance of the services, receive feedback from the committee and identify any matters for further scrutiny.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the Waste, Cleansing and StreetScene services.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- Request Internal Audit to schedule in to the annual work plan programme.
- Refer to external audit.

### 5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

## 6.0 Background Information

### 6.1 SCOPE OF THE REPORT

Waste Services (*Waste*), Street Cleansing (*Cleansing*) & StreetScene are some of the most important, high-profile frontline public service areas responsible for delivering a broad range of specialist environmental services to the residents, business and visitors of Blackpool.

Blackpool Waste Services (BWS) Ltd, T/A ENVECO North West Environmental Services (ENVECO) Ltd, is the wholly owned company of Blackpool Council with responsibility for the discharge of these functions (with the exception of Waste Disposal) and mandate for improving environmental performance and outcomes for the people of Blackpool.

This relationship is managed via client / contract arrangement with the Council as the shareholder.

The scope of this report includes all operational activities within these functional service areas, namely;

*WASTE* - including:

- Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection Service delivered by ENVECO
- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), including the 'The Re-Use Shop'
- Trade (or business) Waste
- Waste Disposal (including the Lancashire Waste Partnership (LWP) with Lancashire County Council (LCC))
- Third Sector Partnerships including Bulky Matters (bulky items collection), Rover and the Re-New Workshop (furniture reuse and refurbishment), Keep Blackpool Tidy, 'Friends of' Groups.

*CLEANSING / STREETSCENE*– including:

- Street Cleansing and Sweeping
- Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT) incorporating Enforcement & Fly tipping
- Street Litter Bins
- Beach Cleaning
- Weed Treatment
- Grounds and Open Space Maintenance

- Parks Operations (including Playground Inspections)
- Graffiti Removal
- Building (office) Cleaning (including window cleaning)
- Pest Control
- Alley Gate Maintenance.

## 6.2 BUDGET INFORMATION

Waste, Cleansing & StreetScene represent a significant proportion of annual council spend.

The combined budgets for the services are in the region of £18m.

## 6.3 **What is going well?**

### 6.3.1 **Kerbside Collections (ENVECO)**

Since the insourcing of the kerbside refuse and recycling collection service, noticeable changes and improvements have been realized.

Some of the notable service improvement initiatives have been delivered since the inception of ENVECO are:

- Bags to Bins – circa 428 additional properties have now been provide with the means to recycle by replacing their weekly black bag collection with an alternate weekly wheeled bin system, including a 90ltr hessian sack for paper and cardboard, contributing to increasing the towns recycling rate.
- Household batteries are now also collected and recycled alongside the blue bin collections.
- Unauthorized bin retrieval – the removal of unauthorized additional grey bins is being rolled out in a phased approach. To date, in the region of 241 unauthorized grey bins have been retrieved (equivalent to around 6 tons of waste every fortnight) which will assist in contributing to increasing the municipal recycling rate by encouraging residents to utilize their recycling bin and bag to their full extent.
- Waste Amnesty's – a number of 'waste amnesty's' have also been delivered in wards at the request of, and funded by, Councilors. These amnesties provide residents with an opportunity to have a clear out of waste and unwanted items such as large bulky items and furniture, etc. safe in the knowledge that it will disposed of safely and correctly. This assists residents

who don't have the means to utilize the HWRC as well as those who cannot afford to make use of the Bulky Matters service by providing community based skips, etc.

### 6.3.2 **HWRC - Household Waste Recycling Centre**

The HWRC at Bristol Avenue continues to perform well having had to react to Covid-19 by making major changes and adjustments to the way the site operates. Normal service has now resumed and the full range of waste streams and bays are operational once more. Checking of black bag waste to separate out recycling has also been reinstated, contributing to the overall recycling rate at the site which is currently around 68%.

Since the integration with ENVECO, the site has undertaken vast improvements and always looks visibly clean and tidy, presenting a good image to the public.

The skip haulage contract has also been brought in-house which has not only realized efficiencies but has added more flexibility in terms of servicing the skips located on site and at Layton Depot.

A key change to UK legislation around Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's) has been brought in to force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023, which we are required to be compliant with. This relates specifically to the 'forever chemicals' predominantly found in fire retardants in Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS). These harmful chemicals do not degrade and require specialist incineration. This change will likely lead to increased skip movements due to the requirement for this waste to be separately managed but should not impact on disposal tonnages.

The HWRC also supports Public Health in the recycling and reuse of various medical aids, such as wheelchairs, crutches, etc. which are specially cleaned and then reused instead of new equipment needing to be purchased.

The HWRC also actively supports community initiatives like Project Search and Chance to Shine, helping some of the most vulnerable in society to develop life skills through offering work placements and employment to disadvantage individuals. The site has been recognized as a leading example of supporting these types of initiatives.

### 6.3.3 **Bulky Matters**

The Bulky Matters service is delivered in partnership Wyre BC and with third sector operators Calico. The service offers collection of bulky household items like furniture, cookers, fridges, etc. on an appointment basis from within customer's houses.



The service is well received and well used by residents with 5,335 collections carried out over the last year which resulted in 8,123 items reused or recycled (equivalent to 269 tons). This resulted in around a £50k disposal saving with over 75% of bookings made online.

Bulky Matters also work with the Social Fund, supporting some of the most vulnerable in the community by providing home-start packs and essential items like furniture and beds, bedding, etc.

Although the service performs well overall, due to the popularity of the service with residents, wait times are currently around 2 weeks from date of booking to collection which can put off some customers and potentially lead to fly-tipping.

#### **6.3.4 Green Waste Subscription**

Subscription based green waste collections continue to perform well with around 9,341 customers signing up to the service again during the current year. The level of subscriptions tends to remain fairly constant from one year to the next at between 9,000 and 10,000.

The cost of a green waste subscription is £40 per annum for one bin and £30 per annum for additional bins which generates in the region of £400k revenue each year.

The cost of green waste collections to residents will remain unchanged for 23/24 which will be welcomed by residents in the face of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

#### **6.3.5 Waste Disposal**

The waste disposal function is discharged in conjunction with Lancashire County Council via the Lancashire Waste Partnership (LWP) with two waste treatment facilities; one located in Thornton and one in Leyland - wholly owned by LCC and Blackpool Council. The waste treatment facilities are operated by Lancashire Renewables Ltd on behalf of the LWP. An in-year underspend of around £250k is forecast at year end outturn demonstrating continued positive performance.

There is much uncertainty around waste disposal in the current climate with so many targets and milestones that need to be achieved, looming on the horizon. In the wake of Brexit and then Covid-19, the delivery of central governments Waste and Resources Strategy and subsequent Environment Bill has stalled however, work is ongoing across the partnership to look for innovative ways to reduce the cost of waste disposal and increase recycle income.

Significant progress has also been made in terms of investment in the treatment facilities in order to gear-up for the separate collection of food waste and other

future policy as set out in the governments Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS).

#### 6.3.6 **Rover**

Rover – Mobile Recycling Service continues to operate across the town, especially in those wards with low car ownership. This gives people who do not have the means to utilise the HWRC or Bulky Matters services, the opportunity for recycling unwanted household items.

Last year Rover collected over 156,000 items from over 7,500 customer visits. This represented a weight of nearly 500 tons in recyclable material.

#### 6.3.7 **Street Cleansing**

Another 10 x employees have been trained in specialist weed treatment application and have achieved a much improved baseline for the approach to this season's growth.

The service has introduced mechanical sweeping to residential highways and footways as part of the Cleaning Inspection Monitoring System (CIMS). Each street across the entire borough is inspected once each month which generates a cleansing score and notes to inform resource priorities. CIMS also enables for highway interventions including first response letters for overhanging trees impacting on pedestrian safety and gravel and stone escaping owner's driveways aiding the build-up of detritus and weed growth.

Increased investment in the NEAT service where the borough is broken down into 6 areas, 2 of which are located in high-density inner wards. Each area has a dedicated NEAT Officer and a multi-skilled assistant (2 x multi-skilled assistants in high density inner wards). This provision will capture all the day to day reactive requests for service as well as proactively improve environmental quality via planned work programmes. The aspiration for the service is for residents to be notified via social media when mechanical sweeping is due to be carried out in order to maximise effectiveness which is currently restricted by parked vehicles.

NEAT Officers are able to (and do) undertake enforcement activities but will initially attempt to employ a softer approach to assist and educate, such the 'Inspect & Quote' service, to enable sensible solutions rather than using full blown enforcement powers in the first instance.

Plans are in place to introduce a dedicated NEAT Officer in to the town centre/tourism/Business Improvement District to increase quality inspections and low-level environmental enforcement.

## 6.4 **What isn't going well and why?**

### 6.4.1 **Depot Infrastructure**

As part of the phase 2 ENVECO integration, the depot at Layton, along with responsibility for its management and maintenance transferred to ENVECO under a long-term lease arrangement.

Layton Depot has, in recent years, benefited from some significant investment as a result of the integration with ENVECO. An extension to the Central Vehicle Maintenance Unit (CVMU), including a HGV bay and the CCTV control room are a couple of good examples. However, further investment is needed in order to future-proof the site to ensure its continued use as an operational base from which to deliver the broad range of specialist environmental services.

A condition survey was carried out in 2023 which highlighted the requirement for future capital investment in the infrastructure to ensure it remains fit for purpose. This will be approached in partnership between Blackpool Council and BWS on an invest-to-save basis with the level of investment being negotiated and agreed between the two depot shareholders.

This approach will also enable to the depot to re-purpose itself in relation to new technologies such as solar power/energy efficiency though utilization of large roofed areas for solar farms; water capture, cleansing and recycling and also potential development of a sub-station for the future delivery of an electric fleet.

### 6.4.2 **Weed Treatment and Control**

Historically, weed growth and control has presented a constant challenge and that continues to be the case, nonetheless due to the impact of severe weather in treatment applications but also in terms of resource planning.

However, significant advancement has been made in the approach to these challenges, in particular the attainment of the 10 x NEAT Officers/Assistants all achieving their NVQ level 2 in Herbicide Treatment (knapsack and quad bike applications). These additional trained staff have enabled an overall improvement over the previous two years.

Also, investment in new equipment is supporting this approach with 2 x compact sweepers being procured with specialist weed ripping and clearing attachments enabling a much quicker and efficient treatment.

Although we expect weed control to continue to be a particularly challenging to address, we believe that the changes made to our approach, planning and

resourcing will lead to sustainable year-on-year improvements in managing growth.

### 5.6.3 **Alley Gates and Un-adopted Alley's**

Alley gates are an asset of the Council and maintained by ENVECO on our behalf. Alley gates contribute to promoting community safety and assisting to reduce crime and anti-social behavior and are looked on favorably by our residents.

Many of the alley gates are now passed their end-of-life and in need not only of significant maintenance but wholesale replacement in many instances. The Council does not hold any budget for alley gates and in the past have been paid for out of ward budgets. We are actively looking with at ways we can alleviate the issues in relation to alley gates with ENVECO as we realize their importance in maintaining safe communities.

Linked to this is the challenge around un-adopted alleys. Un-adopted alleys are effectively private land and not owned by the Council. They are owned, and the responsibility of, the abutting landowners. It is neither financially nor operationally feasible for the Council to adopted all of these.

The Council and ENVECO have supported a number of residents to clean up their un-adopted alleys by providing equipment, materials and waste collection and will continue to help local communities to look after their un-adopted alleys as far as reasonable practicable.

### 6.4.4 **Recruitment and Retention**

Recruitment has, over the last year, been an area that has posed significant challenges – not just within the Council and it's wholly owned companies but locally and nationally too. It is a challenged mirrored across industries and sectors alike and linked to the ongoing economic and financial volatility that country now finds itself in, exacerbated by Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

ENEVCO had particular issues to manage around HGV drivers as was well documented over the last 12 months around their supply and demand and associated pay rates.

In response to this ENVECO have established a HGV driver training program utilizing the government's apprenticeship levy in order to strengthen the organizational resilience. The program has already inducted its first cohort of trainees on the HGV course of which 9 x staff will undertake their practical assessments at the end of February 2023. There had also been difficulties in recruiting to other positions such as the Waste Minimisation posts and the Marketing post which needed to be re-

recruited to after a lack of suitable applications. These, however, have now been filled although retention is still a concern going forward.

#### 6.4.5 **Local Municipal Waste Strategy**

We are currently without any officially approved Local Municipal Waste Strategy in Lancashire. The previous strategy expired on 2020 and a number of factors have contributed to the delay in producing a new strategy - Brexit, Covid-19 and lack of clarity from central government being some of the main contributors.

Other issues relating to post-pandemic changes to waste arising's, compositional variations in waste, emerging policy & legislation, the future utilisation of our major assets (Waste Treatment Facilities) and the end of our landfill contract in 2025 have all come together to create a perfect storm fostering a climate of uncertainty and unease both locally and nationally as set out in item 5.5.1 below – lack of strategic clarity.

In response, Blackpool Council is actively working alongside Lancashire County Council to ensure that we are best placed to meet the future challenges of this ever changing landscape. The key challenge being to identify a non-landfill solution for the treatment of circa 220,000 tons of residual waste post- 2025.

As a result Blackpool and LCC have produced an Outline Waste Processing Strategy 2022 – 2027 which offers clarity and certainty as to how we will operate our waste collection and disposal services over the medium term.

The overarching aim of which is: *“To achieve the best environmental and social outcomes possible from the wastes we manage, within the realistic processing, financial and carbon options available.”*

6.5.

##### 6.5.1 **What are the barriers to improvement?**

#### **Lack of Strategic Clarity**

Central government published its Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS) in 2018 setting out its strategic aims for the management of wastes across the UK along with a timeframe for the achievement of key milestones. This was then followed up by the enactment of Environment Bill in 2020, the legislative means by which the RAWS would be achieved – both documents are in support of the government's 25 year Environment Plan.

Key policies relating to environmental impact/climate change, circularity and resource sustainability, increasing recycling and minimising waste arising are focused themes of the strategy.

Although the delivery on these themes has been severely delayed, again due to Brexit, the pandemic, and more recently the cost of living and inflation crisis, the government has already undertaken wholesale public consultations on initiatives such as:

- Separate food waste collections
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Deposit Return Schemes (DRS)
- Consistency of recyclable materials
- Universal free garden waste collections.

The main barrier to implementation of the strategic aims are a lack of information from government on how these objectives will be funded. The government cites 'New Burdens Funding' as the mechanism by which these ambitious plans will be delivered yet, to date, very little concrete assurance has been provided. This has led to slippages in timeframes and strategic creep in terms of delivery.

This, in-turn, fuels a culture of uncertainty and instability in markets and sectors, resultant in a lack of investment and unwillingness to commit. Furthermore, it's hard to see how this is going to be resolved in the short term given the current economic state of affairs.

### 6.5.2 **Paper and Cardboard Sacks**

Paper and cardboard are currently collected in 90ltr hessian sacks which are cumbersome, lack capacity and present manual handling issues for collection crews.

Paper and card is valuable commodity in terms of recycling and income as a waste stream and one that we need to maximise. How to do this a key area of focus in relation to the ENVECO Service Improvement Group.

Ideally we would like to replace the sacks with wheeled containers for paper and card as this would have a number of benefits such as:

- Increased material capture rates
- Increased participation
- Increased material quality
- Increased material rebates

The cost of rolling out replacement bins to achieve this is the biggest barrier as it would cost in the region of £1m capital outlay for the containers/bins. Nonetheless this is something that we are

working on potential solutions to going forward.

### 6.5.3 **Finance / Impact of Savings**

As it becomes increasingly more challenging to fund the delivery of public services, efficiency savings are often applied to services.

Future savings pressures in this area would however unfortunately result in service reductions which would be disappointing at a time when government, businesses and residents are expecting more from their environmental services.

### 6.5.4 **Cost of living crisis and inflation impact**

As already referenced in previous sections of this report, the current economic situation compounded by years of austerity, can lead to impacts on residents in other areas such as:

- Reduced take up of green waste subscriptions
- Reduction in participation of recycling, including services like Bulky Matters, leading to increased instances of fly tipping
- Lower propensity to engage with environmental issues

As people struggle to make ends meet, waste and environmental behavioural compliance tend to be pushed further up the hierarchy of needs.

## 6.6 PERFORMANCE

### 6.6.1 **In which areas are we performing well?**

#### 6.6.2 **Trade Waste**

An exemplar of best practice, the Trade Waste service continues to be the market leader as the largest local provider of commercial waste services in Blackpool and the Fylde coast with a local market share of around 48%.

The service operates seven days a week and provides a range of integrated waste management solutions for local business as well as waste brokerage offering, sub-contracting on behalf of most large national/multi-national waste collection companies in servicing national accounts.

The key focus for the service over the next year to continue to drive revenue generation to contribute to corporate savings as well as increasing trade recycling across the town in line with central governments' mandate.

### 6.6.3 **NEAT – Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team**

The NEAT service has seen significant further investment in terms of additional funding over the last couple of years to the tune of c. £250k. This investment has enabled the NEAT service to provide a consistent service provision across all council wards whilst maintaining progress on the investment introduced in November 2021 in high demand borough wards, through the provision of 8 x NEAT Officers and 6 x NEAT Assistant FTE posts.

As well as this additional investment, a restructure of the service has also been carried out which has resulted in fully trained, skilled NEAT officers working in a ward-based, zonal configuration. As well as being able to provide an enhanced reactive service, NEAT officers are able to program in proactive tasks to provide a better service and reduce duplication and waste. This includes daily shop teams, litter bin servicing and mechanical sweeping of residential, arterial and gateways into the borough.

One particular area where this approach is demonstrating improved outcomes is weed treatment and control and also mechanical sweeping of residential streets.

Another key achievement in this area would be the development and delivery of a new system/process for managing Members' requests for service. This ensures a consistent and fair approach to requests for service and also enables efficient and effective resource planning and deployment.

### 6.6.4 **StreetScene Services**

Separate to Street Cleansing, StreetScene encompasses a range of ancillary services and activities such as Beach Cleaning, Parks Operations, Grounds and Open Space Maintenance, Alley Gates Maintenance, Graffiti Removal and Playground Inspections.

Since the integration of Cleansing and StreetScene with ENVECO in September 2022, there has been a visible and tangible improvement to the local built environment. This has been due to the integration of staff and resources resulting in better ways of working in order to bring about the best possible outcomes in delivering a clean and well maintained town center and residential neighbourhoods.

The StreetScene teams have had some major events to plan and support including the most high profile event being the Queens Platinum Jubilee with several street parties and organised events within the Parks and Open Spaces including Anchorsholme, Claremont and Solaris Parks. Blackpool Waste Services supported requests for street cleans, additional waste collections, bins and clean up kits.



ENVECO also regularly support a number of other ongoing planned events from waste amnesties, school engagement days, supported corporate litter picks and Friends of the Parks to supporting outreach activities in other areas like Adult Social Care.

#### **6.6.5 How do we compare with other authorities in terms of benchmarking?**

The Council and Blackpool Waste Services are active members of the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). Through this association we subscribe to APSE's Performance Networks benchmarking group. This group allows us to compare and benchmark ourselves with other authorities and organizations or 'family groups' (in terms of demographics, deprivation indices, etc.). Attached at Appendix 2 is the most recent APSE PI Standings Report.

The number of performance indicators produced is vast and far-ranging. In essence, benchmarked against other authorities, Blackpool Council's Waste Services is a good performer (within its constraints) however, in the spirit of continuous improvement we are always looking at how to do things better and more cost effectively.

The main headline indicator for waste is the municipal recycling rate. Blackpool Council is required to report waste data in to the governments Waste Data Flow System. Recycling rates for recent years are as follows:

- 17/18 – 35.8%
- 18/19 – 39.6%
- 19/20 – 38.4%
- 20/21 – 27.5% [Covid]
- 21/22 – 41.6% [Provisional TBC].

Our recycling rate is now at the national average and it ought to be noted that the highest performing Councils can count on up to 30% of their overall rate coming from green/garden waste. Prior to subscriptions, garden waste only accounted for 12.5% of Blackpool's overall recycling rate, which reflects the low number of gardens in the Blackpool housing profile, but highlights that in all other areas of collected waste streams, we outperform most districts in Lancashire.

#### **6.6.6 What are our priorities in terms of improving performance this year?**

Some of the main overarching priorities for the forthcoming year are listed below:

- Weed Treatment and Control – to ensure that the new approach to managing weed growth continues to deliver visible improvements across the

- borough through a robust treatment and inspection regime.
- Street Cleansing – to ensure every residential street is inspected once per month and appropriate actions implemented to maintain statutory standards.
  - Service Improvement Programme (SIP) – to continue to develop and deliver against the SIP in areas like increasing recycling and waste minimisation.
  - To develop and create innovative marketing campaigns to strengthen public engagement and raise environmental awareness.
  - To support more local events and encourage a civic ‘pride of place’.
  - Increasing trade recycling.
  - Undertaking preparatory actions to ensure that we are in the best possible position to meet the raft of upcoming policy initiatives being introduced by central government around things like Separate Food Waste Collections, Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Consistency Agenda, etc.
  - To review our carbon footprint and implement innovative techniques to minimise our impact on the environment.

## 6.7 FINANCE

### **Community and Environmental Services**

Waste, Street Cleansing and StreetScene  
2022-23 High Level Budget Breakdown

<b>Area</b>	<b>Value £m</b>
Envenco Phase 1 Contract Fee	3.20
Envenco Phase 2 Contract Fee	7.80
Waste Disposal (net)	10.40
Public Conveniences	0.50
Trade Waste Income	(2.00)
Green Waste Income	(0.40)
Public Health	(1.50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.00</b>

## 6.8 CROSS DEPARTMENTAL WORKING

Due to the considerable spend within these service areas, we have fostered a wide range of inter-organisational working relationships and always seek to maximise the delivery of value through the development and maintenance of robust Management Services Agreements (MSA's) between our wholly owned companies and colleagues in support services such as Procurement and Legal. This leads to closer working

relationships with key people in delivering our objectives, in key areas such as Finance and Governance services.

## 6.9 ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

### 6.9.1 **How we communicate the good work we are doing to residents.**

ENVECO has recently appointed 2 x Waste Minimisation Officers and a Marketing Officer who is responsible for reaching out in to all parts of the local community including schools, voluntary businesses, residents, etc. in order to engage and communicate the good work undertaken by the services.

They will be a key link between volunteer groups like Keep Blackpool Tidy, LoveMyBeach and the Friends of the Parks groups, arranging and supporting local events.

In addition to this, they will be responsible for the design, development and implementation of campaigns, promotions, green messaging and supporting other national initiatives like the Great British Spring Clean.

ENVECO is very active in delivering school engagement programs which involve use of the 'refuse classroom' which is an adapted rubbish truck which visits schools and opens up to reveal a classroom which is really popular with school children and teachers alike.

The sides of the refuse fleet are also used to display large adverts and messages on vinyl wraps which can be changed and be adapted to reflect various campaigns.

ENVECO is nearing completion and launch of its own website, and supporting social media, which will also act as a platform for promotion, communication and engagement across the council.

### 6.9.2 **How do we know that the services we provide are making an impact and are valued by residents?**

The Councils lead client officer for Waste Management commissions a biannual Household Waste survey from the Councils in-house market research service, Infusion, which is used to inform decision making and drive future strategic ambition. A copy of the most recent survey, which was produced in May 2022, is attached at Appendix 1.

Some of the key findings of the research are listed below:

- Overall satisfaction with all types of waste and recycling collections slightly increased from 2019 to 2022;
- Across different types of waste and recycling collection there was a slight decrease in satisfaction when it came to the size and type of

bin/container/sack used for collections from 2019 to 2022;

- Satisfaction with elements of Bulky Waste Collection increased from 2019 to 2022, however, satisfaction with the Green Waste Collection Service decreased from 2019 to 2022;
- Overall satisfaction with Household Waste Recycling Centre increased from 2019 to 2022;
- Having a collection of a wider range of materials continued to be cited as the most popular action respondents felt that could persuade them to recycle more;

Getting information from Blackpool Council's website respondents cited as the most popular way they currently find out information about waste and recycling in Blackpool and was also the main preference for how respondents would like to find out information about waste and recycling.

Questionnaires from residents utilising the Rover service and the Household Waste Recycling Centre continue to be used to assist in understanding resident's perceptions and expectations of the service.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

**No**

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 9(a) - Household Waste and Recycling Public Satisfaction Survey – May 2022  
Appendix 9(b) - APSE Performance Network PI Standings Report 2020/21

**7.0 Financial considerations:**

7.1 High level budget included at item 5.9

**8.0 Legal considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Equalities considerations:**

9.1 In the course of developing this report, we have considered whether there could be any unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act. We believe this report will not have any indirectly discriminatory effects.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

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

11.1 While Blackpool Council has adopted a target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, in order to help mitigate the effects of climate change, the council also recognises the importance of adopting adaptation measures and sustainable alternatives in the delivery of its services and to minimise its impact on the environment in doing so. Blackpool Council and ENVECO are aligned and focused in ensuring that sustainability, circularity and resource optimisation are at the heart of its operations.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

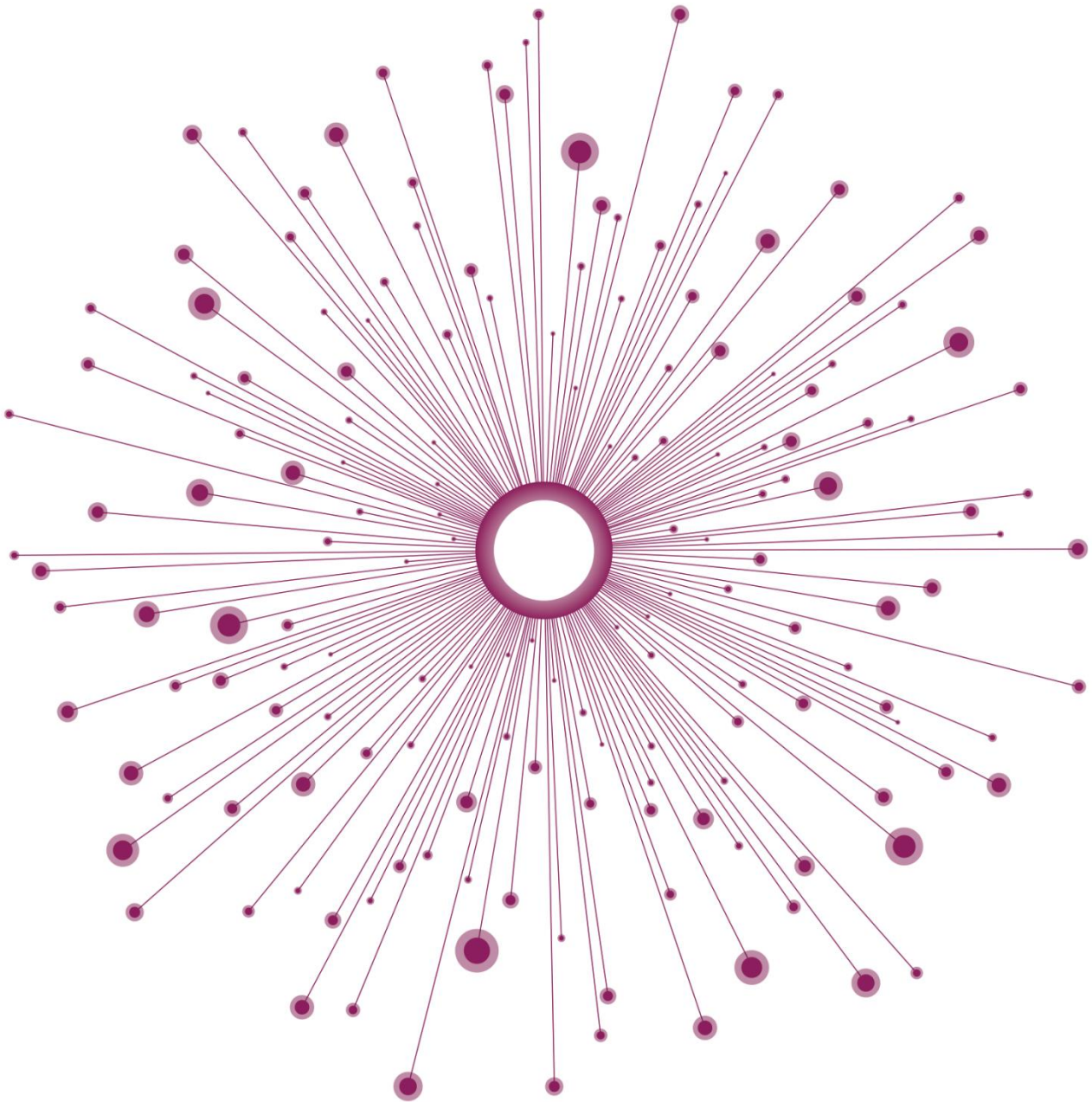
12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None

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# Household Waste and Recycling Survey - May 2022



in:fusion

Blackpool Council

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## 1. Executive Summary

The aim of the Household Waste and Recycling Survey was to gain views from residents across Blackpool to understand views on Blackpool's Household Waste and Recycling collection service. A survey was distributed to 4,000 households across Blackpool following a similar process to the survey that was conducted in 2019. This report analyses the responses made in the 2022 survey, with comparisons made to results in 2019.

### Key findings:

- Overall satisfaction with all types of waste and recycling collections slightly increased from 2019 to 2022;
- Across different types of waste and recycling collection there was a slight decrease in satisfaction when it came to the size and type of bin/container/sack used for collections from 2019 to 2022;
- Satisfaction with elements of Bulky Waste Collection increased from 2019 to 2022, however, satisfaction with the Green Waste Collection Service decreased from 2019 to 2022;
- Overall satisfaction with Household Waste Recycling Centres increased from 2019 to 2022;
- Having a collection of a wider range of materials continued to be cited as the most popular action respondents felt that could persuade them to recycle more;
- Getting information from Blackpool Council's website respondents cited as the most popular way they currently find out information about waste and recycling in Blackpool and was also the main preference for how respondents would like to find out information about waste and recycling.

## 2. Introduction

As part of ongoing work to measure the waste and recycling services across Blackpool, ENVECO NW commissioned the council's in-house research team Infusion Research to undertake a tailored-survey exercise based on HWR Public Satisfaction Survey across 4,000 selected homes. Households were selected via a stratified random sample, with sample sizes for each ward adjusted to take into account adult population size, known engagement behaviour such as voter turnout and previous engagement from the last HWR Public Satisfaction Survey in 2019. Oversampling typically occurred in ward areas of Inner Blackpool where engagement in civic activity is typically less frequent.

The results presented here have been weighted by ward population and age to give representative findings and comparability to results in 2019.

The survey ran for four weeks across February to March 2022. A paper copy of the questionnaire was sent out to 4,000 homes across the borough plus a letter explaining the purpose of the survey and instructions of how to provide responses by either placing the completed questionnaire into a free-reply paid envelope or were given the option to complete online. The respondents were given further encouragement to feedback online by including the chance to win a £50 Love2Shop voucher draw for every 100 online responses received. A further reminder letter was sent on w/c 28<sup>th</sup> February to 3,569 households.

### Who responded?

All results in this section are based on unweighted data unless specified otherwise.

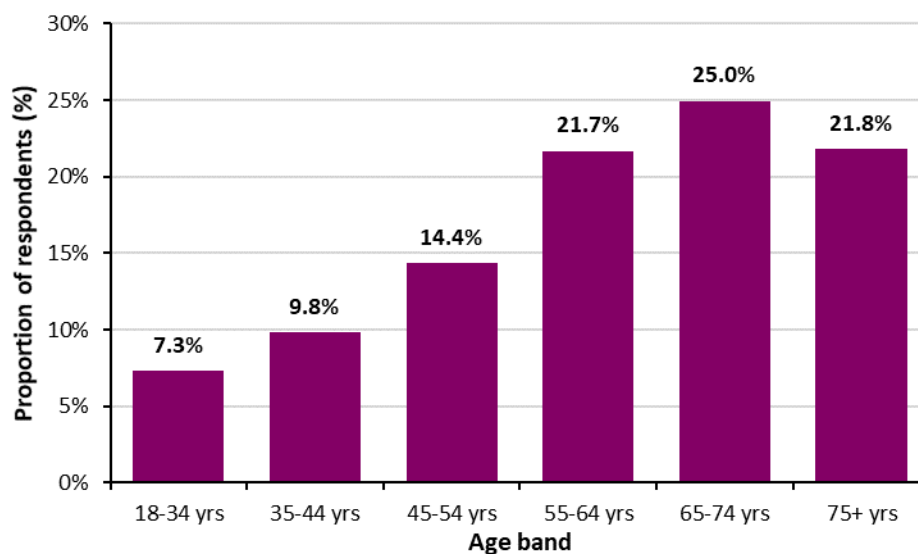
**670** households responded to the survey giving a response rate of **16.8%**, which was down from the last time the survey was undertaken in 2019, where the overall response rate was **28.8%** and included responses from 1,151 households.

**52.8%** of responses came via paper returns and **47.2%** as online responses, with 32.4% of overall responses made on desktops/tablets and 14.8% from smartphones. Online responses were significantly up from 2019, where **94.9%** of responses came via paper returns and only **5.1%** responses were made online.

Responses from female respondents were **55.7%** compared with **43.7%** from male respondents. Four additional respondents identified as non-binary or preferred to self-describe. This is broadly similar to the results in 2019 as follows where females respondents were **58.4%** compared with male respondents **41.6%**.

The following figure gives the responses by age grouping. For the purposes of weighting, responses from those 18-24 and 25-34 were combined into one age grouping.

Figure 1: Graph showing age grouping of respondents



The responses from younger age groups, below the age of 44 years, were slightly boosted by an improvement of around 4% overall. However when examined together, the data shows that those aged 55+ outnumbered other categories of respondent by over 2:1, as compared to the borough population, the proportion of those 55+ is over-represented compared to their known proportions nationally.

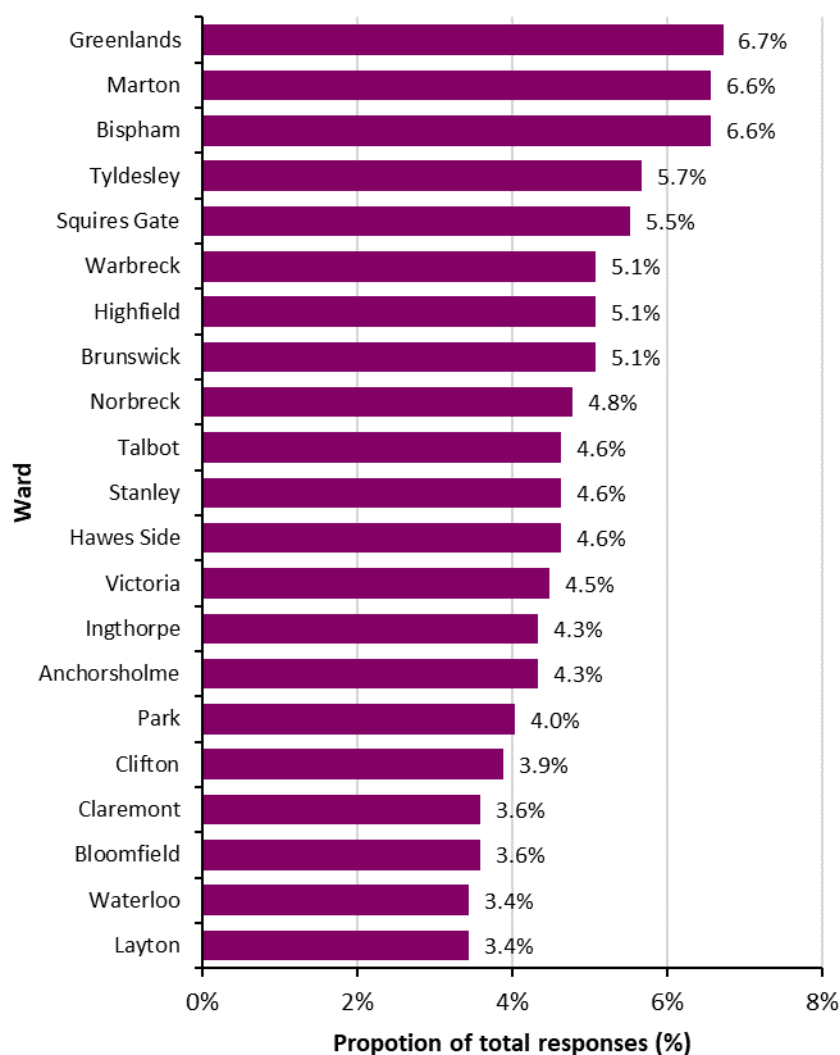
**31.2%** of respondents identified as having a long standing illness or disability that limited their activity.

Responses from those identifying as White (British/Irish/Other) was **98%** and the remaining groups were similar to the responses in 2019.

Responses from Blackpool wards ranged from **3.4%** to **6.7%** and were broadly different to those responses from 2019, with the proportion of responses from some less deprived wards (Stanley, Anchorsholme and Norbreck) going down and the majority of wards from Inner Blackpool continuing to be being under-represented as compared to their known representation.

The following figure gives the proportion of responses received by ward area.

Figure 2: Responses by ward area



Postcode data was also analysed using Experian's Mosaic tool to identify which Mosaic Group a household belongs to. Experian's Mosaic tool allows to give an indication into the type of households responding to the survey. Experian's Mosaic divides the UK population into 15 groups and 66 more detailed types based on over 400 data variables and the groups are then segmented based on their demographic characteristics, lifestyles, values and behaviour. However, within a group, there can be still be plenty of variation with regards to the characteristics of people who fall into a Mosaic group or type. Brief descriptions of the different groups are shown at the end of this document. Responses by Mosaic Group are displayed in the table below.

**Table 1: Proportion of responses by Mosaic Group (%)**

<b>Mosaic Group</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Mosaic Group</b>	<b>%</b>
Transient Renters	19.8%	Domestic Success	1.1%
Modest Traditions	18.1%	Rental Hubs	0.9%
Senior Security	16.6%	Prestige Positions	0.6%
Vintage Value	12.7%	Country Living	0.2%
Aspiring Homemakers	11.8%	Rural Reality	0.2%
Suburban Stability	9.8%	Urban Cohesion	0.2%
Family Basics	8.1%		

The proportion of respondents households classified as Transient Renters is roughly in line with the proportion of households across the borough who fall into this category. Transient Renters tend to live in rented accommodation in terraced properties and tend to have household incomes of below £30k. Groups that are over-represented as compared to their borough representation include those in the Modest Traditions, Senior Security and Suburban Stability. These groups all tend to own their own properties and people who live in these households tend to be aged 55+. Groups that are under-represented as compared to their borough representation include Family Basics and Aspiring Homemakers. These groups tend to be comprised of mainly younger households predominantly aged 26-35, tend to have young children and a significant proportion of households in these groups live in terraced housing. Information about the proportion of households that fall in each Mosaic Group is shown in the Appendix.

### 3. Results

The data within this section is weighted by age and ward. With the weighted base for 2022 respondents highlighted in each question where possible.

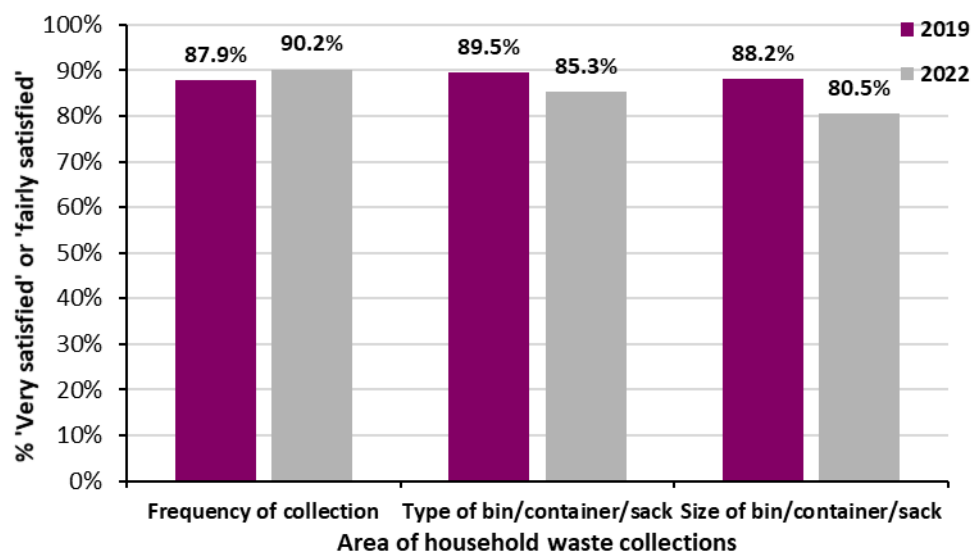
#### Which type of container do you dispose of your household waste in? (Q1)

From 2019 to 2022, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of respondents who stated they dispose waste in grey/black bin, down to 85.9% from 87.1%. The proportion of respondents who used a refuse sack (red sack)/seagull sack increased by 4 percentage points to 12.4% and those using a communal waste bin increased by 0.4 percentage points. It should be noted that some respondents selected more than one option, so figures will not sum to 100%.

#### Thinking about household waste collection from your home, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following areas? (Q2)

The following figure shows the overall 'satisfaction' percentages (those 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied') within three areas around household waste collections. Overall satisfaction fell with the bin/container/sacks used, however overall satisfaction increased with the frequency of household waste collections.

**\*Figure 3: Overall satisfaction with elements of household waste collection (%)**



\*Weighted bases: Frequency of collection (640), Type of bin (626) and Size of bin (628)

## Home Recycling Collections

### Which type of container do you dispose of home recycling in? Please select as many as apply [Multiple choice answer] (Q3)

The following table displays the preferences of respondents for the type of container they currently dispose of household recycling in and the types of container they would prefer to dispose their household recycling. Overall, the proportion of respondents using types of container fell, with the exception of those using communal waste bins. The proportion of those stating they had no access to recycling facilities increased by 1.4 percentage points from 2019.

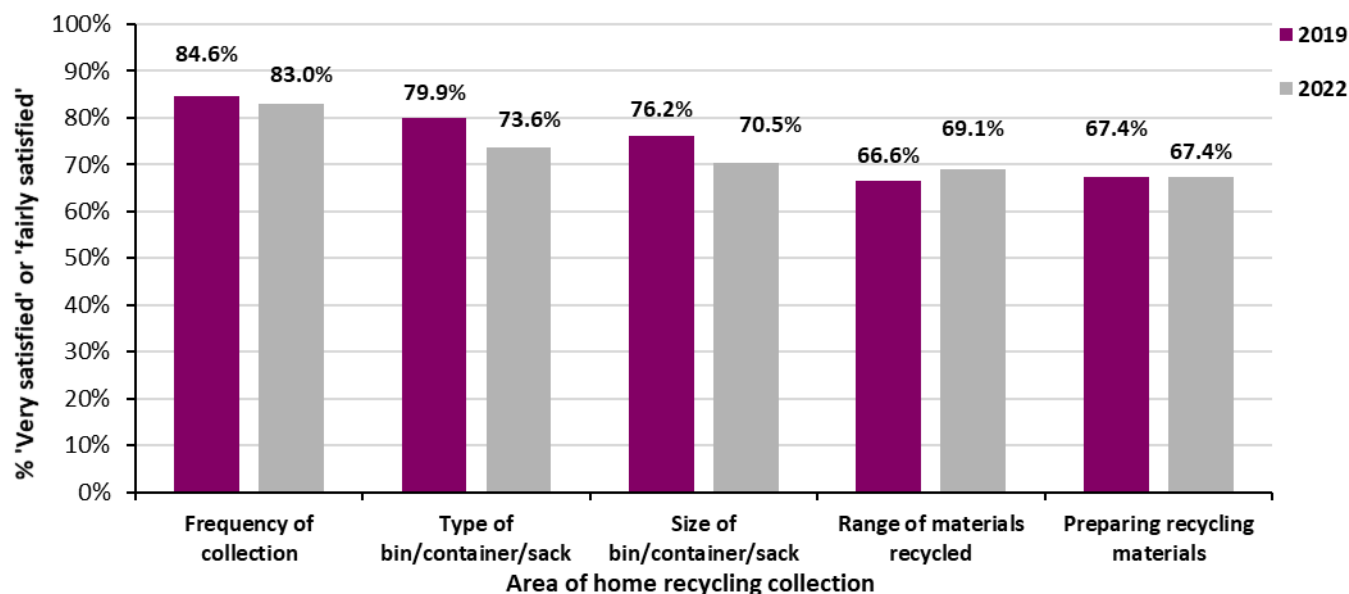
**Table 2: Home recycling collections type of container currently used and preferences**

Type of container	*% of respondents using container (2022)	% of respondents using container (2019)	*% of respondents preference (2022)	% of respondents preference (2019)
Blue lid bin	82.3%	83.1%	80.1%	76.4%
Green lid bin	16.9%	23.2%	27.6%	32.4%
Brown bag	62.9%	68.2%	46.5%	52.8%
Textile sack (clear sack)	2%	3.2%	6.6%	8.2%
Grey/black lid bin	19.7%	28.2%	29.4%	32.9%
Refuse sack (red sack)	4.1%	4.2%	2.1%	3%
Communal waste bin	3.5%	2.4%	4.9%	5.7%
I do not recycle	1%	1%	-	-
I have no access to recycling facilities	7.6%	6.2%	-	-
Don't know/not sure	0.3%	0.1%	2.8%	3.4%
Not applicable	-	-	4.8%	6.1%

### Thinking about the collection of home recycling, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following...? (Q4)

The following figure shows the overall 'satisfaction' percentages within five areas around home recycling collection. Overall satisfaction fell from 2019 across three areas with satisfaction with the range of materials that could be recycled improving and satisfaction with preparing recycling materials remaining the same.

\*Figure 4: Overall satisfaction with elements of home recycling collection (%)



\*Weighted bases: Frequency of collection (637), Type of bin (624), Size of bin (626), Range of materials recycled (616) and preparing recycling materials (624)

**How often if at all, do you use recycling banks (e.g. 'bottle banks') for small items such as glass bottles, paper and textiles? (Q5) [Weighted base - 639]**

From the survey responses the use of recycling has marginally improved from **35.9%** to **37.2%**. However, around six out of ten respondents say they do not use recycling banks for small items.

**If ENVECO NW was to introduce a free recycling service for items such as textiles, small electricals, metal/wooden items or cartons/tetra pak, would you use the service? (Q6) [Weighted base - 639]**

**91%** of respondents said if a free recycling service for items such as textiles, small electricals, metal/wooden items or Cartons/Tetra Pak was introduced they would regularly or sometimes use the service. This is roughly in line with the proportion in 2019.

**How do you currently dispose of these items? Please select as many as apply [Multiple choice answer] (Q7)**

When asked how they currently dispose of these items the 2022 responses were generally in line with 2019 responses. However, there was a small reduction (3.5 percentage points) in disposing items at the tip and a small increase (3 percentage points) in making a charity donation.



## Garden Waste collections

ENVECO NW offers a 'paid for' garden waste collection service (green bin). Please would you tell us whether you subscribe to this service? Please tick one box only (Q8) [Weighted base - 622]

Roughly the same proportion of respondents said they subscribed to a 'paid for' garden waste collection service (green bin) in 2022 as in 2019, with **27.3%** of respondents stating they subscribed to the service, whereas in 2019, **27.8%** of respondents said they subscribed to the service.

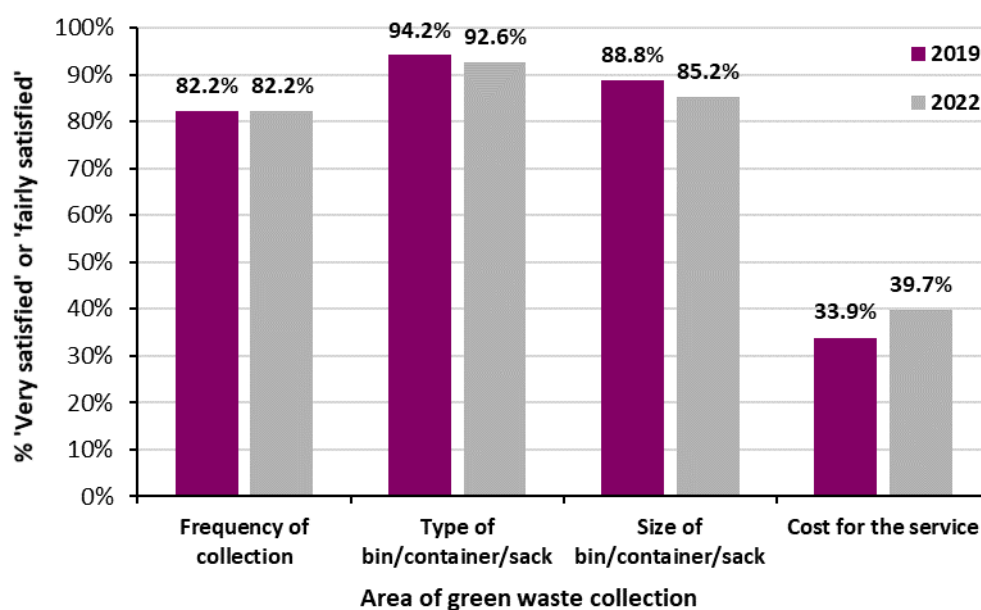
**How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the garden waste collection service (green bin)? Please tick one box only (Q8a) [Weighted base - 266]**

Of those who said they subscribed to the service, **71.7%** of respondents were 'satisfied' with the service ('very satisfied' or 'fairly' satisfied'). This is down from 2019, where **76.2%** of respondents were 'satisfied' with the service.

**Thinking about the collection of garden waste (green bin) from your home, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following...? Please tick one box per row (Q8b)**

The following figures shows the shows the satisfaction percentages within four areas around green waste collections. Satisfaction was largely in-line with the results in 2019, with respondents being more 'satisfied' with the cost of the service in 2022 than in 2019. However, overall satisfaction fell with the bin/container/sacks used. Satisfaction with the frequency of collection remained the same.

**\*Figure 5: Overall satisfaction with elements of garden waste collection (%)**



\*Weighted bases: Frequency of collection (241), Type of bin (231), Size of bin (233) and Cost for Service (241)

**Please could you tell us why are you not registered to the subscription garden waste collection service (green bin)? (Q8c)**

Although directed to only pick one response, some respondents picked more than one and a decision was taken to keep all the data rather than omit. **7.7%** of respondents who said they were not registered to the service (either by saying they didn't subscribe or weren't sure if they were subscribed) selected more than one option.

Of those who stated they didn't subscribe or weren't sure if they were subscribed and had not commented on elements of the green waste collection: **39.4%** of respondents said that they did not have any garden waste, up from **30.8%** who said they did not have garden waste in 2019. Full results are shown in the table below.

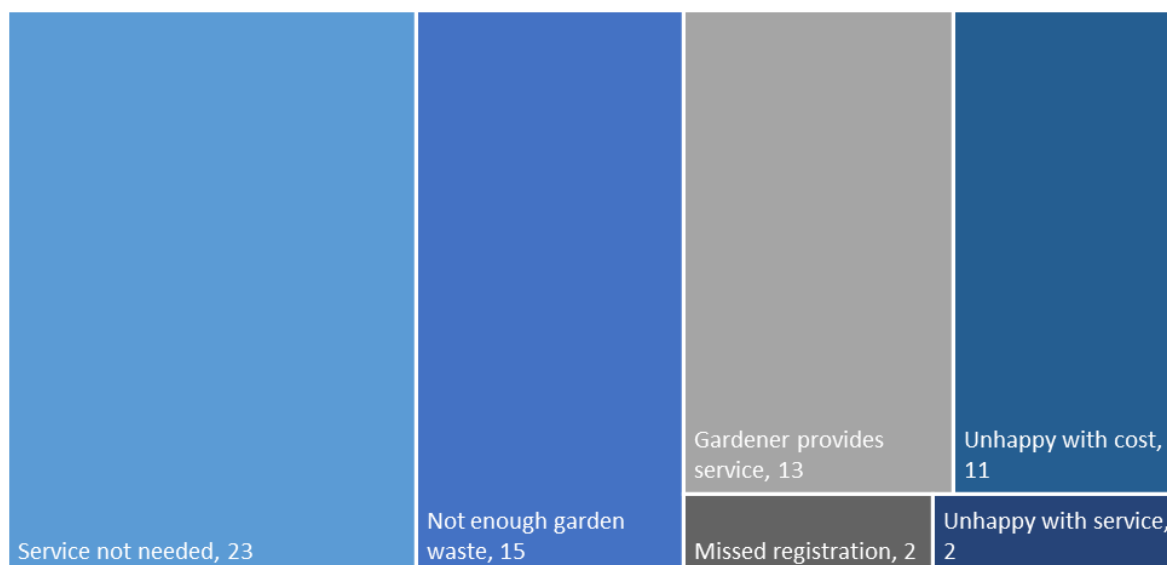
**Table 3: Reasons why residents have not subscribed to garden waste collection service's (%)**

Reason	% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)
I do not have any garden waste	39.4%	30.8%
The service is too expensive for me	26.9%	27.8%
I dispose of green waste with general	15.1%	13.9%
I compost my garden waste	5.7%	4.6%
I take my garden waste to the tip	6.4%	9.8%
I was not aware of the service	5.7%	4.3%
Other	5.4%	8.8%

Respondents who answered with 'other' were asked to give more details as to why they are not subscribed to the garden waste collection service and were able to provide further detail about their response. In total, **66 comments** were provided (excluding 'no', 'N/A', 'nothing to add' or other non-applicable comments).

Responses mentioned that the service was not needed due to having either no garden, no greenery in the garden, sharing the garden waste bin with someone else, or including their garden waste with household waste. Other respondents said that either they did not produce enough garden waste to justify the service, their gardener already provides this service, they were unhappy with the cost of the service, dissatisfied with previous experiences of the service, or they simply missed the service subscription date. The figure below summarises all of the key themes highlighted by respondents.

**Figure 6: Please could you tell us why are you not registered to the subscription garden waste collection service (green bin)? (Other)**



Examples of comments to this question include:

*"I don't have enough garden waste to make it worth paying and making room for an extra bin, but if it was small and/or free I'd definitely use it."*

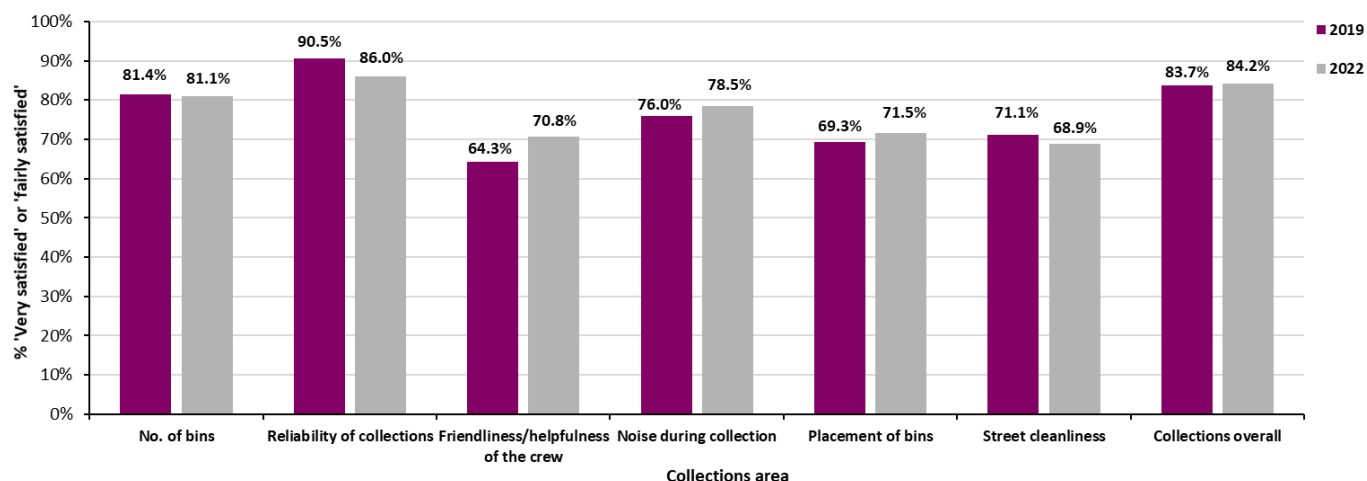
*"Did have a green bin but disappointed with restrictions on what can go in the bin."*

### Overall satisfaction with collections

**Thinking about all collections from your home (household waste, home recycling and Green waste), how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following...? Please tick one box per row (Q9)**

The following figure highlights the overall 'satisfaction' percentages across all waste collections from within the borough. In the 2022 version of the survey, some respondents answered more than once, so some proportions will not sum to 100%. Overall, satisfaction in waste collections increased by 0.5 percentage points from 2019. Broadly there were only small changes in satisfaction from 2019 to 2022 with the largest change being a 6.5 percentage point increase regarding satisfaction with the friendliness and helpfulness of the crew.

Figure 7: Overall satisfaction with elements of all waste collections (%)



### Recycling (bulky waste)

Thinking about bulky waste e.g. furniture, large electrical appliances etc., how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following...? Please tick one box per row (Q10)

Over a third of respondents in 2019 and 2022 responded as 'don't know/not applicable', so this data was excluded when calculating the 'satisfaction' percentages.

When respondents were asked to think about the range of bulky waste that can be collected e.g. furniture, large electrical appliances etc., they rated their 'satisfaction' as **59.2%** (58.5% in 2019) and their 'dissatisfaction' as **14.8%** (17.4% in 2019). When asked about the ease of arranging a collection of bulky waste they rated their satisfaction as **56.9%** (55.7% in 2019) and their dissatisfaction as **14.3%** (17.8% in 2019). When respondents were asked about the charge for the collection of bulky waste they rated their satisfaction as **40.9%** (38.2% in 2019) and their dissatisfaction as **34.1%** (37.4% in 2019).

Thinking about the following Council services which, if any, apply to you? Please tick one box per row (Q11)

Respondents were asked about their awareness and use of bulky waste services. More respondents had 'heard of and used' and 'heard of and not used' the Bulky Matters Service as compared to 2019. A smaller proportion of respondents had also not heard of any of the bulky waste services as compared to 2019. Full results are shown in the table below.

**Table 4: Awareness and usage of bulky waste services (%)**

Service	Rover Mobile Recycling Service		Bulky Matters Service		Reuse shop at the Household Waste Recycling Centre	
	*% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)	*% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)	*% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)
Heard of and have used	13.2%	13.6%	26.4%	23.8%	28.8%	30.1%
Heard of and have not used	35.1%	31.7%	44.7%	36.8%	36%	35%
Not heard of	41.4%	42.4%	18.3%	27.9%	25.8%	24.9%
Don't know/not sure	10.2%	12.2%	10.6%	11.6%	9.3%	10%

\*Weighted bases: Rover Mobile Recycling Service (616), Bulky Matters Service (615) and Reuse shop at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (618)

### Recycling preferences

#### What could persuade you to recycle more...? Please select as many as apply. (Q12)

Residents were asked to identify what could persuade them to recycle more. Two items were omitted from the 2022 survey, shown below in grey. The area identified which would help respondents recycle more was to collect a wider range of materials for recycling. There was also a significant reduction in the proportion of respondents who felt they were happy with recycling all that they could (nearly 15 percentage points). Full results are shown in the table below.

**Table 5: Items which could persuade respondents to recycle more (%)**

What could persuade you to recycle more	% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)
Collection of a wider range of materials	41.5%	46.5%
Information on what to recycle	35.1%	46.4%
I am happy that I recycle all that I can	33.9%	48.7%
Having different/better recycling bins/containers	32.5%	23.3%
Receiving rewards (vouchers/discounts/coupons)	28.3%	33.2%
More frequent household collections	21.3%	23.7%
Better/more information on what happens to recyclable materials and its benefits	20.1%	25.1%
More recycling banks being available	17%	18.3%
Better/new recycling facilities at household waste recycling centres (Tips)	9.2%	11.8%
Recycling ('bottle') banks being emptied more frequently	7.6%	8.2%
Penalties/fines for not recycling	7.6%	7.9%

		<b>Appendix 9(a)</b>
Don't know/not sure	2.3%	3.3%
Nothing - I am not interested in recycling more	1.9%	1.8%
Not having to rinse bottles and cans for recycling	-	24.5%
Help with recycling e.g. assisted services	-	7.5%

**Would you prefer to replace the current brown sack that you use to recycle household paper/card, with a wheeled bin? Please tick one box only (Q12a) [Weighted base - 619]**

**60.1%** of respondents said they would definitely (46.5%) or probably (13.6%) prefer to replace the current brown sack with a wheeled bin. In 2019, **56.9%** of respondents said they would definitely (42.9%) or probably (14%) prefer to replace the current brown sack with a wheeled bin.

**31.8%** said they would prefer to continue with using the sack. This is slightly down on 2019, where **35%** said they would prefer to continue with using the sack.

**Household Waste Recycling Centres (the Tip)**

**Thinking about the last 12 months, how often, if at all, would you say you, or members of your household, have taken household waste and/or recycling to Household Waste Recycling Centres run by Blackpool Council? Please tick one box only (Q13) [Weighted base - 637]**

**38.8%** of respondents stated they or members of their household had visited a Household Waste Recycling Centres run by Blackpool Council 'every three months or so' in the past 12 months, this is almost the same as the proportion in 2019 (**38.9%**).

**14.3%** of respondents stated they had been at least once a month ('once a month' or 'once a week' or 'more than once a week') to visit a Household Waste Recycling Centres run by Blackpool Council. In 2019, **20.2%** of respondents stated had been at least once a month ('once a month' or 'once a week' or 'more than once a week') to visit a Household Waste Recycling Centres run by Blackpool Council.

The proportion of respondents who either rarely or never visited a Household Waste Recycling Centres run by Blackpool Council in the past 12 months increased from **33.5%** in 2019 to **37.9%** in 2022.

**Still thinking about Household Waste Recycling Centres, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following...? Please tick one box per row (Q14)**

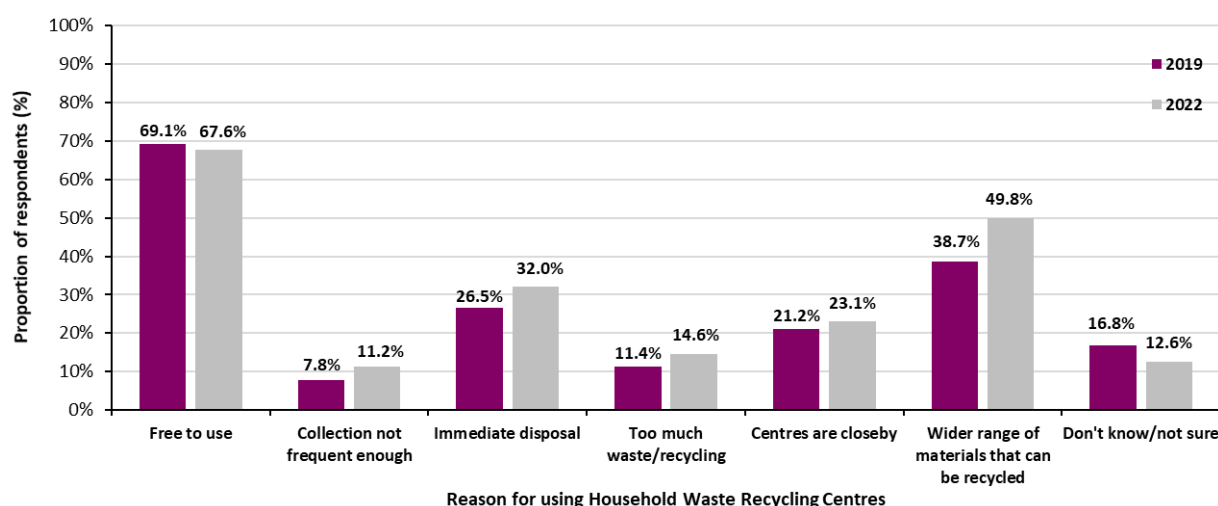
The following table highlights the overall 'satisfaction' percentages across elements of Household Waste Recycling Centres. Although in the 2022 version, some respondents answered more than once, overall satisfaction in Household Waste Recycling Centres increased by nearly 8 percentage points from responses in 2019 and across all elements overall 'satisfaction' increased from 2019.

**Table 6: Overall satisfaction with elements of Household Waste Recycling Centres (%)**

Area	% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)
Their opening hours	69.5%	60.4%
Ease of finding centres	78.9%	70.6%
Queuing time	69.8%	63.5%
Layout/accessibility	77.6%	70.8%
Advice signage about which items can be put into which container	78.7%	70.8%
The range of items that can be recycled	75.6%	72.7%
Ease of getting waste into the containers	76.9%	68.3%
Frequency of containers being emptied	67.6%	59.4%
The friendliness/helpfulness of staff	74.4%	68.9%
How 'clean and tidy' the centre is	78.9%	73%
Centres overall	78.7%	70.8%

**Which of the following reasons, if any, best explain why you, or members of your household, use the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres? Please select as many as apply [Multiple choice answer] (Q15)**

Continuing from 2019, the fact that the Household Waste Recycling Centres are free to use remains the top reason cited as why respondents use them, albeit with a slight reduction from 2019. Having the option to recycle a wider range of materials remains the second most cited reason to use a Household Waste Recycling Centre, with the proportion of respondents who cited increasing by more than 11 percentage points since 2019.

**Figure 8: Reasons why residents use the Household Waste Recycling Centres (%)**

**Have you contacted Blackpool Council about a Household Waste Recycling centre in the past 12 months? You might have made contact online, by phone, by post, or in person. Please tick one box only (Q16) [Weighted base - 626]**

12.5% of respondents have contacted Blackpool Council about a Household Waste Recycling centre in the past 12 months. This is up from 2019, where 8.3% of respondents had been in contact in the past 12 months.

**Thinking about the most recent time you contacted Blackpool Council, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the following...? Please tick one box per row (Q17)**

Excluding those who responded 'don't know/not applicable', 72.7% were 'satisfied' with the ease of getting through to the right person and 79.2% were satisfied with the helpfulness of staff, levels of satisfaction were both slightly up from 2019. However, only 70.1% were 'satisfied' with the outcome of their contact, whereas in 2019, 72.7% of respondents were 'satisfied' with the outcome of their contact.

### Keeping you informed

**How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the availability of information about waste and recycling in Blackpool? Please tick one box only (Q18) [Weighted base - 632]**

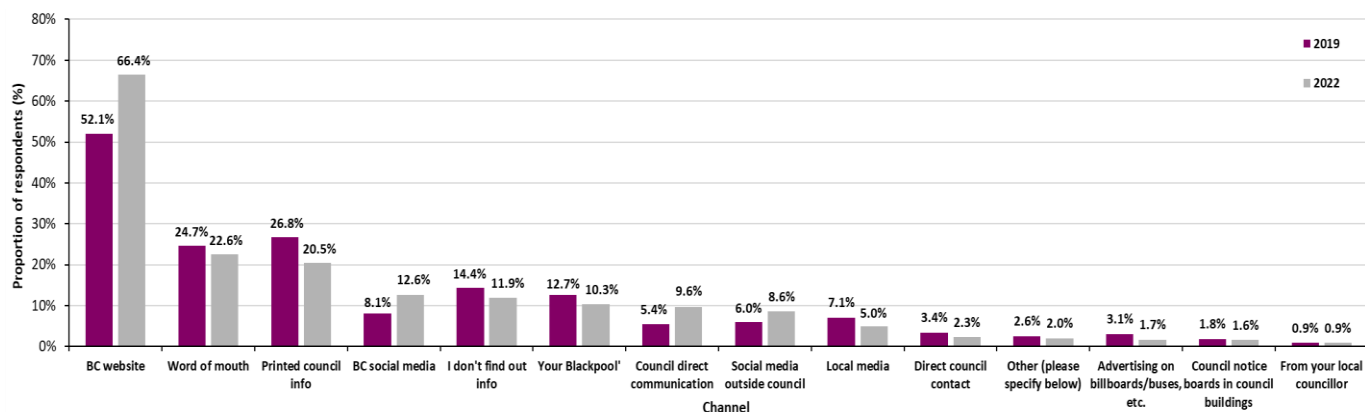
63.2% (54.7% in 2019) of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the availability of information about waste and recycling in Blackpool and 11.7% were very or fairly dissatisfied (16.2% in 2019).

**How do you currently find out information about waste and recycling in Blackpool? Please select as many as apply [Multiple choice answer] (Q19)**

Respondents were asked about how they currently find out about waste and recycling in Blackpool. As in 2019, the most cited way in which households find out about waste and recycling is through Blackpool Council's website, with an increase in the proportion of respondents who stated this by more than 14 percentage points. Full comparisons to 2019 are shown in the following figure below.



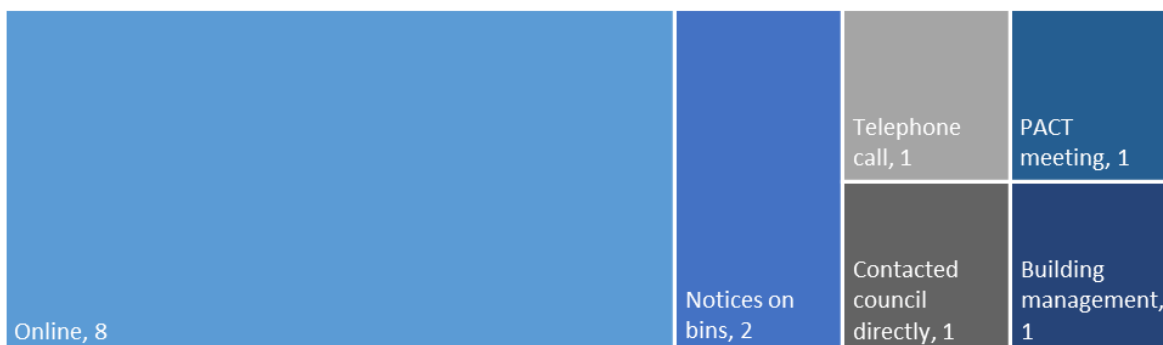
Figure 9: Channel respondents hear about waste and recycling in Blackpool (%)



Respondents could respond with 'other' when asked about how they currently find out about waste and recycling in Blackpool and were able to provide further detail about their response. In total, **14 comments** were left (excluding 'no', 'N/A', 'nothing to add' or other non-applicable comments).

Responses mentioned several key methods of contact, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 10. How do you currently find out information about waste and recycling in Blackpool? (Other)



**Would you be interested in finding out more information on...? Please select as many as apply. (Q20)**

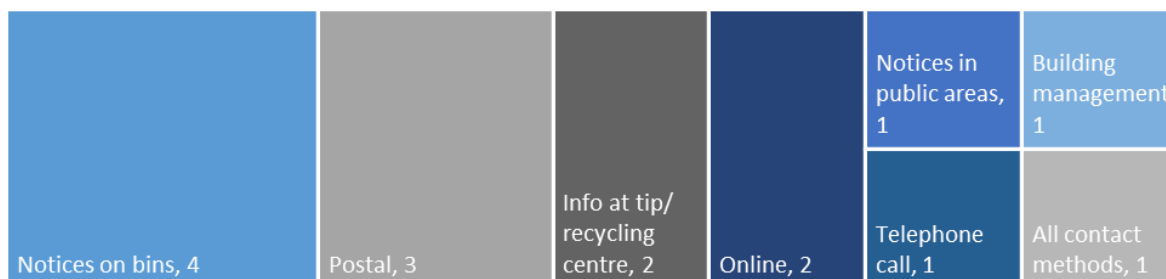
Respondents were asked about how they would be interested in finding out about waste and recycling in Blackpool. As in 2019, the most cited way in which households would be interested in finding out about waste and recycling is through Blackpool Council's website, with an increase in the proportion of respondents who stated this by more than 14 percentage points. Full comparisons to 2019 are shown in the following figure below.

**Table 7: Preferred channel for respondents to hear about waste and recycling in Blackpool (%)**

	% of respondents (2022)	% of respondents (2019)
Blackpool Council website	63.5%	48.8%
Printed information provided by the council (e.g. leaflets, flyers, public notices)	35.7%	43.4%
Council texts, emails and e-newsletters	25.3%	17.7%
Blackpool Council's social media sites (e.g. Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)	23.2%	20.5%
'Your Blackpool' newspaper	17.9%	20.3%
Social media outside the council (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube)	14.1%	11%
Word of mouth (e.g. friends, neighbours, relations)	12.5%	11.7%
Local media (e.g. newspapers, TV, radio)	12.1%	11.1%
Advertising on billboards/buses, etc.	6.5%	14%
Direct contact with the council (e.g. contact with staff, public meetings and events)	4.2%	6.9%
Council notice boards in council buildings	4.0%	4.7%
From your local councillor	3.0%	2.6%
Other (please specify below)	1.0%	1.4%

Respondents could respond with 'other' when asked about which contact methods they preferred to find out information about waste and recycling in Blackpool and were able to provide further detail about their response. In total, **15 comments** were left (excluding 'no', 'N/A', 'nothing to add' or other non-applicable comments).

Responses mentioned several key methods of contact, as shown in the figure below.

**Figure 11: Which of these methods would you prefer to find out information about waste and recycling in Blackpool? (Other)**

**Would you be interested in finding out more information on...? Please select as many as apply. (Q21)**

The following table details what areas of waste and recycling respondents would be more interested in finding out more information about. Overall, respondents wanted to know what items can go into recycling the most out of the options given, as previously seen in 2019. There was also a significant rise in the proportion of respondents that wanted more information on collection dates (a 9.4 percentage point increase).

**Table 8: Information about waste and recycling respondents would like to hear more information on (%)**

	<b>% of respondents (2022)</b>	<b>% of respondents (2019)</b>
What can go into Recycling	62.6%	60.1%
What can't go into general waste	52.7%	53.9%
How to recycle efficiently	39.1%	39.8%
What happens to recycled items	35.7%	41.4%
Collection dates	30.7%	21.3%
How to reduce waste	30.1%	27.1%
How to home compost	19.9%	15.3%
How to arrange assisted bin collections	16.7%	12%

### Contacting the Council

**Thinking about the past 12 months, have you contacted Blackpool Council to make a complaint or enquiry about waste and recycling collections from your home? You might have made contact online, by phone, by post or in person. Please tick one box only (Q22) [Weighted base - 635]**

**16.9%** of residents, who responded to the survey, have contacted Blackpool Council to make a complaint or enquiry about waste and recycling collections from their home. The contact may have been online, by phone, by post or in person. This is slightly up from 2019, where **15.5%** of respondents had been in contact with the council in the last 12 months.

**Thinking about the most recent time you contacted Blackpool Council about waste/recycling from your home, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the following? Please tick one box per row (Q23)**

Of those who stated they had been in contact in the last 12 months:

- **62.7%** were 'satisfied' with the ease of getting through to the right person (**17.5%** were 'dissatisfied'). The proportion of those 'satisfied' is down on 2019, where **70.9%** of respondents were 'satisfied';
- **62%** were 'satisfied' with the helpfulness of staff (**15.3%** were 'dissatisfied'). The proportion of those 'satisfied' is significantly down on 2019, where **81.3%** of respondents were 'satisfied';
- **51.1%** were 'satisfied' with the outcome of their contact (**34.2%** were 'dissatisfied'). The proportion of those 'satisfied' is significantly down on 2019, where **75.3%** of respondents were 'satisfied';
- **52.9%** were 'satisfied' with the ease of using the website/form (**9.8%** were 'dissatisfied'). This is up from 2019, where only **47.9%** of respondents were 'satisfied'.

**Do you have any final comments in regards to waste/recycling? (Q24) [Weighted base - 238]**

Respondents were asked whether they had any final comments about waste and/or recycling. In total, **230 comments** were left (excluding 'no', 'N/A', 'nothing to add' or other non-applicable comments). Some comments covered several topics in their response.

The largest cluster of comments mentioned problems with specific containers, with some respondents disclosing that the bags/sacks provided are not fit for purpose, for example because of a low ability to withstand adverse weather conditions. Some comments also gave generally positive remarks about the service, ENVECO NW staff, and experiences at the tip.

Responses highlighted potential ways of improving the service offer with two key topics mentioned. This included improving communication from the council – more information was wanted about what you can and can't recycle, what happens to recycling, and some respondents had experienced difficulties when accessing the website. Another suggested improvement focused on providing more support with waste collection, particularly for the older age population.

Quite a few comments referred to recycling. Many responses showed support for recycling and were happy that this service is provided, and some responses expressed a want for more options when recycling, e.g. Tetra Pak.

A portion of respondents used the space to report problems they have experienced regarding waste. This included streets being left littered after collections, problems with the waste recycling centres due to difficulty accessing the locations and rules being too stringent, problems with the overall service provided, for example the waste collection not

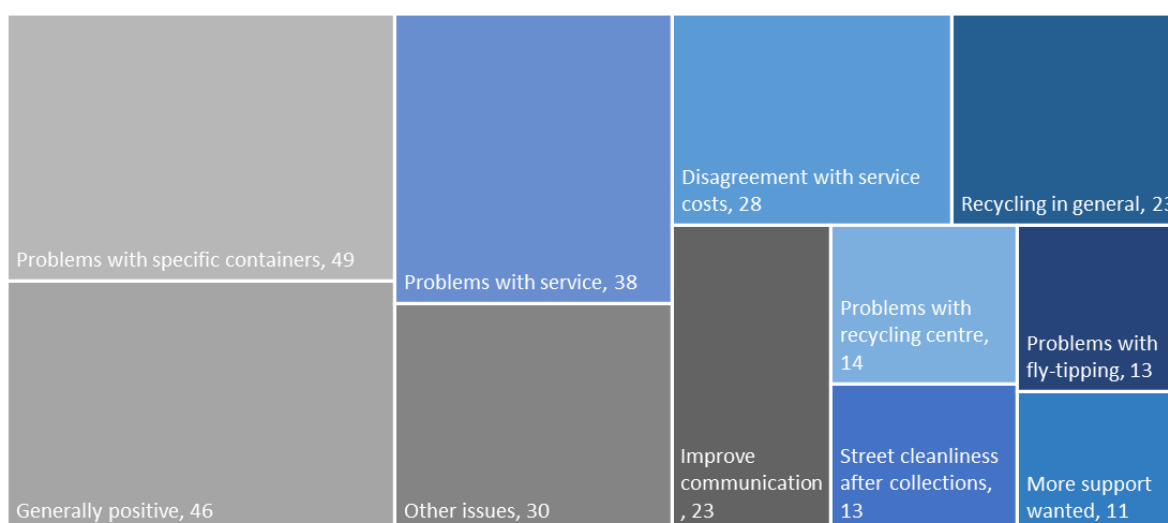
being frequent enough, challenges associated with assisted bin collection, and undelivered replacement bags/sacks.

Some respondents disagreed with cost of the services, and other comments referred to fly-tipping, in particular associating the cost of the service with an increased likelihood to engage in fly-tipping.

Comments categorised as ‘other issues’ included mention of others’ recycling habits, potentially providing recycling centres at schools, specific requests from the service, not having enough storage for waste, recycling, and bins, and changing the number of waste containers per property in line with household sizes.

The figure below summarises all of the key themes highlighted by respondents.

**Figure 12. Do you have any final comments in regards to waste and/or recycling?**



Examples of comments to this question include:

*“As we are a seaside resort, I would like to see more advertising re plastic waste which would encourage residents and visitors to limit this.”*

*“Blue bin recycling could be improved to stop bins blown over by wind spilling their contents on the public highway, once this happens no one is sure how to collect littered items found on the street.”*

*“Keep up the good work!”*

## Appendix A: Mosaic Groups

Mosaic Group	Key features
<p>City Prosperity</p> <p>City Prosperity work in high status positions.</p>	<p>Commanding substantial salaries they are able to afford expensive urban homes. They live and work predominantly in London, with many found in and around the City or in locations a short commute away. Well-educated, confident and ambitious, this elite group is able to enjoy their wealth and the advantages of living in a world-class capital to the full.</p>
<p>Prestige Positions</p> <p>Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles (7% of UK households, 0.6% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Prestige Positions are affluent married couples whose successful careers have afforded them financial security and a spacious home in a prestigious and established residential area. While some are mature empty-nesters or elderly retired couples, others are still supporting their teenage or older children.</p>
<p>Country Living</p> <p>Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life (6% of UK households, 0.003% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Country Living are well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of major towns and cities. Some people are landowners or farmers, others run small businesses from home, some are retired and others commute distances to professional jobs.</p>
<p>Rural Reality</p> <p>Householders living in inexpensive homes in village communities (6% of UK households, 0.04% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Rural Reality are people who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.</p>
<p>Senior Security</p> <p>Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement (8% of UK households, 11.3% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Senior Security are elderly singles and couples who are still living independently in comfortable homes that they own. Property equity gives them a reassuring level of financial security. This group includes people who have remained in family homes after their children have left, and those who have chosen to downsize to live among others of similar ages and lifestyles.</p>
<p>Suburban Stability</p> <p>Mature suburban owners living settled lives in mid-range housing (8% of UK households, 4.7% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Suburban Stability are typically mature couples or families, some enjoying recent empty-nest status and others with older children still at home. They live in mid-range family homes in traditional suburbs where they have been settled for many years.</p>
<p>Domestic Success</p> <p>Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers (7% of UK households, 1.1% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Domestic Success are high-earning families who live affluent lifestyles in upmarket homes situated in sought after residential neighbourhoods. Their busy lives revolve around their children and successful careers in higher managerial and professional roles.</p>
<p>Aspiring Homemakers</p> <p>Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means (9% of UK households, 14.9% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Aspiring Homemakers are younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.</p>

<p>Family Basics</p> <p>Families with limited resources who have to budget to make ends meet (7% of UK households, 10.9% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Family Basics are families with children who have limited budgets and can struggle to make ends meet. Their homes are low cost and are often found in areas with fewer employment options.</p>
<p>Transient Renters</p> <p>Single people privately renting low cost homes for the short term (6% of UK households, 20.9% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Transient Renters are single people who pay modest rents for low cost homes. Mainly younger people, they are highly transient, often living in a property for only a short length of time before moving on.</p>
<p>Municipal Tenants</p> <p>Urban renters of social housing facing an array of challenges (6% of UK households, 4.7% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Municipal Tenants are long-term social renters living in low-value multi-storey flats in urban locations, or small terraces on outlying estates. These are challenged neighbourhoods with limited employment options and correspondingly low household incomes.</p>
<p>Vintage Value</p> <p>Elderly people reliant on support to meet financial or practical need (7% of UK households, 12.9% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Vintage Value are elderly people who mostly live alone, either in social or private housing, often built with the elderly in mind. Levels of independence vary, but with health needs growing and incomes declining, many require an increasing amount of support.</p>
<p>Modest Traditions</p> <p>Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles (6% of UK households, 14.5% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Modest Traditions are older people living in inexpensive homes that they own, often with the mortgage nearly paid off. Both incomes and qualifications are modest, but most enjoy a reasonable standard of living. They are long-settled residents having lived in their neighbourhoods for many years.</p>
<p>Urban Cohesion</p> <p>Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity (5% of UK households, 0.1% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Urban Cohesion are settled extended families and older people who live in multi-cultural city suburbs. Most have bought their own homes and have been settled in these neighbourhoods for many years, enjoying the sense of community they feel there.</p>
<p>Rental Hubs</p> <p>Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods (7% of UK households, 3.3% of Blackpool households).</p>	<p>Rental Hubs contains predominantly young, single people in their 20s and 30s who live in urban locations and rent their homes from private landlords while in the early stages of their careers, or pursuing studies.</p>

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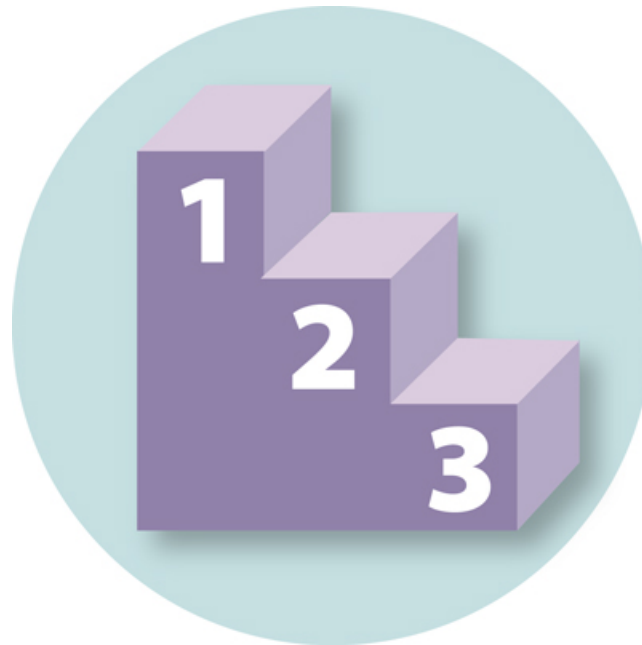


# Refuse collection

2021-22, Issue 1

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## *Performance indicator standings*



## Family group comparison

### Refuse collection performance indicator standings 2021/22

Name of authority	Blackpool Council									
PIN	4281									
Family group	R3									
Performance indicator	Number in group	Highest in group	Average for group	Lowest in group	Your output/score	Standing in group	Top quartile mark	Quartile achieved	Previous year score	High/Low/Neutral
<b>Key performance indicators</b>										
PI 02c - Cost of refuse collection service per household (excluding landfill tax, waste disposal and CEC)	10	£79.87	£65.66	£46.64	£58.18	3	£58.18	1	£67.13	L
PI 03i - Net cost of recycling per household (excluding CEC)	11	£62.94	£35.37	£16.13	£16.13	1	£17.29	1	£17.85	L
PI 11 - Percentage of households covered by kerbside recycling collections	17	100.00%	98.07%	86.82%	86.82%	17	100.00%	4	86.22%	H
<b>Other cost performance indicators</b>										
PI 02d - Cost of refuse collection service per head of population (excluding landfill tax, waste disposal and CEC)	10	£34.75	£28.90	£21.15	£30.27	7	£27.53	3	£34.93	L
PI 08c - Total labour costs as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding waste disposal costs and CEC)	11	60.44%	47.88%	37.07%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 09b - Transport costs as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding waste disposal costs and CEC)	10	30.83%	24.19%	16.66%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 18g - Front line labour costs as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding waste disposal costs and CEC)	11	56.08%	41.85%	31.75%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 17c - Cost per household excluding trade waste costs	11	£79.87	£61.80	£21.25	£62.75	4	£51.90	2	£64.30	L
PI 37 - Cost of domestic waste disposal per household	2	£61.61	£52.03	£42.44	-	-	-	-	-	L
PI 38 - Cost of municipal waste disposal per household	7	£71.40	£61.47	£30.66	-	-	-	-	-	L
PI 41a - Percentage change in total annual income generated vs. previous year	10	34.33%	11.25%	-8.29%	10.89%	-	-	-	-22.16%	N
PI 41b - Percentage change in income generated from recycling vs. previous year	6	120.11%	40.20%	-45.52%	-34.94%	-	-	-	-	N
<b>Customer Services performance indicators</b>										
PI 15 - Quality assurance and consultation process	14	43.00%	23.89%	4.00%	27.00%	8	33.50%	3	30.00%	H
PI 16 - Human resources and people management	14	66.00%	39.43%	10.00%	10.00%	13	54.00%	4	16.00%	H
PI 33 - Community / customer surveys undertaken	4	96.33%	78.33%	56.00%	-	-	-	-	-	H
<b>Efficiency performance indicators</b>										
PI 22a - Missed collections per 100,000 collections (full year)	13	149.21	75.82	11.56	-	-	55.87	-	-	L
PI 22b - Missed collections per 100,000 collections (April - September)	13	158.09	72.93	11.45	-	-	45.44	-	-	L

#### Notes:

- The Authority will only be ranked in family group if it has shown an output / score within the set parameters for the performance indicator.
- Quartile / percentile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there is a desirable achievement.
- Quartile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there are a minimum of 8 outputs / scores within the set parameters.

## Family group comparison

### Refuse collection performance indicator standings 2021/22

Name of authority	Blackpool Council									
PIN	4281									
Family group	R3									
Performance indicator	Number in group	Highest in group	Average for group	Lowest in group	Your output/score	Standing in group	Top quartile mark	Quartile achieved	Previous year score	High/Low/Neutral
PI 22c - Missed domestic residual waste collections per 100,000 collections (full year)	14	184.54	88.41	7.78	-	-	42.91	-	-	L
PI 22d - Missed domestic residual waste collections per 100,000 collections (April - September)	14	173.47	82.19	11.63	-	-	28.54	-	-	L
PI 22e - Missed separate recycling collections per 100,000 collections (full year)	13	107.11	55.30	0.35	-	-	32.90	-	-	L
PI 22f - Missed separate recycling collections per 100,000 collections (April - September)	13	108.68	53.40	0.48	-	-	29.38	-	-	L
PI 04a - Trade waste contracts (charged) as a percentage of available market	9	61.60%	25.66%	10.78%	-	-	25.21%	-	34.42%	H
PI 04b - Number of trade waste agreements for recycling (free or charged)	15	1,875	461	0	314	8	582	2	268	H
PI 04c - Percentage change in trade waste contracts (charged / non recycling)	8	18.46%	-4.23%	-22.21%	0.51%	3	3.94%	2	-3.15%	H
PI 04d - Percentage change in trade waste contracts (all)	7	23.42%	-0.72%	-16.82%	11.41%	-	-	-	5.52%	N
PI 35a - Litres of fuel used annually in refuse collection vehicles per 1,000 head of population	10	2,329	1,642	1,120	-	-	1,302	-	1,643	L
PI 20a - Staff absence (all employees)	7	17.76%	11.33%	5.77%	-	-	-	-	-	L
PI 20b - Staff absence - days lost per FTE non covid only (Scotland only)(all employees)	1	11.81	11.81	11.81	-	-	-	-	-	L
<b>Covid impact performance indicators</b>										
PI 39a - Percentage of fleet which constituted additional vehicles for Covid precautions	4	44.94%	26.71%	3.70%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 40a - PPE and other covid related equipment as percentage of total expenditure	9	12.23%	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	-	0.01%	N
PI 42a - Agency/temporary/casual staff costs as percentage of total staff costs	10	32.03%	13.29%	1.30%	17.25%	-	-	-	10.99%	N
PI 42b - Agency/temporary/casual staff costs as percentage of total expenditure	10	12.41%	5.08%	0.67%	1.04%	-	-	-	1.34%	N
PI 45a - Percentage change in net operational expenditure	9	30.35%	3.61%	-15.88%	-13.33%	-	-	-	6.30%	N
PI 46a - Percentage change in number of operational vehicles deployed	13	109.30%	10.10%	-25.64%	0.00%	-	-	-	-4.76%	N
PI 46b - Percentage change in cost of operational vehicles deployed	12	30.82%	-5.47%	-99.79%	-50.95%	-	-	-	12.71%	N

#### Notes:

- The Authority will only be ranked in family group if it has shown an output / score within the set parameters for the performance indicator.
- Quartile / percentile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there is a desirable achievement.
- Quartile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there are a minimum of 8 outputs / scores within the set parameters.

## Whole service comparison

### Refuse collection performance indicator standings 2021/22

Name of authority	Blackpool Council									
PIN	4281									
Performance indicator	Number in service	Highest in service	Average for service	Lowest in service	Your output/score	Standing in service	Top quartile mark	Quartile achieved	Previous year score	High/Low/Neutral
<b>Key performance indicators</b>										
PI 02c - Cost of refuse collection service per household (excluding landfill tax, waste disposal and CEC)	34	£150.36	£74.44	£41.89	£58.18	11	£55.85	2	£67.13	L
PI 03i - Net cost of recycling per household (excluding CEC)	32	£92.80	£41.90	£11.73	£16.13	3	£20.62	1	£17.85	L
PI 11 - Percentage of households covered by kerbside recycling collections	43	100.00%	99.07%	86.82%	86.82%	43	100.00%	4	86.22%	H
<b>Other cost performance indicators</b>										
PI 02d - Cost of refuse collection service per head of population (excluding landfill tax, waste disposal and CEC)	33	£53.31	£32.22	£18.83	£30.27	16	£24.42	2	£34.93	L
PI 08c - Total labour costs as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding waste disposal costs and CEC)	33	69.59%	50.93%	35.34%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 10c - Transport costs as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding waste disposal costs and CEC)	33	33.51%	22.49%	10.94%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 09 - Front line labour costs as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding waste disposal costs and CEC)	36	64.03%	44.06%	25.04%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 27 - Cost per household excluding trade waste costs	35	£123.02	£68.97	£21.25	£62.75	14	£53.70	2	£64.30	L
PI 37 - Cost of domestic waste disposal per household	14	£71.13	£53.03	£36.85	-	-	£43.09	-	-	L
PI 38 - Cost of municipal waste disposal per household	20	£81.60	£60.53	£30.66	-	-	£47.80	-	-	L
PI 41a - Percentage change in total annual income generated vs. previous year	27	34.33%	9.27%	-9.23%	10.89%	-	-	-	-22.16%	N
PI 41b - Percentage change in income generated from recycling vs. previous year	20	188.91%	28.75%	-45.52%	-34.94%	-	-	-	-	N
<b>Customer Services performance indicators</b>										
PI 15 - Quality assurance and consultation process	42	56.00%	20.42%	4.00%	27.00%	13	28.50%	2	30.00%	H
PI 16 - Human resources and people management	40	74.00%	43.45%	10.00%	10.00%	39	54.00%	4	16.00%	H
PI 33 - Community / customer surveys undertaken	10	96.33%	84.42%	56.00%	-	-	93.00%	-	-	H
<b>Efficiency performance indicators</b>										
PI 22a - Missed collections per 100,000 collections (full year)	35	199.05	79.41	9.86	-	-	43.74	-	-	L
PI 22b - Missed collections per 100,000 collections (April - September)	33	162.62	70.93	11.45	-	-	45.44	-	-	L
PI 22c - Missed domestic residual waste collections per 100,000 collections (full year)	35	184.54	73.68	0.45	-	-	29.02	-	-	L

#### Notes:

- The Authority will only be ranked in service if it has shown an output / score within the set parameters for the performance indicator.
- Quartile / percentile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there is a desirable achievement.
- Quartile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there are a minimum of 8 outputs / scores within the set parameters.

## Whole service comparison

### Refuse collection performance indicator standings 2021/22

Name of authority	Blackpool Council									
PIN	4281									
Performance indicator	Number in service	Highest in service	Average for service	Lowest in service	Your output/score	Standing in service	Top quartile mark	Quartile achieved	Previous year score	High/Low/Neutral
PI 22d - Missed domestic residual waste collections per 100,000 collections (April - September)	35	173.47	69.05	0.22	-	-	28.54	-	-	L
PI 22e - Missed separate recycling collections per 100,000 collections (full year)	36	189.53	62.30	0.35	-	-	21.66	-	-	L
PI 22f - Missed separate recycling collections per 100,000 collections (April - September)	34	152.45	58.06	0.11	-	-	19.11	-	-	L
PI 04a - Trade waste contracts (charged) as a percentage of available market	32	100.00%	22.80%	3.28%	-	-	25.06%	-	34.42%	H
PI 04b - Number of trade waste agreements for recycling (free or charged)	42	3,526	528	0	314	22	713	3	268	H
PI 04c - Percentage change in trade waste contracts (charged / non recycling)	27	33.33%	-0.14%	-22.21%	0.51%	10	3.94%	2	-3.15%	H
PI 04d - Percentage change in trade waste contracts (all)	25	26.22%	1.68%	-16.82%	11.41%	-	-	-	5.52%	N
PI 35a - Litres of fuel used annually in refuse collection vehicles per 1,000 head of population	36	4,811	2,154	1,120	-	-	1,467	-	1,643	L
PI 20a - Staff absence (all employees)	27	17.76%	8.26%	0.00%	-	-	5.77%	-	-	L
PI 20b - Staff absence - days lost per FTE non covid only (Scotland only)(all employees)	8	30.00	18.43	9.52	-	-	11.59	-	-	L
<b>Covid impact performance indicators</b>										
PI 32a - Percentage of fleet which constituted additional vehicles for Covid precautions	15	44.94%	21.02%	2.00%	-	-	-	-	-	N
PI 40a - PPE and other covid related equipment as percentage of total expenditure	21	12.31%	3.84%	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	-	0.01%	N
PI 42a - Agency/temporary/casual staff costs as percentage of total staff costs	34	34.34%	10.37%	0.02%	17.25%	-	-	-	10.99%	N
PI 42b - Agency/temporary/casual staff costs as percentage of total expenditure	34	12.41%	4.59%	0.01%	1.04%	-	-	-	1.34%	N
PI 45a - Percentage change in net operational expenditure	30	33.34%	1.55%	-28.36%	-13.33%	-	-	-	6.30%	N
PI 46a - Percentage change in number of operational vehicles deployed	36	114.29%	11.53%	-29.69%	0.00%	-	-	-	-4.76%	N
PI 46b - Percentage change in cost of operational vehicles deployed	34	72.64%	-0.50%	-99.79%	-50.95%	-	-	-	12.71%	N

#### Notes:

- The Authority will only be ranked in service if it has shown an output / score within the set parameters for the performance indicator.
- Quartile / percentile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there is a desirable achievement.
- Quartile marks are only shown for those performance indicators for which there are a minimum of 8 outputs / scores within the set parameters.

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**Report to:** **TOURISM ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:** John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser

**Date of Meeting:** 8 February 2023

## COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE POLICY SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform the Committee on the work undertaken by the Community Flood Resilience Policy Scrutiny Review Panel.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Committee approve the following recommendations of the review and incorporate future work into its workplan:

- That the wording of the Introduction of the Community Flood Resilience Policy be amended as outlined at 6.12 of this report.
- That details of local flood risk management work being undertaken be provided to Councillors.
- That the finalised Policy be brought to a future meeting of the TEC Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Committee has an overview of ongoing Flood Risk Management work, as the responsible committee of the Council.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 On the 15 December 2022 Members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities (TEC) Scrutiny Committee held a Review Panel meeting, to consider the work being undertaken to develop the Community Flood Resilience Policy.

6.2 The meeting was chaired by Councillor Gerard Walsh, with the following members of the TEC Scrutiny Committee in attendance:

6.3 Councillor Paula Burdess	Councillor Paul Galley
Councillor Adrian Hutton	Councillor Fred Jackson
Councillor Martin Mitchell	Councillor Rick Scott
Councillor Paul Wilshaw	

6.4 Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environment Services, Ms Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnerships, Mr John-Paul Lovie, Head of Waste Policy and Partnerships and Mr Scott Butterfield, Strategy and Climate Lead, were also in attendance.

6.5 It was reported that the last major flood event experienced in Blackpool was in Anchorsholme in 2017, with a minor event having taken place in Revoe in 2019. Since this time the Council and United Utilities (UU) had undertaken significant work to improve the management of flood risk in Blackpool. This had included investment by UU in flood mitigation infrastructure in Anchorsholme, such as a new water storage tank capable of holding the equivalent of five Olympic swimming pools of water. In addition to this UU had undertaken an investigation of water flow in Blackpool to better understand where future investment was required.

6.6 The Council had undertaken a programme of gully clearing works to improve drainage across the town. It had also been recognised that greater clarity was need for residents on which drains were “fast” draining and which were “slow”, as misunderstanding could lead to a perception that the drainage system was not working. Officers confirmed that the work by the Council and UU had improved the management of flood risk in Blackpool overall and the drainage system had operated effectively during recent heavy rainfall. However it had been noted that climate change made future forecasting difficult and would lead to new challenges



such as increased severe weather going forward. It was therefore important that the Council adopted a Community Flood Resilience Policy to ensure residents could be prepared for future severe weather events.

- 6.7 The unpredictable nature of future weather patterns, and the impact of “global weirding”, was recognised as being a permanent change to the weather experienced in Blackpool. This had led to the Council having to change its approach to new developments to mitigate potential flooding and had appointed a Climate Support Officer to engage communities and schools. This work would highlight the impact of climate change and show the changes that could be made to improve resilience. The Policy would support this through increasing the role of communities in flood risk management and ensuring greater adaptability in the response to climate change.
- 6.8 The Policy had been developed following the agreement of a Multi-Agency Flood Plan (MAFP) with partners across Lancashire, and would ensure a consistent approach to flood resilience in the county.
- 6.9 The aim of the Policy was to ensure that there was clarity on responsibilities and communications in relation to flooding and to allow communities ownership and the power to develop resilience in their areas. This included the development of Community Flood Action Groups across Blackpool, with funding support available from the Council’s Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 6.10 The review panel discussed importance of the community’s voice in the development of Community Flood Action Groups. To ensure engagement officers confirmed that consideration would be given to the timing, location and communications regarding the groups to maximise those involved. The Council had also sought to gain learning and advice from Wyre Borough Council where groups had been established and operated successfully. Officers also advised that initially it was proposed that groups would be established in the following areas:
- Anchorsholme
  - Claremont
  - Norbreck
  - Revoe
  - Valencia
- 6.11 Establishing these groups would begin in January 2023, with communications having been put in place for the process to be started. The establishment of groups in other areas would be dependent on community feedback, and the Council would be ready to provide support to any area that wished to establish a group.
- 6.12 Members noted that the wording of the Policy started with the words “There is no legal requirement for Blackpool Council to provide direct protection to private property from

flooding". Although this was technically accurate the review panel expressed the view that as a document seeking to engage and empower the community this wording was an unnecessarily negative beginning to the Policy. It was therefore recommended that this be changed to reflect the more positive intention of the Policy document.

6.13 The review panel also discussed the work taking place within Blackpool to mitigate flood risk and asked that members be provided with details of specific local work taking place to enable better understanding of what was taking place and improve communications with communities.

6.14 Officers welcomed the input from members of the review panel at the meeting and agreed that once further consultation had taken place on the Policy that a finalised version would be brought back to the TEC Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

6.15 The review panel asked that the following recommendations be noted by the TEC Scrutiny Committee:

- That the wording of the Introduction of the Community Flood Resilience Policy be amended as outlined at 6.12 of this report.
- That details of local flood risk management work being undertaken be provided to Councillors.
- That the finalised Policy be brought to a future meeting of the TEC Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

6.16 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

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

**12.1** The Community Flood Resilience Policy forms part of the work being undertaken by the Council in relation to the declaration of a Climate Emergency. The TEC Scrutiny Committee has agreed, in addition to its role in scrutinising flood risk, to maintain an overview of climate emergency work and this meeting formed part of that scrutiny work.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2022

## AIR QUALITY STRATEGY SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform the Committee of the work undertaken by the Air Quality Strategy Scrutiny Review Panel.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee note the recommendations of the Panel and amend its workplan as appropriate:

- That the need for a review of air quality monitoring sites be endorsed.
- That any future new policies in relation to the regulation of domestic burning and heating be brought to TEC to allow ongoing scrutiny of air quality work.
- That the Air Quality Action Plan be amended so that in respect of Public Engagement and Communication, that each message has a dedicated “owner” to provide clarity on who should be providing what information.
- That a draft of the Air Quality Strategy be provided to the TEC Scrutiny Committee following the completion of the consultation exercise.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Committee has an overview of ongoing work to develop the Air Quality Strategy.

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

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? 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”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 On the 14 December 2022 Members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities (TEC) Scrutiny Committee held a Review Panel meeting, via MS Teams, to consider the work being undertaken to develop an Air Quality Strategy

6.2 Councillor Gerard Walsh chaired the meeting with the following members in attendance:

6.3 Councillor Paul Galley

Councillor Martin Mitchell

Councillor Paul Wilshaw

6.4 Mr Scott Butterfield, Strategy and Climate Lead, Ms Nicky Todd, Senior Environmental Protection Officer and Ms Grace Naylor, Graduate Strategy Officer, were also in attendance.

6.5 The review panel was informed that the Council was developing an Air Quality Strategy as part of its work in response to its declaration of a Climate Emergency and the supporting objective of achieving zero net carbon by 2030. The development of the strategy had been undertaken by officers with support from the consultancy firm Ricardo.

6.6 Consultation on the strategy had been undertaken with Officers and a public consultation was planned for 2023. The meeting sought input from scrutiny members into the development of the strategy, the priorities identified and the work planned and being undertaken.

6.7 The strategy would look not just at the Council but at the impact of air quality on the wider community and cover areas such as health, transport, planning and climate change.

6.8 The air quality in Blackpool had been demonstrated to be generally good. In 2005 Blackpool had been subject to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) due to NO<sub>2</sub> levels being above the national average. However by 2019 Blackpool was compliant with levels across all the monitoring sites within the town. If this situation continues then the AQMA will be withdrawn. Significant air pollutants were still however generated in Blackpool primarily from road transport, commercial and domestic combustion and production processes such as construction.

6.9 The locations of the monitoring points for air quality were discussed, with the panel being

informed that their location was guided by the Department for the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Areas' (DEFRA) requirements that they be in areas with high vehicle and pedestrian traffic. However it had been recognised that there had been significant changes on the layout of Blackpool since 2005, significantly in the central area, and therefore officers were considering a review, with support from Ricardo, of locations used to allow the most accurate monitoring of air quality.

- 6.10 Members of the review panel welcomed the need for a review of air quality monitoring sites and endorsed the proposal to undertake one.
- 6.11 The review panel was informed that to support the strategy an Air Quality Action Plan would be developed. This would allow compliance with the strategy's objectives to be monitored. The actions within the plan fell under the following themes:
- Reducing Emissions from Vehicles
  - Encouraging Active Travel
  - Domestic Heating and Burning
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Reducing the Impact of New Developments
  - Public Engagement and Communication
- 6.12 Reducing Emissions from Vehicles
- 6.13 The review panel expressed the view that the aim of increasing the use of public transport would be in part achieved by showing its convenience for members of the public. This would require consideration of how the infrastructure of Blackpool was used and how underused facilities such as the car parks adjacent to the South Shore Train Station could be used more. Officers highlighted that this information could be fed into the review of the car parking policy being undertaken by the Council.
- 6.14 Taxis that had been licensed outside of Blackpool were raised as an issue as the Council had no control over the type of vehicles that they used. Although the Council could not force taxi operators to have Blackpool licences they could ensure that the terms and conditions offered within the town were more attractive to those offered elsewhere. This would assist by increasing the number operating with a Blackpool licence and therefore the control exercised by the Council as licensing authority.
- 6.15 However with respect of Blackpool licensed vehicles it was reported that although a discount for electric vehicles was considered when the taxi licensing policy was last reviewed, it was considered unsuitable due to a lack of supporting infrastructure within Blackpool. It was noted however that as the town centre continued to develop and climate emergency work progressed that the use of electric vehicles would increase and the Council's position on their use by taxi companies.

6.16 Encouraging Active Travel

6.17 Methods to encourage cycling and other forms of active travel were discussed. The need to ensure that appropriate infrastructure was in place and safety features, such as road marking and barriers was recognised. Consideration also needed to be given to what routes were made available with it being noted that this should not be restricted by the existing road network. Members highlighted that there needed to be a change in culture in respect of active travel, with it being reported that the Council's Active Cycling Team had been utilised to engage with communities to show them the benefits of cycling and seek local ideas on how to encourage cycling ore widely.

6.18 The possibility of implementing an electric scooter scheme, as available in some other towns, was raised. It was reported that the Council had considered a scheme involving electric bikes, however more work was need to ensure that any such scheme was properly integrated into Blackpool's infrastructure safely.

6.19 Domestic Heating and Burning

6.20 The review panel was advised that domestic heating and burning could be controlled through powers granted by the Environment Act 2019. It was reported that in order to greater understand what the Council could introduce in relation these powers officers would be attending a meeting on 15 December 2022 to discuss the issue with other local authorities. It was hoped that once clarity had been gained on the use of powers that the Council would seek to develop bonfire and solid fuels' policies to regulate how burning took place and what fuels could be used.

6.21 It was proposed that under a new bonfire policy, such fires would be banned, while under a solid fuels policy the Council could require domestic heating to use smokeless fuels. Although the management of these issues was welcome it was noted that there was a potential issue with enforcement the implementation these policies. In relation to domestic burning, the Council had no powers to actively monitor what fuels residents used within their own homes or that domestic stoves were serviced appropriately, unless a complaint was made. However the Council could control how new stoves were installed and ensure that fumes were released in the cleanest way possible.

6.22 Members welcomed the proposed new policies and asked that once drafted that the TEC Scrutiny Committee receive these for consideration and input. Communication of changes was also highlighted as important so that the community was aware of the quality of fuel that should be used and the important of servicing domestic appliances. In this respect Ricardo had recommended changes to the information available on the Council's website and two apprentice posts had been appointed to whose responsibilities would include updating information online.



6.23 Green Infrastructure

6.24 The review panel was informed that a number of new policies had been implemented in respect of this theme, such as the Tree Strategy and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. Green Infrastructure was also being incorporated into the updated Town Centre Strategy to ensure it was considered in future development plans. Other work had included a school tree planting scheme, which had encouraged the planting of trees near to and around schools in Blackpool.

6.25 Reducing the Impact of New Developments

6.26 It was reported at the meeting that a number of air quality controls had been introduced such as the introduction of supplementary planning documents on the control of dust and emissions for new developments.

6.27 The review panel welcomed the work that had been undertaken so far and emphasised the need to ensure that these changes would provide long term benefits to residents be properly communicated and so positively influence public perception of new developments. In order to ensure that this was done, officers reported that discussions in this regard would be undertaken with the communications team and the Head of Planning Policy.

6.28 The installation of solar panelling on Blackpool Coastal Housing and Blackpool Housing Company Ltd properties was discussed, with officers reporting that a financial model had been developed exploring how the scheme could be funded. If successful, this could generate further electricity to supplement that needed for the running of air source heat source pump-based heating systems, further improving the environmental efficiency of the buildings.

6.29 Public Engagement and Communication

6.30 The review panel discussed the work to develop an Air Quality Communications Plan and the other engagement work with Blackpool's residents and partners. This would be supported by a new Climate Engagement Officer post that would be recruited to in 2023.

6.31 Members welcomed the reported work but highlighted that the action plan needed to ensure that specific messages had specific "owners" to ensure that responsibility for messaging was clear. It was therefore recommended that the action be amended to include this.

6.32 Next Steps

6.33 Consultation on the draft Air Quality Strategy would be ongoing, with a further consultation meeting with officers and partners on 21 December 2022 and a public consultation in 2023.

6.34 Once this had been completed it was confirmed that the draft strategy would be developed to reflect the outcome of the consultations that had taken place. The strategy would then be

shared with members of the TEC Scrutiny Committee.

- 6.35 The review panel asked that the following recommendations be noted by the TEC Scrutiny Committee:
- That the need for a review of air quality monitoring sites be endorsed.
  - That any future new policies in relation to the regulation of domestic burning and heating be brought to TEC to allow ongoing scrutiny of air quality work.
  - That the Air Quality Action Plan be amended so that in respect of Public Engagement and Communication, that each message has a dedicated “owner” to provide clarity on who should be providing what information.
  - That a draft of the Air Quality Strategy be provided to the TEC Scrutiny Committee following the completion of the consultation exercise.

6.36 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

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

12.1 The review panel was held as part of the TEC Scrutiny Committee’s work to scrutinise the Council’s implementation of the Climate Emergency Declaration adopted being undertaken.

12.2 The Committee regularly receives updates on Climate Emergency work at its meetings and has agreed to hold in-depth reviews of specific policies related to the work being undertaken

going forward.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mr John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2023

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 2022/23

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform the Committee on the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Review Panel.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the outcome of the meeting and consider any areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Committee has an ongoing oversight of scrutiny review panel 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 Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee is the committee designated to undertake the Council's statutory duty to review the Crime and Disorder Partnership (Community Safety Partnership). It has been agreed that the committee will carry out an annual review at an informal meeting with a full report to be provided



had been an increase in the levels experienced during 2020-2021 due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdowns, the level had fallen and was now considerably lower than pre-2020.

- 6.12 The meeting was told that ASB in Blackpool is managed on a day-to-day basis through meetings between CSP partners. The Council sought to address reports of ASB proactively through the use of enforcement notices and orders, the decrease in data
- 6.13 However it had been recognised that up to 50% of ASB go unreported and members of the CSP expressed a view that with the ongoing- cost of living crisis certain crimes and disorder could increase. However they emphasised the importance of reporting incidents of ASB and other crime, to ensure the CSP partners were able to effectively able to respond to the issues being experienced.
- 6.14 The operation of dispersal orders was discussed, following concerns from members regarding the frequency of their use and the communications with the public once they are issued. The orders were issued to target individuals not groups, nor were they used to force all children within an area indoors. In most cases an Section 34 order would be issued to individuals believed to be causing ASB or other disturbances, which would then allow them to be detained under a Section 35 order if they remained in the area. Any young people in an area where a dispersal order had been issued, not causing ASB would not be affected.
- 6.15 The communications of dispersal orders was noted as requiring consideration as social media announcements gave the impression that the Police were requiring all children in an area to go indoors. This created an impression that “curfews” were being imposed, which was incorrect.
- 6.16 Ongoing challenges in relation to ASB were reported in respect of engagement with young people. It had been noted that the Covid lockdown had prevented engagement with young people, this had caused a slight but notable increase in youth related ASB. The CSP therefore had developed a new engagement plan to address the issue, which would include diversionary work for young people into various social and community based activities.
- 6.17 Begging
- 6.18 The meeting heard that in relation to instances of begging in Blackpool the majority of cases gravitated to the town centre and were cases of professional begging, rather than begging by those in housing need.
- 6.19 Regular tours of the town centre by the Council’s Public Protection team and Business Improvement District Officers to identify those begging and seek to prevent reoccurrences. In cases where individuals was found to be in housing need officers would seek to connect them with Housing Options or relevant third sector organisations. However as many were not the Council had adopted an approach using Civil Injunctions to prevent problem individuals from

begging in the town centre. This had replaced the use of enforcement notices which was no longer used due to the timescales involved and issues in ensuring compliance.

- 6.20 The approach also allowed services the opportunity to engage with individuals begging and identify cases of exploitation and other needs they could have.
- 6.21 Opportunities to assist donating to support homelessness prevention were highlighted, through schemes such as the QR codes placed in Car Parks. It was also noted that the Just Giving page supported by the Council could use its funds more widely, as it currently only donated to the Food Bank.
- 6.22 Road Safety
- 6.23 Road Safety was noted as an area of significant public concern and was addressed in Blackpool via CSP partners involvement in the Lancashire Roads Partnership. This partnership brought together a wide group of organisations together to raise concerns and develop solutions to road safety issues. Partners involved included the PCC, Fire and Rescue and Schools.
- 6.24 The panel was also informed that an update on work planned for 2023/24 could be provided later in 2023 to a meeting of the TEC Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.25 Rape and Serious Assault
- 6.26 Instances of Rape and Serious Assault were known to be under reported in Blackpool and partners therefore seeking to encourage reporting. Although this would cause the data in relation to rape to increase, greater reporting would ensure the response was effective and issues identified. The importance of Blackpool's night time economy meant that it was a priority to ensure that women felt safe in the town.
- 6.27 The situation regarding sex workers in Blackpool was also discussed by the panel. Members heard that the majority of sex workers were located in brothels, often referred to as "massage parlours". Regular inspections of these premises were undertaken by partner where services could ensure that sex workers were housed safely and health needs could be identified and addressed. These visits could also be used to highlight any cases of Criminal Sexual Exploitation.
- 6.28 User of brothels however had been targeted by the CSP, seeking to discourage their use. This work was noted as being challenging as many brothels were located in busy central locations, often used by legitimate traffic.
- 6.29 Occasions of on-street prostitution were more limited with it being reported that only two occurrences were known to be taking place. The Police had regarded these as cases of ASB and would be seek to address issues associated with these activities.



6.30 Child Criminal Exploitation

6.31 Child Criminal Exploitation work in Blackpool was reported as focussing on those children involved in “county lines” drug gangs. Work to address this was being led by the Awaken Team and supported through a daily Exploitation Team Meeting. This meeting sought to ensure that the CSP could react quickly to the latest information and co-ordinate actions.

6.32 The effectiveness of the county lines model for criminal groups was noted and the Police emphasised that the targeting of the sources of drugs and the operators of gangs was the most effective approach to address the problem.

6.33 The panel was informed that a County Lines Intensification Week would be held in March 2023 to highlight the work being undertaken. An invite to all members of TEC Scrutiny Committee would be provided, so that members could take part in the vents taking place during the week.

6.34 Serious Violence Duty

6.35 The panel was informed of work being undertaken in relation to the introduction of a Serious Violence Duty in December 2022. The duty covered a variety of areas but focussed on instances involving knives, murder and where individuals had been hospitalised. The introduction of the duty had meant that the Council would be seeking to review develop a Serious Violence Strategy, with input from the PCC. This had the potential to affect how the CSP structured its working groups and therefore their operation would be reviewed as part of the strategy development, following which the CSP would establish a Serious Violence working group.

6.36 The cost of serious violence to Blackpool was estimated to be approximately £79m, and £300k had been sought for 2023 to support the work taking place.

6.37 The review panel welcomed the information that had been provided at the meeting and noted the work planned and taking place.

6.38 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes/No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 The Committee is the Council's Statutory Crime and Disorder Panel and therefore required to meet at least once a year to consider crime and disorder.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 February 2023

## SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the Workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics and to note the outcome of the St John's Square Scrutiny Review Panel.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan 2022-2023, 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 St John's Square Scrutiny Review Panel meeting held on 15 December 2022

### 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 2022/2023**

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 The members of the Committee met on 8 June 2021 to review the Workplan and prioritise scrutiny review work for the 2022/2023 municipal year. A copy of the Workplan is attached at Appendix 13(a).

5.1.3 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 13(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 13(b). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny.

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

### **5.4 St John's Square Scrutiny Review Panel**

5.4.1 On 15 December 2022 the Committee met as the St John's Square Scrutiny Review Panel to consider proposals for the implementation of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order I St John's Square.

5.4.2 The outcomes of the panel meeting are outlined at Appendix 13(d)

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**5.6 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 13(a) - Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee Workplan

Appendix 13(b) - Scrutiny Review Checklist

Appendix 13(c) – Tourism, Economy and Communities Committee Action Tracker

Appendix 13(d) – St John’s Square ETRO Scrutiny Review Report

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 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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<b>Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2022-2023</b>	
8 February 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Waste Services Annual Report</b> – To consider the annual report from Waste Services.</li> <li>2. <b>Flood Risk Annual Report</b> – To receive the annual report in relation to flood risk.</li> <li>3. <b>Bathing Water Quality Annual Report</b> – To receive an annual report in relation to bathing water quality.</li> <li>4. <b>Community Safety Partnership</b> – To undertake the annual review of the Community Safety Partnership</li> <li>5. <b>Climate Emergency Update</b> – Update on work being undertaken to meet the Council’s declaration of Climate Emergency.</li> </ol>
21 June 2023 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Town Centre Regeneration Update</b> To include information on the progress and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects, the use of BID funding and how these will support job creation in the town.</li> <li>2. <b>Tourism Performance</b> - To include details of tourism performance in Blackpool and Business Tourism.</li> <li>3. <b>Parks and Green Environment Annual Report</b></li> <li>4. <b>Climate Emergency</b> - Update on work being undertaken to meet the Council’s declaration of Climate Emergency.</li> <li>5. <b>Public Rights of Way Annual Report</b> – To a report on work to maintain and reopen Blackpool’s Public Rights of Way</li> </ol>
Meeting Two 2023/24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Customer Feedback Update</b> – To provide an update including more detailed information in relation to complaint categories, complainants and learning outcomes</li> <li>2. <b>Climate Emergency</b> - Update on work being undertaken to meet the Council’s declaration of Climate Emergency.</li> <li>3. <b>Leisure Services Annual Report</b></li> <li>4. <b>Engagement of Consultants Annual Report</b></li> <li>5. <b>Cultural Plan for Blackpool</b> - To consider the contents of the Cultural Plan for Blackpool.</li> </ol>
Meeting Three 2023/24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Car Parking Annual Report</b></li> <li>2. <b>Illuminations Update</b> - Update on work undertaken to deliver the Illuminations.</li> <li>3. <b>Housing and Homelessness Annual Report</b></li> <li>4. <b>Town Centre Regeneration Update</b> - To include information on the progress and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects, the use of BID funding and how these will support job creation in the town.</li> </ol>
Meeting Four 2023/24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Waste Services Annual Report</b> – To consider the annual report from Waste Services.</li> <li>2. <b>Flood Risk Annual Report</b> – To receive the annual report in relation to flood risk.</li> <li>3. <b>Bathing Water Quality Annual Report</b> – To receive an annual report in relation to bathing water quality.</li> <li>4. <b>Community Safety Partnership</b> – To undertake the annual review of the Community Safety Partnership</li> </ol>
Meeting Five 2023/24	<b>TBC</b>

Future Work:

**Electric Vehicle Strategy** – *To consider the development of an EV Strategy for Blackpool.*

<b>Scrutiny Review Work</b>	
2023	<b>Levelling Up</b> – To receive a report on the use of Levelling Up fund in Blackpool.
2023	<b>CCTV Scrutiny</b> - Details of work being undertaken in relation to the second stage of CCTV infrastructure development in Blackpool.
2022-23 (Committee Update due September 2022)	<b>Arts and Culture Scrutiny Review</b> – An ongoing review of the recovery of the arts and culture sector in Blackpool following Covid-19.
TBC 2022/2023	<b>Community Wealth Building</b> – To receive a briefing on Community Wealth Building and its possible application in Blackpool.



**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**Updates in **RED**

.	DATE OF REC.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG Rating
1	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 <b>June 2023</b> .	Ongoing
2	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.  <b>A tour of the Starr Gate CCTV control room has been proposed for 2023</b>	Ongoing
6	28 September 2022	That the Customer Feedback report be brought back to the Committee in eight months time and include more detailed information in relation to complaint categories, complainants and learning outcomes.	June 2023	Joceline Greenway	<b>This item has been scheduled for the 2023-2034 municipal year.</b>	Ongoing
7.	23 November 2022	That details of the provision of on-street Electric Vehicle Charging Bays be provided.	February 2023	Philip Welsh		Ongoing

8	23 November	That details of how archived Illuminations displays will be displayed be provided to the Committee.	February 2023	Philip Welsh		Ongoing
9	23 November 2023	That information on how gaps in the Illuminations caused by the Tramway Extension will be addressed be provided.	February 2023	Philip Welsh		Ongoing

**Report to:**

**TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:**

John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser

**Date of Meeting:**

8 February 2022

## **ST JOHN'S SQUARE EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

**1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To inform the Committee of the work undertaken at the St John's Square Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) Scrutiny Panel meeting.

**2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To note the outcome of the meeting and consider any areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.

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

3.1 To ensure that the Committee has an ongoing oversight of scrutiny review panel work.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?

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

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

4.1 None.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

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

## 6.0 Background information

- 6.1 On the 15 December 2022 Members of the Tourism, Economy and Communities (TEC) Scrutiny Committee held a Panel meeting to consider the potential introduction of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) in St John's Square to regulate vehicular access to the area.
- 6.2 The meeting was chaired by Councillor Gerard Walsh, with the following members of the TEC Scrutiny Committee in attendance:
- 6.3 Councillor Paula Burdess  
Councillor Paul Galley  
Councillor Adrian Hutton  
Councillor Fred Jackson  
Councillor Martin Mitchell  
Councillor Rick Scott  
Councillor Paul Wilshaw
- 6.4 Councillor Paula Burdess and Councillor Paul Galley declared personal interests in the item under consideration at the meeting as Non-Executive Directors of Blackpool Transport Ltd (BTS). It was noted that the changes to access to St John's Square outlined at the meeting would have an impact on BTS.
- 6.5 Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environment Services, Ms Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnerships, Mr John-Paul Lovie, Head of Waste Policy and Partnerships and Mr Scott Butterfield, Strategy and Climate Lead, were also in attendance.
- 6.6 The review panel was informed that the Council was seeking to implement an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) in St John's Square to regulate vehicular access to the area. Members heard that under existing arrangements there were no restrictions on access to the Square by vehicles
- 6.7 This unregulated access and use of the Square had led to a number of negative comments from local businesses and members of the public, the Council was therefore seeking to implement an ETRO to regulate access as follows;
- 6.8
- To limit access and vehicle type to the St Johns Square area, the use of the through route (Abingdon Street through to Church Street and Church Street through to Abingdon Street) to buses and taxis only;
  - Delivery access and servicing, servicing would be permitted between 6.00pm to 10:30am only, to match other adjacent areas of the town centre;
  - Control of static parking in the area by implementing a parking control zone, the area indicated on the plan would be the area of the zone.

- 6.9 Once implemented a formal consultation would be undertaken over a six-month period for the public to comment on the ETRO operation. Following this it was planned that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be developed based on the outcome of the consultation.
- 6.10 The panel discussed the operation of the ETRO and how it would be enforced, with Officers explaining that new signage and cameras would be utilised. These would be similar to those in operation on Market Street, where similar vehicular restrictions were in place, and had been considered to be a success.
- 6.11 Members noted that a reduction in traffic through the Square would enable the consideration of more varied use of the public space, its proximity to the new Winter Gardens Conference Centre added to this consideration.
- 6.12 The environmental benefit of reduced traffic was also highlighted, with the proposals linked to the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the promotion of public transport being recognised. Although the exact benefit could not be quantified the introduction of an ETRO would allow for the gathering of data to better inform the development of a TRO to ensure environmental benefit going forward.
- 6.13 The review panel welcomed the proposals outlined in the report and asked that their views be noted.
- 6.14 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

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

**12.1** Limiting traffic and the speed of traffic will yield some benefits in relation to air quality and this change supports the use of public transport. Both these issues fall under the work undertaken by the Committee in relation to the Climate Emergency.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.