

# Public Document Pack



**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL**

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Blackpool Council** to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Blackpool on Wednesday, 22 June 2022 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lewis".

Director of Governance and Partnerships

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## **Business**

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

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

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

**2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2022** (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 May 2022 as a true and correct record.

**3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

**4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS** (Pages 9 - 34)

To consider the attached reports to Council from the Corporate, People and Place portfolios and the Combined Fire Authority report.

Members are reminded that:

- The Lead Executive Member \* has up to three minutes to present the report, after which there will be a period of no longer than 25 minutes per report for questions/comments (a green card will give a one minute warning, red for the end of the debate).
- There will be three minutes per question/ comment from any Councillor on anything within the portfolio and no limit to the number of times a Councillor can ask a question.
- There will be a period of up to 25 minutes for responses from any Cabinet Member \* on their area of responsibility at the end of the questions/ comments for each report.

\* or Combined Fire Authority representative.

**5 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 35 - 38)

To consider the annual report to Council from the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

**6 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 39 - 50)

To consider the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/2022.

**7 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN** (Pages 51 - 80)

To consider the recommendations of the Executive at its meeting on 25 April 2022 to Council for adoption of the Blackpool Community Safety Plan 2022-2025, which has been developed and produced by Blackpool's Community Safety Partnership.



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### **Present:**

Councillor Cross (in the Chair)

### Councillors

Baker	Collett	Kirkland	Smith
Benson	Cox	B Mitchell	Stansfield
Blackburn	Critchley	M Mitchell	Taylor
Brookes	Farrell	O'Hara	Walsh
Burdess	Galley	Owen	L Williams
Cain	Hobson	Robertson BEM	T Williams
Campbell	Hugo	D Scott	Wilshaw
Clapham	Hunter	Mrs Scott	
D Coleman	Hutton	R Scott	
G Coleman	Jackson	Sloman	

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenni Cook, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

### **1 THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor L Williams and

**Resolved:** That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Kathryn Benson be elected Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool for the municipal year 2022/2023.

Note: The meeting adjourned briefly to allow the mayoral investiture to take place.

### **2 THE MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Benson made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Mayor according to the requirements of the law and then took the Chair.

### **3 THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by the Mayor, Councillor Benson, seconded by Councillor L Williams and

**Resolved:** That in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Peter Hunter be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Blackpool, for the municipal year 2022/2023.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022

### 4 THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Hunter made a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor according to the requirements of the law.

### 5 THE MAYOR TO PAY THANKS IN RESPECT OF THE SERVICE OF THE EX-MAYOR

The Mayor paid thanks to Councillor Amy Cross and in doing acknowledged her service of three years including hosting virtual Council meetings during the pandemic, the range of events she had attended and funds raised for Empowerment as the mayoral charity. Thanks were also given to the deputy Mayors, Councillors Burdess and Hobson, and to the consort John Sillis. Political group leaders and other councillors also expressed their thanks to the ex-Mayor for her service.

Following presentation of the past mayor's medal, Councillor Cross spoke in reply and thanked those who had supported her during her mayoral years.

### 6 THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor, Councillor Benson, addressed the meeting in relation to her forthcoming year. Speeches of congratulations were then made by the political group leaders along with a letter of congratulations from Oberbuergermeister Tischler on behalf of the people of Bottrop, the Council's twin town in Germany.

### 7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 8 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS HELD ON 8 MARCH AND 5 MAY 2022

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 March 2022 and special Council meeting on 5 May 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members noted that the Council had received the Northern Housing Awards Local Authority of the Year Award 2022.

The Council noted the sad news of the death of former Mayoress, Nancy Callow, daughter of Councillor Mrs Callow and the late Peter Callow, former councillor.

The Mayor then moved the following resolution of condolence:

'The Council sends its deepest sympathy to Councillor Mrs Callow and the family and friends of former Mayoress Nancy Callow for their loss and places on record its recognition of her service as a former Mayoress'.

**Motion carried:** The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried unanimously.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022

A minute's silence was then held.

### 10 SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER

Members considered the report on the role of Scrutiny Lead Member and chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and proposals to re-appoint Councillor Mrs Callow to the position.

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

'To agree to re-appoint Councillor Maxine Callow as chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, as she is the current incumbent, has significant experience of undertaking scrutiny and has also served on the Executive'.

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

### 11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council considered a report on the appointment of committees for the 2022/2023 municipal year which had been proposed in accordance with the Council's Constitution and Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations.

Members considered the recommendations for committees to be reappointed according to their current terms of reference.

Although not subject to political balance rules, it was recommended that appointments to the Licensing Committee would be on a politically balanced basis and that the Committee would also appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee.

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

'1. To appoint the following Council committees, with powers and duties as set out in the Council's Constitution:

- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
- Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
- Audit Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Planning Committee
- Standards Committee
- Chief Officers Employment Committee

2. To appoint a Scrutiny Leadership Board, with the powers set out in the Council's constitution and for the Board to continue to have an adjusted political balance membership of three Labour, four Conservative (to be made up of the Chairs, Vice

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022

Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee) and also to add the non-aligned Independent Member as Chair of the Committee in line with the recommendation of agenda item 10.

3. To agree the political balance attached at Appendix 11(a) to the report and appointments to the above committees at Appendix 11(b) and to delegate authority to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to confirm appointments to co-opted positions throughout the year.
4. To reappoint the Licensing Committee with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (equating to a membership of 13 and a composition of seven Labour, five Conservative and one Blackpool Independent).
5. To request the Licensing Committee to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution including the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
6. To agree that any membership changes to committees or sub-committees during the course of the municipal year be reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader for implementation.
7. To agree to the memberships of the committees of the Council and their Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out in Appendix 11(b) to the report and that delegated authority is given to the committees themselves to determine changes to Chairs and Vice Chairs, in line with the principles set out in this report should the need arise for change during the municipal year.
8. To confirm the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board as set out in Appendix 11(b) to the report.
9. To agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly'.

**Amendment:** Councillor T Williams then proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded) the following amendment with regard to recommendation 7:

'To agree to the memberships of the committees of the Council and their Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out in Appendix 11(b) of the report except for the appointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Tourism, Economy and Communities, the Adult Social Care and Health and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees, with these positions to appointed as follows:

Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr G Walsh (Conservative), Vice Chair: Cllr F Jackson (Labour)

Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr M Scott (Conservative), Vice Chair: Cllr K Critchley (Labour)

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr A Stansfield (Conservative), Vice Chair: Cllr P Burdess (Labour)

and that delegated authority is given to the committees themselves to determine changes to Chairs and Vice Chairs, in line with the principles set out in this report should the need arise for change during the municipal year’.

Discussion then took place on the amendment and a range of views was expressed in relation to the proposals.

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

Recorded vote on the amendment:

**For the amendment:**

Councillors Baker, Cain, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Cox, Galley, B Mitchell, M Mitchell, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Sloman, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw – **Total 18.**

**Against the motion:** Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Brookes, Burdess, Campbell, Collett, Critchley, Cross, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, O’Hara, Owen, Smith, Taylor, L Williams - **Total 20.**

**Abstentions:** None

**Amendment lost:** The amendment was therefore lost.

Debate then took place on the original motion with members speaking for and against the proposals.

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

### 12 SCHEME OF DELEGATION / CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Members considered whether to make any changes to the scheme of delegation for which the Council had responsibility.

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

‘To agree that no changes are made to the scheme of delegation for which the Council has responsibility’.

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

### 13 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2022/2023

The Council considered the programme of meetings for the municipal year 2022/2023 and noted provisional meeting dates for May to July 2023.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022

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

- '1. To approve the calendar of meetings for 2022/23 as attached at Appendix 13(a) to the Council report.
2. To agree that meetings commence at 6pm as usual (set out at the end of the calendar of meetings at Appendix 13(a) to the report)'.

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

### 14 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

The Council considered a recommendation from the Standards Committee from its meeting on 19 April 2022 in relation to a revised Code of Conduct for members. Members noted that the Code incorporated elements from a model produced by the Local Government Association following a consultation exercise in relation to recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The Code had also been informed by workshops with the Council's independent persons of both Fylde and Blackpool Council along with Standards Committee members.

**Motion:** Councillor Benson proposed (and Councillor Clapham seconded):

- '1. To approve the revised Code of Conduct for Members as set out at Appendix 14(a) to the report and for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.
2. To note that training on the revised Code of Conduct will be arranged for all members'.

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

### 15 BLACKPOOL MEDAL

Members gave consideration to the proposals for the award of the Blackpool Medal to Mrs Elaine Smith MBE in relation to her service to the town and involvement in many Blackpool organisations.

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

'To agree in principle that Mrs Elaine Smith MBE be awarded the Blackpool Medal in recognition of her eminent service to the Borough and to request that the Director of Governance and Partnerships to organise a Special Meeting of Council, for the formal approval and award of this medal'.

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

**Mayor**

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2022

(The meeting ended at 3.43 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Tel: 01253 477127

E-mail: [lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk)

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## CORPORATE PORTFOLIOS

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The 'Corporate' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Lynn Williams – Leader of the Council
- Councillor Ivan Taylor – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance

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

## Strategic Issues

### Full Fibre and Wireless Blackpool – major growth planned

The establishment of the fibre spine by the Fibre Blackpool co-operative has catalysed private sector investment in Blackpool, with announcements made totaling around £90 million, taking us closer to the goal of every home and business having access to a full fibre connection. Recent connections include all of the new Blackpool Coastal Housing properties at Troutbeck, @thegrange and the new Conference Centre, with support for other regeneration projects such as Anchorsholme Park, the new museum and the planned new Central car park also in the offing. The current investment in CCTV and a new control room is also significantly benefiting from the Fibre spine. Further development plans include a pilot expansion project to 15 sites in Bispham, connecting schools, Council sites and a NHS health centre by the end of the summer. If the pilot is successful this will be expanded further to cover more schools, Council and NHS sites creating a public sector Full Fibre network.

The fibre spine has also enabled us to offer free public WiFi (Wireless Blackpool) at every tram stop and between the train station and the Winter Gardens, complementing existing coverage of all Council buildings and libraries. The network can attract up to 5,000 daily users, with over 76,000 users in May.

## Corporate Issues

### Financial Year 2021/22 – ongoing challenges in Children’s Services

The Provisional Revenue Outturn for 2021/22 is £149,280,000 compared with the approved budget of £149,062,000, therefore the Council is reporting a modest overspend of £218,000.

The year-end variance position is summarised as follows:

<b>Summary</b>	<b>2021/22 Variance £000</b>
Directorates	4,103
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	(3,353)
Strategic Leisure Assets	1,079
Leisure Assets – financed from Earmarked Reserves	(1,079)
Contributions and Contingencies, Levies and Capital Charges	(532)
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>

#### Directorates

The main reason for the net service overspend within the Directorates relates to Children’s Services at £4,455,000. The Children’s Social Care budget was increased by £8.173m in August 2020 following the approval of a Children’s Social Care Medium Term Financial Strategy (CSCMTFS). The additional investment was required to cover the historical increases in Looked After Children (LAC) numbers and unit costs, whilst also developing the placement market and increase the capacity within internal fostering. The CSMTFS aimed to reverse the current trend and this investment alongside other service improvements was planned to reduce placement spend by a third. However, LAC numbers have not reduced in line with the plan and placement unit costs have continued to increase significantly resulting in an overspend within the Children’s Social Care of £4,260k. As a result, we are revisiting the SCMTFS in summer 2022 in advance of setting the Council’s 2023/24 budget.

There was also an overspend of £900k against the Education Service line relating to £722k of Transport Services demand pressures and a historical savings target that has not been achieved. There are also pressures on income and staffing of £150k within the service. The balance of £28k relates to the net COVID-19 cost. However, other services within Children’s Services have underspent by £705k, mainly due to staff slippage and vacant posts during the Early Help Service restructure.

All other Directorates reported a combined net underspend position of £352,000.

### Budgets Outside the Cash Limit

Underspends of £3,353,000 within Budgets Outside the Cash Limit helped to mitigate the Directorate overspends. Treasury Management underspent due to record low temporary borrowing rates, though this area will now require careful management as interest rates begin to creep up. Concessionary Fares underspent by £938k due to COVID-19 funding being received, the compensation scheme used in 2020/21 being extended until the end of the 2021/22 financial year and a reduction in such passenger numbers. Subsidiary Companies also underspent by £525,000 due to the release of a long-term provision and an expected reduction in charges, mainly relating to debt management.

### Strategic Leisure Assets

The Strategic Leisure Assets cumulative overspend of £14,945,000 brought forward from 2020/21 is included within earmarked reserves along with the 2021/22 in-year overspend of £1,079,000. Offsetting this was a precautionary COVID-19 contingency of £2,987,000 which was agreed as part of the 2021/22 budget-setting process and applied in full at year-end. When the service begins to break-even it will then start to repay the reserve overspend. This is in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

### **Council Tax collection**

At the end of March 2022 the amount collected for Council Tax (excluding Police and Fire precepts) was £55.1m and the collection rate was 88.00%. This compares to £52.8m and 87.76% at the same point in 2020/21. The amount collected has risen by £2.3m which is mainly due to increases in both the Council Tax rate and base offset by the impact of COVID-19, primarily deferred payments and revised instalment arrangements. The target collection rate is still 97.5% over a 4-year collection period.

As at 31 March 2022 the level of arrears has increased to £24.0m (compared to £21.7m in 2020/21) and the provision for bad debts has increased to £9.9m (compared to £9.0m in 2020/21). These reflect the current economic climate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rising costs of living and the risks associated with the CTRS.

## **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

At the end of March 2022 the amount collected (excluding Police and Fire precepts) in respect of the CTRS and Council Tax for those who have to pay CTRS was £2.89m and the collection rate was 63.26%. This compares to £1.92m and 66.78% at the same point in 2020/21, the latter year's net collectable having been reduced by applying the £150 COVID-19 grant support to working-age households. The underlying rate of collection of CTRS was under greater pressure than 2020/21 due to accumulated arrears, limits on the amount that could be recovered from Attachment of Benefits of £3.60 per week, the impact of COVID-19, the ending of furlough payments in September and the temporary £20 uplift to Universal Credit in the autumn.

During 2021/22 the Council received a government grant of £2.6m for the COVID-19 Council Tax Hardship fund. This grant was used to reduce the amount payable for working-age council tax support recipients.

## **National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) collection**

At the end of month 12 the amount collected for Business Rates was £29.17m and the collection rate was 92.27%. This compares positively to £15.48m and 85.77% at the same point in 2020/21, excluding the 'Extended Retail/Nurseries etc.' relief provided by central government. In 2020/21 100% relief was provided. In 2021/22 a new relief scheme was introduced which provided 3 months' relief (April 2021 to June 2021) at 100%, and 9 months' relief (July 2021 to March 2022) at 66%. For 2022/23 the relief for the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors reduces further to 50%.

Positively, as at 31 March 2022 the level of business rate arrears has decreased to £9.6m (compared to £9.8m in 2020/21). Due to the situation regarding COVID-19 the Government has extended the deadline for the completion of the NNDR 3 (actuals) return until 30 June 2022. Figures for the level of appeals provision, bad debt provision and shares of the surplus or deficit will not therefore be available until this NNDR 3 return is completed.

## **£150 Council Tax rebate**

The government announced a £150 Energy Rebate payment to most households living in a Council Tax band A to D property earlier this year. It has been a significant amount of work to make these payments but we successfully paid 39,085 people, who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit, into their bank accounts in early May. Where people do not pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit, a Post Office solution was put in place where the Council Tax payer can take a letter and identification proof to any Post Office and they can exchange the barcode on the

letter for £150 in cash. We have issued 25,301 letters in batches, and as at 1 June 2022, 73% of these had been cashed. We are still working through queries and if someone does not cash their payment before the expiry date of the letter we will post the payment onto their Council Tax account. In addition to this, work is now commencing on developing a discretionary scheme. We have received £524,850 to support others who are either not eligible under the main scheme eligibility criteria or where we may wish to give additional support. Early modelling of potential options is underway.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Blackpool and Lancaster University Innovation Catalyst**

The innovation catalyst is funded by the Community Renewal Fund, with the ultimate goal of encouraging a cluster of Net Zero data centres in Blackpool which take advantage of high speed local and international connections. These would be powered by renewable sources of energy, with various sources of power currently being explored, alongside the potential to make use of the waste heat – which could make the project net carbon negative, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

The catalyst is a taskforce that consists of stakeholders from the University, Council, business, digital infrastructure and renewables sectors and is working towards holding a symposium at the Winter Gardens on 15 September 2022 where it will share its learning on the opportunity open to us.

### **Increasing Digital Inclusion in Blackpool**

The Digital Blackpool project is a brand-new initiative delivered by Groundwork and Blackpool Council. The pilot project aims to improve digital access, providing residents with the equipment, skills and confidence needed to access the digital world. Through a referral, residents can borrow either a Chromebook device or 4G connectivity for up to 42 days. The Chromebooks have been built from recycled laptops which would otherwise have potentially been disposed of, contributing to sustainability. Demand has grown steadily, with residents using devices for activities such as job searching, online training and skills development.

### **The Sandcastle - John Child**

In a day of mixed emotions on 9 June we celebrated the Sandcastle Waterpark's Managing Director, John Child's 36<sup>th</sup> year working at the Internationally acclaimed and multi award winning venue. John has also spent 25 years at the helm overseeing multiple improvements and

has helped transform the business into a successful and profitable Tourism attraction that is renowned for its culture of Guest Service Excellence and Inclusion for All. John started as a lifeguard on 9 June 1986 after leaving University, he has seen many changes over the years including the change of management back to the Council and the introduction of innovative and exciting new rides and features. After a very busy and profitable 2021, the most successful year the venue has seen, John felt it was time for a fresh adventure and will be moving on after his marathon stint. We would like to thank him for his service to the business and to the town and wish him well for the future. John leaves an excellent team at Sandcastle Waterpark who will continue to run the venue whilst the Board and Blackpool Council consider new management arrangements.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Procurement – new system for monitoring spend**

The procurement team are working with colleagues in Finance and Exchequer Services to migrate details of 1,200 contracts onto the new TechnologyOne Finance System, due to go live in April 2023. This will help us improve the link between contract spend and budgets.

Of just over £227m third party spend in the 2021/22 financial year, an extremely encouraging 46% was with local providers.

### **Millions of pounds of local benefit delivered by Social Value processes**

Social Value is included in the evaluation assessment criteria of tenders awarded by the Corporate Procurement Team as a way of ensuring that the benefit of local public service spending is felt by local businesses and people whenever possible.

We track progress on Social Value by using a series of indicators selected from the national “TOMS” (Themes, Outcomes, Measures) framework. The table below shows the total social value being delivered to date on 6 key projects currently underway across the borough, which equates to over £20 million, with figures from Showtown yet to come. These highlight the benefits of adopting social value as a part of assessing tenders, with the actual value achieved by the council through social value components of other projects meaning the overall figure is significantly higher. The bulk was from the Conference Centre (£10,948,242) but significant amounts were achieved across all projects listed (Holiday Inn - £2,797,917; Colton House - £380,850; Hounds Hill Shopping Centre - £1,598,099; Troutbeck - £4,589,446):

Social Value Reference	Measure	Overall Target	Current Overall Total to date (June '22)
NT1	Number of local people employed (FTE)	18.5	16.33
NT3	Number of employees (FTE) taken on who are long term unemployed	17	7
NT7	Number of hours dedicated supporting unemployed people into work	50	39
NT8	Local school and college visits – delivering careers talks, curriculum advice etc.	171	291.5
NT9	No of training opportunities on contract (BTEC, C&G, NVQ,HNC) that have been completed during the year	54	56
NT10	No. of apprenticeships on the contract that have either been completed during the year, or that will be supported	156	8
NT11	No. of hours dedicated to support young people into work (e.g. CV advice under 24	136 plus 6 sessions of workshops	812 plus 1 session of workshops
NT12	No. of weeks spent on meaningful work placements or pre-employment course;	60	76
NT13	Meaningful work placements that pay Minimum or National Living wage	10	1
NT15	Provision of expert business advice to VCSEs and SMEs (e.g. financial advice, meet the buyer events	28	9
NT19	TOTAL amount (£) spent through contract with LOCAL micro, small and MSME's		20,219,947
NT20	Demonstrate commitment to work practices that improve staff wellbeing, recognise mental health Hrs / sessions	60 hours and 9 sessions	79 hours and 6 sessions
NT21	Diversity training for subcontractors	20	50
NT25	Initiatives to be taken to tackle homelessness	40	4
NT28	Donations or in-kind contributions to local community projects (£ & material)	£25,000	£25,046
NT29	No hours volunteering time spent towards local community projects	104 hours and 20 days	169 hours

In addition to the social value delivered on the above key projects in the table, other social value work has been taking place across various projects in the town. For example, an event was held on 1 March 2022 at The Winter Gardens to help inspire Blackpool's construction small to mid-size enterprises (SMEs) to encourage them to upskill their teams on social value in order

to improve future capacity. Attendees were also able to hear from our Climate Team about the role that businesses can play in addressing the climate emergency.

With regards to individual suppliers, Robertson Construction have been working with employment teams, Positive Steps into Work and More Positive Together, to provide group and individual tailored sessions to help those aged 16+ facing long term unemployment with interviews, career/CV and specific construction jobs. The Robertson team have also given specialist volunteer time (50 hrs +) to assist Counselling in the Community (New Waterloo Road mental health and community hub) with building control drawings, risk assessments and approximately £500 worth of donated materials to help fit out the building .

Arrow County have supported Blackpool's Clean and Green Week (May 2022) by providing litter picking equipment for volunteers which will then go on to be donated to the Langdale Green team. The Langdale Green team and Blackpool Centre for Independent Living (BCIL) have also received support from Graham Construction who replaced all vital equipment that was stolen from the centre's premises. The £7k replacement tools handover ceremony was a great success and brought leaders, operational and support staff and volunteers together in a celebratory style gathering on 12 May 2022 at Blackpool's New Langdale facility for Independent Living.

## PEOPLE PORTFOLIOS

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The 'People' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Gillian Campbell - Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth and Transience
- Councillor Jo Farrell - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Community Health and Wellbeing
- Councillor Jim Hobson - Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools

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

## Strategic Issues

### OFSTED Annual Conversation

Blackpool officers met with OFSTED for the Annual Conversation in May, with robust discussions covering Schools, Early Years, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Early Help and Children's Social Care. OFSTED continues to see an improving picture in Blackpool across all services for children and young people and we welcomed the inspectors for a monitoring visit in the week commencing 13 June. Focussing on Children and Families who are supported with Child in Need and Child Protection plans, the inspectors planned to review files, speak with children and families and meet with staff and managers from across these services. We look forward to receiving their feedback from the visit in the coming month.

I am pleased to report that we have welcomed Chris Coyle in to the post of Assistant Director for Children's Social Care this month. Chris joins us from Lancashire County Council and is looking forward to working with Vicky Gent, the Director of Children's Services and the team to ensure that the children and families are well supported.

### Charging Reforms Summary

The Government is reforming the way people in England pay for their care. From October 2023 there will be a cap placed on care costs which means that people who are 18+ in England will not pay over £86,000 in eligible personal care charges during their lifetime. The current upper capital limit of £23,250 for local authority financial support will be increased to £100,000.

People in England will also be able to ask the Local Authority to arrange their care and support no matter what their income and savings are, currently those with savings over the limit tend to arrange their own care.

A person's progress towards the care cap limit will be captured within their care account. In order to access this, they must have a needs assessment under the Care Act 2014. Services that Blackpool Council deem meet their eligible needs will be counted. These include care at home, day care and direct payments as well as 24 hour care.

Along with all Local Authorities nationally, Blackpool Council is currently undertaking fair cost of care exercises with providers to improve understanding of how much it costs to provide care in the specific area, including assessing the changes over recent years and still ongoing in overheads and staffing costs.

Blackpool Council has signed up to be a Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Trailblazer, along with a small number of other local authorities in order to pilot the reforms. This means that we will begin early Care Act needs assessments and financial assessments under the new guidance in September 2022 and, if everything progresses to plan, we will go fully live in January 2023 which is 10 months ahead of all other areas. There is funding for Trailblazers to enable them to do this. Staff members from Adult Social Care, Accountancy, Revenues and Benefits and ICT services are involved in the project group.

We are currently working closely with the DHSC to develop national guidance and implementation of the reforms alongside other trailblazers. Alongside this, the Financial Reforms and Billing Project Group are planning how we will implement the reforms locally and what this will look like for the people who use our services. The DHSC trailblazer team are visiting Blackpool on 13 June 2022. Being a Trailblazer gives us an early sight of the many potential impacts of the charging reforms, ensures that Blackpool's position is clearly understood within a national context and gives us extra input from DHSC, the Local Government Association (LGA), the Care Provider Alliance, and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

### **Community Engagement**

The Parks Service Community Engagement Officer is making valuable contact with our "Friends of..." groups, helping to gain feedback and public consultations for future projects, such as our Park Development Plans and Stanley Park Masterplan. We have also ensured several projects were successfully installed such as the floral clock linked to The Queen's jubilee.

## **Corporate Issues**

### **'Making Moves' Tier II programme funding extension**

Active Blackpool has received over 200 referrals onto the Adult Weight Management programme which began in September 2021. Delivered within leisure centres and community venues, the 12 week programme is the traditional face-to-face Tier II weight management programme for overweight and obese adults with a BMI between 25 - 39.9. Funding from Public Health has been extended which will allow the programme to continue until August 2023.

### **Blackpool Youth Games**

Blackpool Youth Games is making a welcome return for 2022 after an absence of 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A weeklong celebration of school sport will take place at Blackpool Sports Centre and Stanley Park from Monday 20 June through to Friday 24 June, and will see a combination of old favourites including football, netball and athletics along with new events including quidditch, glowfit and foot-golf in an attempt to provide opportunities for as many children and young people as possible. Blackpool Youth Games is the highlight of every school year, but this year more than ever it will be the perfect opportunity to bring schools together for five days of fun, physical activity and friendship.

### **Lancashire School Games**

The Lancashire School Games is once again heading back to Blackpool and will see 1,500 talented children and young people from across the county come together for a sporting spectacle that will feature eight different events for both primary and secondly school aged participants. Qualifying events have been taking place throughout the spring and summer terms to determine who will represent Team Blackpool to go head to head against their Lancashire counterparts on Tuesday 5 July. The event will be the culmination of another great year of PE, School Sport and Physical Activity for Blackpool Schools and we are looking forward to cheering them all on.

### **Catering Services win "Peas Please" Veg-O-Meter Award**

In the first live ceremony for two years, the Food Foundation's executive director, Anna Taylor, presented awards to the seven category winners of the 2022 Peas Please Prizes. Singled out for special mention was Blackpool Catering Services who scooped the Veg-O-Meter prize for achieving a winning 171% increase in the number of vegetable portions served, as well as dramatically boosting the quantity of vegetables served in children's school holiday meals.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Parks Tennis Courts investment**

In October 2021, the Government announced it was investing £22m into public tennis courts across Britain. This funding, together with an investment from the LTA of £8.5m, is aimed at bringing public park tennis courts in very poor or unplayable condition back to life for the benefit of their local community. The initiative is also aimed at engaging 1 million more players in tennis, supporting health and wellbeing outcomes. Active Blackpool are working with the LTA and have been approved at Stage 1 of the application process. The capital investment will see the development of four courts in Stanley Park and renovations to the existing courts in Cavendish Road Park, Claremont Park and Anchorsholme Park. The £150,000 investment will also see the introduction of a gate system which will allow tennis courts to be booked and help monitor the usage and provide participation data.

### **Stanley Park 3G Pitch development**

Working in partnership with the Football Foundation, Lancashire Football Association and following community engagement with grassroots football clubs in Blackpool, £250,000 of funding has been secured to convert the existing sand-dressed pitch which is in poor condition to a 3G pitch in Stanley Park. Contractors have been appointed and work is expected to start during the summer.

### **Children's Social Care**

Demand for support from Children's Services remains high at the front door and throughout the system, but worries and concerns about children continue to be responded to promptly. We have seen a recent rise in the number of Children Looked After by the local authority in Blackpool and continue to work hard to ensure that support is available to help families when it is needed so that families can stay together. We are seeing evidence that the Early Help Partnership Strategy, launched last year, is having an impact. The number of children open to children's social care has fallen by 9% since June 2021, while the number supported by early help services has risen by 30% across the past year. The total number of children with child protection plans has fallen steadily over the past year (down by 20% since the end of June 2021). Current analysis tells us that the recent rise in the number of children entering care has been chiefly driven by a small number of large families.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Blackpool and Fylde Coast Place Based Partnership Virtual Ward Development**

Colleagues from Blackpool Council's Adults Department have been working closely with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, Fylde Coast CCG and Fylde Coast Medical Services (FCMS) partners in the development of the Virtual Ward model for Blackpool and Fylde Coast. Social care in its broadest context is the golden thread that runs through this development and Blackpool Council has been an active partner over recent months helping to influence and shape the model we have today.

Our Council services are providing out of hours monitoring via the Vitaline Service and linking in with FCMS and a GP practice to support people with stable long term conditions to help prevent hospital admissions. Our adults Social Workers via Transfer of Care HUB and Rapid Response are joining the daily multi-disciplinary meetings with clinicians and supporting decision making around how best to care for people in their own homes. Our internal Homecare Service is providing the additional wrap around care that might be required by those individuals who, for a short period of time, might need some extra care and support.

Funding to cover social care interdependences is being considered by the Integrated Care System (ICS) and Blackpool is joining the meetings and working groups to explore this with other Local Authorities across the ICS. However, instead of waiting to secure funding, we have approached this development from a position of 'doing the right thing for Blackpool residents'. The Virtual Ward approach to meeting holistic care and health needs in people's own homes absolutely ensures our residents receive the 'right care, in the right place at the right time' and truly delivers tangible person centred care to people when they most need it.

### **Blackpool Autism Partnership**

We are currently constituting our Blackpool Autism Partnership to take us through the local delivery of the National Autism Strategy, which covers every area of life from childhood through to education, employment, lifestyle, housing, leisure, general health and care and specialist diagnostics and service delivery. Membership will encourage autistic people to be visible leaders and influencers in the development of actions, to guide the delivery of our local strategy and its plans, which will be much broader than health and care services.

On the ground in our social care service, the Autism Team is now fully staffed and fully engaged with those people with a primary diagnosis of autism. Demand for the service is high. The team has good contacts with health diagnostic staff, working closely with them. This team also experiences high demand relating to the needs of autistic children approaching adulthood and entering Adult Services. One of the key success criteria for this team is its individually person-

centred approach to support – tailored to the needs, aspirations and wishes of each person, and at a pace appropriate to them. This high level of bespoke responsiveness is already delivering amazing results for autistic adults of all abilities that have not been well-served by the existing health and care system but poses a challenge for how to meet growing demand – a problem that the Autism Partnership will need to get a grip of and will require a whole system response.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

The multi-agency partnership for SEND has been working to develop the action plan to address the concerns raised during the recent SEND inspection and to ensure that there is assurance that we continue to build on the good work that was recognised and address areas for development across education, social care and health. A recognition that meeting the needs of children with SEND and their families is everyone’s business and ensuring that universal services are inclusive and promote independence is a key area for attention in the coming year.

### **Cosy Homes in Lancashire**

The Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) Initiative, led by Blackpool Public Health and supported by all the Lancashire Local Authorities continues to support low income households living in energy inefficient homes to access funding to install energy saving measures. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure residents live in a warm home and have a reliable heating source. In the last 12 months the scheme has fitted 75 first time central heating systems and replaced 48 broken boilers using emergency funding in Blackpool.

In addition, CHiL has successfully secured £23m of Government Green Homes Grant funding to install insulation, green energy technologies and window/door upgrades to low income households across Lancashire, contributing to the delivery of our Climate Emergency ambitions. The scheme is ongoing but will deliver energy saving measures to approximately 2,400 fuel poor households living in properties with EPC ratings of D, E, F and G, of which 275 properties are in Blackpool.

CHiL has also secured £8.5m of Government Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding which offers grants of up to £25,000 to install energy saving measures including low carbon technologies, insulation and single glazed window upgrades to low income households who do not have gas central heating as their main heating source. The scheme runs until March 2023 and is currently being marketed to 5,000 eligible properties in Blackpool. The Government has indicated that HUG will be available to Local Authorities until at least 2025, so the intention will be to submit additional funding applications to enable more properties across Lancashire to benefit.

## PLACE PORTFOLIOS

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The 'Place' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Lynn Williams - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Councillor Ivan Taylor – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance (Housing)
- Councillor Neal Brookes - Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
- Councillor Jane Hugo - Cabinet Member for Climate Change
- Councillor Mark Smith - Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation

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

## Strategic Issues

### **Blackpool honours Her Majesty with Platinum Jubilee celebrations**

Blackpool marked the start of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in our inimitable way, with a spectacular seafront display of trams, lights, lasers and fireworks. After staging one of the largest heritage tram parades in living memory, the resort joined thousands of locations and landmarks across the UK in taking part in the Jubilee Beacon Lighting ceremony. Following a reading of the Royal Proclamation and a bugler fanfare, the heart on the centre of The Blackpool Tower revealed a countdown to the firing of red, white and blue laser beams from three separate locations: the top of The Blackpool Tower, Pleasure Beach and the Blackpool and Fylde College campus. I'm sure we all feel that we did the Queen proud and would all again send our very best wishes to her in reaching this unprecedented milestone for a reigning UK and Commonwealth monarch.

### **Levelling Up Fund Round 2 application**

As highlighted in the Executive decision [EX19/2022 Levelling Up Fund](#) agreed at its meeting on 25 April 2022, the Council is required to submit bids into the cross-departmental Levelling Up

Fund via an online portal by 6 July 2022. An enhanced transport-specific bid based on the original Levelling Up Fund Round 1 Town Centre Access Scheme (TCAS) will be submitted. There will also be two further separate bids, one to support the Multiversity scheme to deliver a carbon-neutral facility for the College and the other with regards to regenerating the former Post Office on Abingdon Street into a private sector-led boutique hotel scheme.

### **Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and Multiply – a work in progress**

As highlighted in the Council Executive meeting on 16 May 2022, an investment plan for Shared Prosperity Fund must be submitted by 1 August 2022. An initial exercise to pull together potential projects has identified schemes well in excess of the funding available, with the schemes now being prioritised by members of the Town Deal Investment Panel working with Council officers.

A separate Investment Plan for the Multiply programme, which is designed to raise numeracy skills and which will be funded by money earmarked by the government for the SPF, will need to be submitted by 30 June 2022.

### **LGA funding awarded for solar study**

The Council has been successful in applying for £25k of Local Government Association funding from the Housing Advisers Programme. The money will be used to assess the potential power which could be generated by using roofspace on Blackpool Coastal Housing and My Blackpool Home properties. Key to the work is looking at business and delivery models which would ensure the financial benefits of solar power can be shared with tenants. Initial work is underway to assess the potential of the properties, with the study due to complete in the Autumn.

## **Corporate Issues**

### **Geoff Reeves**

Our colleague Geoff Reeves who retired only last year died suddenly in Victoria Hospital in March of this year. Geoff was well known to hundreds of businesses in Blackpool having successfully led the Council's Get Started Business Start Up service and before that working with the Prince's Trust on business support. He was passing on his wealth of business experience to people in his home town after serving as General Manager of Coca Cola in the UK and running his own start up business. Geoff grew up on Grange Park Estate and was passionate about his home town. Anybody who met him would describe him as always happy

and cheery despite his own health struggles in later years and his positivity was infectious. Many businesses in town owe their success to Geoff and he will be sadly missed by them and all of his colleagues here at the Council. Our thoughts, of course, remain with Geoff's family and friends who have lost a truly remarkable human being.

### **The End of an Era - Will Britain, Head of Highways and Traffic Management, retires**

I am sad to report to you all the retirement of one of our most well-known figures of staff on 31 May after 43 years of service. Will Britain started working for Blackpool Council's Highways and Traffic Management Division back in 1979, working his way through roles which gave him a wealth of experience, expertise and knowledge in highway services. In 2015 he was appointed as Head of Highways and Traffic Management, where he developed and led the service to be an exemplar of national good practice promoted by the Department for Transport. In particular he formed the Local Council's Road Innovation Group (LCRIG), which shares good practice and procurement in all Highway matters and has become the largest group in the sector with more than ninety local authority members, hosting annually the country's largest highways conference – a fitting legacy of his leadership and collaborative skills. His passion, enthusiasm and commitment is legendary in the sector and he has had a whole host of projects recognised nationally, including Project 30 and Project Amber. Recently awarded a lifetime achievement award at the National Highways Conference by the Department for Transport, Will has truly been an inspiration in the highways sector and a great leader, champion and ambassador. I am sure we would all like to send him our best wishes for his very well-earned retirement.

### **Another step forward for Blackpool Central**

Delivery of the Blackpool Central scheme has now commenced on site with the construction of the new multi-storey car park, as part of the 'Enabling Phase'. This is yet another major milestone and step forward in the delivery of the project by the developers, Nikal Ltd. The work on the car park began at the end of March 2022 and should complete in August 2023, with the Council taking a long leasehold interest in the occupation and management of the car park once it is completed. Once complete, it will free up the remaining surface carpark land in preparation for the delivery of the main leisure attractions (Phase 1). This will be followed by the remodelling and refurbishment of the King Edward buildings along Central Drive (Phase 2).

The Council has agreed new short-term lease arrangements with occupants of Bonny Street Market and the King Edward Public House, allowing them to continue to trade until the end of November when they will vacate the site in preparation for redevelopment. The compulsory purchase order, which was submitted by the Council in July 2021 and would see the acquisition of the outstanding third party interests, is currently awaiting determination by the Planning

Inspectorate. Discussions continue to take place with central government departments with respect to the relocation for the courts, which would facilitate the delivery of Phase 3 of the Developers proposals.

### **Houndshill extension proceeding to plan**

The Steel frameworks adjacent to the existing car park elevation and further groundworks were completed week commencing 30 May 2022. Scaffolding to the West Elevation is now in place and demolition to external walls has commenced to make the connection with the existing centre. The cinema operator is finalising discussions with a world leading cinema technology supplier and discussions are currently ongoing with a potential new department store retailer to replace the former Debenhams department store.

### **Rejuvenated Abingdon Street Market draws closer**

The first phase of the works to transform Abingdon Street Market is expected to complete later this year, ready for fit out by a new market operator. The appointment of the operator will be crucial in realising our vision for the future market and food hall offer, with Council officers engaged in discussions over this currently. Details of the provider will be announced in due course.

### **Town Deal Scheme Progress Update**

Progress on the seven Town Deals schemes are as follows:

1. **Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone** - Wildes Consultant Engineers have been appointed to lead on design feasibility through to detailed design and the compilation of the specification and tender documents. Area F (junction at Division Lane) is at the detailed design stage and Areas A (Amy Johnson Way/Airport east link) C (Amy Johnson Way realignment) D (New link road – Amy Johnson Way to Common Edge) and E (Common Edge corridor/School Road junction) are all currently at the outline stage. A desktop ground investigation scope has been prepared and a ground investigation scoping report has been published. The sports pavilion car park is 60% complete which, when complete, will release 194 additional parking spaces for the Common Edge site. The project has completed the purchase of a key property within the project site and planning permission for its demolition can now be sought. However, inflation is now a major concern as construction related prices have increased by up to 25%. The project delivery team has commenced discussions on how to mitigate/address the inflationary issue.

2. **The Youth Hub ('The Platform')** – The formal launch of The Platform at the Youth Hub took place on 17 March 2022. 148 of the 300 target beneficiaries have engaged with 'The Platform', with 22 of the 75 target beneficiaries having moved into education or training as a result of the support given, whilst a further 18 beneficiaries have moved into employment as a result of the support given.
3. **Revoe Community Sports Village** – After saving £200,000 on the contract following a two-round tender process, work has been undertaken to remove spoil from the surrounding site, with our attention now turning to the land preparation tender process. A draft funding agreement has been prepared between the Council and Blackpool Football Club, whilst the scope of works is currently under review.
4. **The Edge** – Planning approval has been received and progress with surveys, demolition works and branding are on track, with start on site expected in late August / early September 2022. Work is progressing to agree the final scope of works and pricing with the appointed main contractor, Eric Wright Group. The expected completion of tender is maximum price and therefore formal Council funding agreement and contract for works is expected to be in place by end of July 2022. The forecast cost currently exceeds the budget but this will be addressed through the agreement of the Agreed Maximum Price. Funding is also being sought for measures to address the energy efficiency of the building and therefore the overall carbon footprint.
5. **The Illuminations** – Designs for the 2022 Illuminations have been finalised, which includes the new proposed illuminations feature, 'Odyssey'. Currently, two large 3D beach ball features and tower projection improvements have been delivered and the rebuild of the Venus Reborn tableau to include three large LED screens completed. The cliffs tableaux and road sections have been upgraded with internal LED lighting, with feeder pillars installed around the town. The next step is to undertake improvements to Talbot Square and the Talbot Road network.
6. **Multiversity** - The memorandum of understanding between Blackpool and the Fylde College and the Council has now been signed. The current designs for the Multiversity are to be amended as part of the process of securing the funding to deliver the Multiversity including a Levelling Up Fund bid submission by July 2022. Business Properties in the targeted area for land acquisition have received letters and negotiations to acquire have commenced.

- 7. Blackpool Central Courts Relocation** – A demolition strategy report has been commissioned and received from Hermolle Associates. A geotechnical survey has been undertaken to support the structural report, with boreholes and ground investigation works being undertaken on site. Her Majesty’s Court and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) are assessing the proposed relocation site, Devonshire Road. An analysis of the costs has been undertaken by the Council's internal Chartered Quantity Surveyors to inform the proposed budget position and anticipated project costs. No definitive decision from HM Treasury has yet been provided to HMCTS on funding the new courts buildings.

### **Staff Sustainability Alliance – greening our work**

I am pleased to report that the latest development on our path to net zero is the formation of a new group by and for staff who want to play a more active part in making the Council more sustainable. The Climate Assembly made it clear that people wanted to see the Council “getting its own house in order” so we would be seen as a credible local leader on the decarbonisation agenda. The group will be led by the Green and Blue Infrastructure Manager and has already started work on a host of projects from litter picking and improving recycling in our offices through to sharing information on Electric Vehicles.

### **Commonwealth Baton Relay**

Blackpool has been selected as one of the places to host The Queen’s Baton Relay ahead of this year’s Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The relay began with a five-day tour of London during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and then resumed an international journey taking in the Falkland Islands, Channel Islands, the Isle Of Man and the UK home nations. On Saturday 16 July 2022, the relay will arrive in Blackpool for a special event where the baton will be paraded on the Comedy Carpet and in The Blackpool Tower. The relay will then move on to other parts of England before finishing its journey in Birmingham for the Games Opening Ceremony on 28 July 2022.

### **Let’s go on with the Show...town**

The Showtown museum project is now well into its final phase, with Conlon Construction anticipating completion of the building works by the autumn. Meanwhile, our exhibition contractors are busy developing the main exhibition displays based around our six themes: the seaside, magic, circus, the Illuminations, dance and shows and will be able to start their own work on site over the summer. For those of you who cannot wait, our learning and engagement team have set up an activity hub on Victoria Street with lots of fun activities to whet the appetite over the summer.

## **Transforming Services**

### **A fourth night of Fireworks**

A fourth fireworks event has been added to Blackpool's autumn events programme as part of a new sponsorship deal with Coral Island. The seafront family entertainment centre will put its name to the three World Fireworks Championship Blackpool events that were announced earlier this year and also to a new UK showcase display in October half-term. Three countries will participate over alternate Saturdays on 17 September, 1 October and 15 October, with the showcase event taking place on Friday 28 October 2022.

### **Playground Investments**

Over the next few months we will see the start of considerable investment within seven of our playgrounds which include Stanley Park, Bispham Cliff Tops, Gynn Gardens and more. The playground improvements include the renewal of existing equipment, new equipment and new layouts.

### **Ranger Service**

The Rangers are continuing to educate children in outdoor learning with investment from ward councillors to improve Revoe Gardens, purchase equipment and fund further sessions. The Rangers are also organising regular events which included a Jubilee event for children living in the 7 priority wards as identified in the funding specification to attend, which included learning activities, refreshments, cook and eat sessions and funded lunches.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Destination Marketing**

Blackpool has launched its biggest ever marketing campaign "Only in Blackpool", which has been spearheaded by a new "spokesbird" Nigel C Gull. The £1.3 million partnership between Merlin Entertainments, Blackpool Council, Blackpool Tourism Business Improvement District and other partners features the specially-created seagull puppet, voiced by actor and comedian Johnny Vegas. The campaign seeks to showcase our resort's wide range of attractions and reaffirm its position as the UK's capital of fun and ultimate destination for families.

### **Stanley Park Skate Park**

A new £220,000 skate park facility in Stanley Park was opened on 17 May 2022. The Skate Park was developed in collaboration with the local community through the development of the Stanley Park Skate Park Group. The group raised the required funds from Sport England, Suez Communities Trust and Blackpool Council through developer commuted sums contributions. The street style skate park was designed and built by a world renowned specialist from Latvia and includes ramps, steps and rails.

### **Tree Planting**

The Parks Development Team has been making good progress in all areas to enhance our parks and green spaces. We are planning numerous tree planting projects which will be implemented within the planting season. This includes restoring tree avenues and vistas within our parks, community tree planting projects which are being led by the Rangers and by our Parks Volunteer Coordinator, whilst also working with external partners and Enveco to enable successful tree planting bids.

## **COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS HUGO, JACKSON AND T WILLIAMS**

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This report updates the Council on the work of the Combined Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is made up of 25 Councillors (19 representatives from Lancashire County Council three from Blackburn and Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met on three occasions, 13 December 2021, 21 February 2022 and 25 April 2022. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of those meetings and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

### **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 13 DECEMBER 2021**

#### **1. Automatic fire alarm attendance policy**

Following a consultation exercise, the Planning committee at its meeting held 15 November 2021 made a recommendation to the Authority to adopt a false alarm reduction and emergency call management policy which would bring Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service into line with other Fire and Rescue Services in the North West and nationally.

The Authority endorsed the recommendation to adopt the policy which includes the exemption of certain premises: Grade 1 and 2\* heritage premises (\* subject to meeting specific criteria), Primary and Secondary Education premises and premises with 'Enhanced Reliability Alarm Systems'. A three-month implementation phase to engage stakeholders would be undertaken. Fire Alarm Monitoring Organisations would be required to sign up to refreshed 'call back' agreements. The new policy would be launched from 1 April 2022 with changes implemented by day in year 1 (08:00hrs to 19:00hrs) and during the night from year 2 with a review to Planning committee after the first 12 months.

#### **2. Member champion activity**

The Authority appointed its Member Champions at its Annual meeting in June and current Member Champions are:

- Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay
- Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Reports relating to the activity of the Member Champions are provided on a regular basis to the Authority. Since the last meeting, all Champions had undertaken their respective role in accordance with defined terms of reference.

### **3. Fire protection reports**

The Authority discussed a report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents. Fire protection and business support information was provided, and Members noted that there were 7 arson convictions during the period which amounted to circa 28 years' custodial sentences.

### **4. Operational incidents of interest**

The Authority received information relating to operational incidents of note since the last Authority meeting. As part of the report members received a presentation by Lyndsay Sielski, Crew Manager, Response and Emergency Planning and Bekki Ford, Safety, Health and Environment Advisor on the activities and benefits of the Service's search dogs and wellbeing / trauma support dogs.

### **5. Collaboration**

The Chief Fire Officer advised that, following the announcement from the Prime Minister the previous evening regarding the implementation of Plan B measures in response to the Covid-19 Omicron variant, Health colleagues had contacted partners to assist with the expansion of the vaccination programme. The Service had been involved with the vaccination programme since December 2020 and continued to be involved however, support would be increased over the coming weeks.

## **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 21 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **1. Pay policy statement for 2022/2023**

In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 a pay policy statement for 2022/23 was considered. The pay policy published data on senior salaries and the structure of the workforce and demonstrated the principles of transparency. The pay policy statement set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration

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

## **2. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services update**

Following the recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services the Service received a debrief 9 February 2022 however, Inspection reports were expected to be published in the late spring 2022 although no specific dates had yet been confirmed. When the final report was received in summer it would provide clarity and direction, enabling focusing of resources on the areas requiring strengthening to ensure the Service continued towards its aim of being graded as outstanding.

Members were updated on the national state of fire report produced by Sir Thomas Windsor which was released in January 2022. The report highlighted that overall, nationally there had been progress from round 1 inspections with improvements in culture and people and investment in fire protection. However, an area identified as being problematic was the resourcing and prioritising of prevention work. Other areas identified as requiring further improvement included the diversity of recruitment and challenges around the on-call duty system.

## **3. Financial strategy including revenue budget 2022/23 - 2026/27**

The Financial Strategy encompassed: the Treasury Management Strategy, Reserves and Balances Policy, the Capital Strategy and Budget and the Revenue Budget.

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2022/23 of £63.0m. The Authority considered council tax options for 2022/23 which met the requirements to deliver a balanced budget and maintain an adequate level of reserves and determined a £5.00 increase (6.9%) resulting in a council tax of £77.27 for a Band D property.

## **4. Community risk management plan 2022 - 2027**

In July 2021 the Planning Committee approved a draft Integrated Risk Management Plan along with the revised name '*Community Risk Management Plan*' for public consultation. The Plan outlined the approach to be taken to identify and mitigate risk within Lancashire for the next 5 years. After a 10-week consultation period at its meeting in November 2021, the Planning Committee agreed amendments and that the consultation was adequate in respect of scale and scope. The Authority considered and endorsed the refreshed Community Risk Management Plan which would be published in April 2022.

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**  
**25 APRIL 2022**

**1. Annual Service Plan**

Members received a video presentation that accompanied the approved Annual Service Plan which set out the activities intended to be delivered during the next 12 months. The Plan was built around the Service's four corporate priorities of:

- i) valuing people;
- ii) preventing fire and other emergencies from happening and protecting people and property when fires happened;
- iii) responding to fire and other emergencies quickly and competently and
- iv) delivering value for money in how we use our resources.

The Plan can be viewed on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/yKGcJtTCRnY>

**2. Operational incidents of interest**

Members considered a report that provided information relating to operational incidents of note over the period 1 February 2022 – 31 March 2022.

As part of the report Members received a presentation on a wildfire incident in Rossendale. The incident response demonstrated why the Authority's support for, and investment in, climate change response was important to the ongoing organisational evolution and success in dealing with some of the emerging risks around flooding and wildfire response. The presentation provided an overview of the launch of the Climate Change Operational Response Plan which can be viewed on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6BMc1CediA>

## Chairman of the Audit Committee's Report to Council 22 June 2022

### CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR PAUL GALLEY

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#### Overview

I am pleased to provide this report to the Council on the work of the Audit Committee over the last Municipal Year.

As we have slowly returned to a state of normality, the Audit Committee has happily been able to meet in person once again. Whilst continuing with hybrid meetings as necessary, towards the end of the Municipal Year members, officers and external partners were again able to meet at the Town Hall in a return to 'in person' meetings. This has ensured that Senior Officers and external partners have continued to be adequately challenged and held accountable by the Committee. This report summarises the work that has been undertaken by the Committee over the course of the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

Training and support has been provided via the Audit Academy, which aimed to ensure that the Committee maintained its high quality of member questioning and levels of engagement, whilst also developing a greater breadth of knowledge of the wide range of issues falling within the remit of the Audit Committee. An effective training programme will of course be provided into the new Municipal Year as we continue to develop and improve, whilst aiming to raise the public profile of the Committee and further encourage engagement from members of our wider community. The Committee also wished farewell to one of its Independent Members, Gill Brown, who brought a fresh perspective and much-valued level of enthusiasm and expertise to the position.

#### Work Undertaken

##### Strategic Risk Register

The Committee has continued to focus upon the Strategic Risk Register and has received regular attendance from risk owners in order to provide challenge on the work undertaken to mitigate risk. Towards the end of the Municipal Year, the Committee gave consideration to a newly-formatted Risk Register, which resulted in clearer cohesion between risks and greater ease in identifying key areas for further exploration. Over the course of the year the Committee undertook deep dives into the following strategic risk areas:

- Unsustainable Local Economy and Increased Deprivation
- Sustainability of the Council

- Service Failure
- Inadequate Change Management
- People

### **Annual Governance Statement**

The Committee received the Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 at its meeting in September 2021, which provided adequate assurance that public money was safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively, whilst also providing a reflective review of the past twelve months. The Annual Governance Statement would ordinarily have been considered by the Audit Committee earlier in the year in conjunction with the presentation of the Statement of Accounts, but its presentation had been delayed in line with the amended deadline for the approval of the Council's accounts. A mid-year review of the Annual Governance Statement was considered at the January 2022 Committee meeting. At this meeting, progress against the actions to date was considered and answers sought from relevant officers where further clarification was required.

### **Risk Services**

Members of the Committee have reviewed reporting on Risk Services on a quarterly basis and have requested Chief Officer attendance, as appropriate, to provide assurance of adequate progress, or explanations where progress may have been delayed. The Committee has provided specific challenge on a number of matters including anti-fraud arrangements and Council-wide business continuity planning as well as maintaining an overview of insurance claims made against the Council. With regards to overseeing specific internal audit reports, the Committee has continued to request attendance from operational level officers in order to respond to internal audit follow-ups on a number of areas, including Vehicle Operators' Licence Compliance, CCTV, Strategic Leisure Assets, Flood Management, Advertising, the Blackpool Museum Project and IT admin rights. The information provided by the attending officers has facilitated comprehensive questioning during meetings as well as allowing the Committee to maintain an overview of the controls in place in relation to a wide range of service areas across the Council.

Throughout the year, the Committee also considered the Council's Risk Management Framework, the Business Continuity Framework and the Fraud Prevention Charter, as well as seeking assurance with regards to the financial sustainability of the Council's wholly owned companies. Members provided strong challenge to address any issues identified and sought explanations from relevant officers of the measures in place to mitigate current and future risks. Consideration was also given to an external assessment of the Council's Internal Audit function, to ensure conformance to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, with assurance received that the Council has effective internal audit processes in place. In addition, the Committee reviewed the findings of an inspection undertaken by the Information Commissioner's Office of the Council's compliance with data protection and freedom of

information legislation, which provided a high level of assurance across the areas of governance and accountability, information security and freedom of information.

### **External Auditors**

The Committee has continued to develop its productive working relationship with the Council's external auditors, Deloitte. Approval of the Annual Year End Accounts for 2020/2021 was delayed due to the emergence of a national issue around the historical accounting of local authority infrastructure assets, with questions being raised over the accuracy of previous methods used. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy established a task force to investigate the issue and to formulate a workable solution. As a result the audit was paused until such a solution had been agreed. It is anticipated that the issue and resulting delay might potentially impact on the completion of the audit of the 2021/2022 year end accounts, with the Audit Committee closely monitoring the situation over the coming year.

The attendance of representatives from Deloitte at each meeting of the Audit Committee has provided members with the opportunity to seek assurance from the external auditors on the governance of the Council. In addition, the continuation of Deloitte's attendance at the Committee's pre-briefing meetings has proven to be a valuable asset, resulting in enhanced discussion of the key issues at the main meeting and the addition of a fresh perspective when considering areas of questioning.

### **Further Work Undertaken**

- Audit Committee Self-Evaluation – the self-evaluation is undertaken annually and the Committee considered the feedback in order to develop the Audit Academy Training Programme and improve the quality of challenge made.
- Internal Audit Plan 2022/2023 - the Committee received and approved the plan.
- Internal Audit Charter 2022/2023 – the Committee received and approved the charter.
- Strategic Risk Register 2022/2023 – the Committee received and approved the register.

### **The Audit Academy**

High quality training and development has continued to be a focus for the Committee, strengthened yet further by the creation of the Audit Academy. Informative training sessions have been held regularly, where full participation from Committee members has been encouraged. In order to make the sessions as accessible as possible, these were undertaken remotely, which resulted in increased attendance levels and the facility for any absent members to access the sessions at a later date via the library of training session recordings. The training covered areas highlighted within the CIPFA Guidance for Audit Committee Members as well as any additional areas which members identified as requiring improvement in their skills or knowledge. As requested by the Committee, the following training sessions have been held over the past year:

- Audit Committee Terms of Reference
- Statement of Accounts
- Governance of Wholly Owned Companies
- Procurement and Contract Management
- Medium Term Financial Sustainability
- Role of External Audit
- Strategic Risk Management

## **Future Work Programme**

The Committee will continue to receive and review key information including the Annual Governance Statement and the Risk Services Quarterly Reports and, when appropriate, invite Chief Officers and operational officers to attend to provide explanations where inadequate assurance has been provided or where key controls have not been implemented. The Strategic Risk Register will be reviewed and the information within it improved as necessary. Chief Officers will continue to be required to update the Committee with regards to the controls that are being implemented in order to manage the Council's risks especially when audit follow-up action is requested.

As Chair I have identified the following priorities for the Committee to work towards achieving over the coming Municipal Year:

- Continue to strengthen the relationship with Scrutiny.
- Support and help manage the high risk areas notably income generation and the Council's wholly owned companies.
- Ensure that the Audit Committee remains an active player in identifying emerging risks and general horizon scanning.
- Support the Council to tackle fraud by raising awareness of successful prosecutions.
- Communicate high interest items in Audit Committee meetings to the public.

Members, I am pleased to present this report to Council and will be happy to answer any questions.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Relevant Member:</b>	Councillor Maxine Callow, Lead Scrutiny Member
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 June 2022

## SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/2022.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To receive the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022 and to ask the Scrutiny Lead Member or other members of the Scrutiny Leadership Board questions relating to the report and the scrutiny function.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Scrutiny Annual Report sets out the achievements of scrutiny at the Council during the 2021/2022 Municipal Year and identifies areas for future development.

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 priorities are:

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

## **6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Scrutiny Lead Member and Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, Councillor Mrs Callow will present the Scrutiny Annual Report to Council. The annual report highlights the work undertaken during the Municipal Year 2021/2022 and identifies areas for future development.

6.2 The annual report builds on the previous reports provided to Council by Councillor Mrs Callow and forms part of the reporting arrangements identified through the North West Employer's review carried out into scrutiny in 2018.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 6(a): Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022.

## **8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 None associated with this report.

## **9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 There is no legal requirement to have an annual report, although it is considered best practice in the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities.

## **10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None associated with this report.

## **11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None associated with this report.

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

12.1 None associated with this report.

## **13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 The Scrutiny Leadership Board has had the opportunity to comment on the report and approved the report for consideration by Council.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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# Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022

Blackpool Council



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## Introduction

At the start of the Municipal Year, as the country gradually removed pandemic restrictions, the legislation to allow Council meetings to take place virtually was removed and we therefore started the new year holding meetings informally and virtually before moving back to formal in person Committee meetings in September 2021. Despite the impact of the pandemic, the scrutiny committees have carried out more work than ever over the last year and have embraced and effectively utilised informal, virtual working in order to consider key issues and identify improvements.

## Scrutiny Leadership Board

The Scrutiny Leadership Board has continued to develop its leadership role across the Council and in doing so has kept a watching brief over the work of all the scrutiny committees through receiving regular updates from each Chair about the work of their Committee as well as receiving regular input from the Chair of the Audit Committee. Regular informal meetings between Committee Chairs and Cabinet Members have continued and the relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny has been strengthened with the Leader of the Council regularly attending Leadership Board meetings.

### Key pieces of work:

- During the 2021/2022 Municipal Year, the Scrutiny Leadership Board established a new **financial performance reporting** timetable with full monitoring information considered twice per year, with additional informal meetings held to consider the development of the Council's budget for the following year, the findings of which were reported to the Executive for consideration during the budget setting process.
- Following the Scrutiny Leadership Board's input into the development of the Council's Key Performance Indicators in 2020/2021, the Board has taken a leading role in **monitoring performance** against this new set of indicators and is using the information gathered to inform the workplans of the scrutiny committees whilst

continually seeking to improve the information the Council gathers as part of its performance monitoring. An example of this is the recent comments made around the data collected on town centre satisfaction amongst residents, where officers have been requested to review how the data is collected in order to ensure it is truly reflective of the views of residents.

- The SLB has continued to focus on the implementation of the **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy** and has been robustly examining the progress made. Key areas discussed include the park ranger programme, allotments, volunteering and the potential for a Parks Foundation.

### FOCUS POINT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Council has been working for a number of years on the development of the Community Engagement Strategy with the Scrutiny Leadership Board receiving regular updates and opportunities to contribute to its development. The Place Based Partnership is also working on a Community Engagement Strategy and both organisations are working together in order to ensure a common language is utilised across the Fylde Coast. The Leadership Board has also been receiving regular updates from representatives of the Place Based Partnership on the work they are carrying out and how the NHS and Council are working in partnership on this matter. The Leadership Board will be receiving a timeline for the final development stages of the Strategy in order to ensure it is completed in a timely fashion.

### Ongoing work:

- The work on the **Channel Shift Scrutiny Review** has resumed and nearly concluded with a range of potential recommendations identified for consideration by the Executive. The review was very wide ranging and received input from the NHS and some of the Council's wholly owned companies. The final report and recommendations will be submitted to the Executive once approved by the Scrutiny Leadership Board.

## Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has continued to work hard to build relationships with the Integrated Care System representatives, from the Clinical Commissioning Group which is still working on a temporary basis to the main providers of health services in the town including Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. It has continued to receive regular reporting from the CCG on performance against national targets in addition to progress reports against CQC inspections from both Trusts alongside a wide range of specific reporting topics.

Other areas of the Committee's focus include Adult Social Care with regular reporting received on a wide range of issues from continued ongoing response to the pandemic to addressing reasons for delays to discharges. A number of key services provided by Public Health have also been identified for review with an in depth look at sexual health services carried out and reports into smoking cessation and alcohol harm reduction identified for future meetings.

### **MAKING A CONTRIBUTION AND CHANGING FOR THE BETTER: DRUG RELATED DEATHS SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Committee has completed the **Drug Related Deaths Scrutiny Review** with the final recommendations wide ranging and including ensuring safe long term and short term prescribing; to work on a comparative costing of Heroin Assisted Treatment and Overdose Prevention Centres to share with all partners and identify what aspects could be legally introduced into services already being provided in order to make an immediate impact; and to continue the outreach homeless provision continue post pandemic.

The Committee is continuing to monitor the progress made against these recommendations and will be holding a special meeting in May 2022 at which the progress will be considered in more detail along with input from the Lived Experience Team.

### Key pieces of work:

- **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:** The Committee remains committed to the scrutiny of mental health services provision and considers it of even more importance due to the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of residents. A special meeting was held in October 2021 to consider the issue in depth with ongoing reporting continuing after this date.
- The **Meals on Wheels** Scrutiny Review concluded with a recommendation to create a leaflet to advise residents of the provision available in the town. The leaflet is currently in development and it is hoped will be available for circulation by Winter this year.
- Members also carried out and concluded a review into **Supported Housing** and as a result a draft set of standards for supported housing in Blackpool have been developed alongside a set of other documents and protocols with a view to improving the quality of supported housing in the town. This issue has also been raised and highlighted nationally and following the conclusion of a recent pilot scheme in which Blackpool participated there have been changes made by the Government to both regulation and funding of supported housing, which can be considered a great success for the Council.
- The Committee has most recently established a review of **Dentistry and Oral Health** in Blackpool. The review has been scoped and held its first meeting and will conclude in the new Municipal Year. The review will look at access to dentists, public health oral health strategy and the preventative measures in place and will consider input from both NHS England and Healthwatch Blackpool.

### Future focus:

The Committee considers that it still has a role in reviewing recovery of services post pandemic, and identifying improvements that can be made for residents and patients. Upcoming items identified in the workplan include delayed discharges, performance of North West Ambulance Service, population health management and dementia with training to be provided on the health structure in Blackpool by the Place Based Partnership.

## Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

As in the previous Municipal Year, the focus of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee remains on Children's Social Care improvement, Youth Justice and special educational needs and disability provision. The Committee has kept a watching brief on the progress made by Children's Social Care and has been pleased to note the improvements achieved to date.

The Committee has also received in depth reports on a number of specific items during 2021/2022 including Young Adder, pupil literacy and reading performance data and educational diversity.

### Key pieces of work:

- A review panel was established and completed on the Schools Response to the Pandemic and will be followed up with a review looking at how schools have spent the additional 'catch up' funding.
- The Committee carried out a review of **BetterStart** looking at the value for money being provided. A number of recommendations were made by the Panel, all of which were approved by the Executive including that BetterStart should refocus on the original wards that it had been awarded the funding for, that a Communications Strategy should be developed to address how communications would be improved with the faith, voluntary and community sectors and that future interventions should be targeted where appropriate more specifically to those parents identified as being at risk of having their children taken into care.
- Reporting from the **Youth Justice Team** informed the Committee that the service had most recently been re-inspected during May and June 2021 which had acknowledged improvements and the service had been rated as 'Good' and in three aspects 'Outstanding'. The Committee will continue to receive progress updates on the six areas identified for further improvement by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Probation (HMIP).
- Recommendation monitoring will continue following the work undertaken as part of the **Inclusion in Education Scrutiny Review**.

### FOCUS POINT: ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Last year a future focus for the Committee was identified as improving engagement with young people. The Committee has taken some excellent steps in addressing this during the last twelve months through involving representatives in review work such as the BetterStart Review. It also held a special meeting on 12 January 2022 to which a number of young representatives from JustUz attended and presented. The special meeting considered the Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report and a special presentation on Blackpool Families Rock.

The Committee met with some of the Council's Young Inspectors in June 2021 and they have been invited back to give an update on their work at the Committee meeting in June 2022.

In addition, a young representative from Young Adder attended the Committee at its meeting in March 2022 in order to provide a first hand account of the service. This increased engagement has ensured that the Committee is hearing from young people on the topics that matter most to them.

### During the 2021/2022 Municipal Year the Committee has also contributed to and reviewed progress on:

- The **Literacy Strategy** – this Strategy was launched in September 2021 and regular reporting has been received by the Committee on the progress made in implementing the Strategy. The Committee has also made links to the Library Service and will be receiving additional information at a future meeting.
- **SEND Vision and Strategy** – regular reporting has been received on the development of this Strategy and the Committee has been heavily involved. A final version of the Strategy was due to be considered by the Committee no later than June 2022.
- **Domestic Abuse Strategy** – the Committee jointly reviewed the Council's draft Domestic Abuse Strategy along with the Adult Social Care and Health Committee in December 2021, with Members' input being incorporated into the final version.
- The Committee received preliminary information about a large scale **review of youth provision** across the town, the findings of which will be presented at an informal meeting of the Committee to be arranged before the end of the Municipal Year.

## Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee has had multiple areas of focus over the previous 12 months including tourism performance town centre regeneration, leisure services performance and has received annual reports relating to parks and green spaces and waste and street cleansing.

### SOMETHING DIFFERENT: ARTS AND CULTURE TOUR

At Blackpool, we are always looks for different ways to carry out scrutiny, new ways to gather information and the opportunity to interact with people in different ways. As part of the Arts and Culture Scrutiny Review, we were able to organise a tour of the key culture venues in Blackpool for Members of the review panel. Feedback from the event was very positive, with one Member reporting that the “tour has certainly given me a better understanding of what the town has to offer and the importance art can play in improving people's lives (on both a social and economic level)”.

The next steps of the review will be to receive a report on the planned consultation and timescales to develop a Cultural Plan for Blackpool. This will be followed by consideration of the draft Plan to allow the Committee to feed into its development.

### Key pieces of work:

- A key priority of the Committee has been to keep continued oversight of the Council’s response to the **Climate Emergency Declaration** it made in 2021. To date the Committee has received regular updates on the work to achieve net-zero by 2030 and the progress made against the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- In response to concerns regarding **Public Rights Of Way** raised by a public speaker at a meeting in 2021, the Committee held a review panel meeting to discuss the planned work on public rights of way in Blackpool. At the Panel meeting it was agreed to include ongoing monitoring of the progress of the proposed work with reports to future Committee meetings.
- The Committee carried out its annual review of the **Community Safety Partnership**. As part of the review it agreed to consider if there were any

areas of community safety work that could be where a deep dive review could be undertaken.

- The implementation of the recommendations made by the **Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review** have been regularly reviewed by the Committee and it is satisfied that sufficient progress has been made to date.
- **CCTV in the Central Area** of Blackpool was considered at a review panel meeting in September 2021. Members were informed of the plans to improve the CCTV infrastructure in the central areas of Blackpool. This included the demonstration of new technology and discussions on how new CCTV equipment would be used. The review panel noted the work being undertaken and agreed to undertake further review work in 2022/2023 to scrutinise the development of CCTV across the rest of Blackpool.
- **Town Deal** – In September 2021 the committee received a briefing on the Council’s submission for Town Deal funding. At the meeting officers outlined the projects that had been identified as part of the submission and discussed how they would impact residents and visitors.
- The Committee also received regular updates on:
  - **Car Parking** - Details of the operation, usage and income from Council owned car parks.
  - **Flood Risk Management** – An annual report on the Council’s performance against its statutory duties.
  - **Bathing Water Quality** - An annual report the quality of Blackpool’s bathing waters and work to maintain them.

### Future Focus:

The Committee will continue to undertake its monitoring of key issues affecting Blackpool, such as the redevelopment of the town centre, the Climate Emergency and public rights of way.

Scrutiny of the development of a **Cultural Plan for Blackpool** will be ongoing in 2022/2023, with the Committee working with officers in preparing the consultation with key stakeholders and reviewing the draft plan when available.

The Committee has also agreed to review **Temporary Hotel Accommodation** in Blackpool during 2022/2023. Considering their impact on residents and the tourism economy. A scope for the review has been agreed and it will commence in the new Municipal Year.

## Document Control

Document owner:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Document number:	1
Document category:	Annual Report
Document location:	
Issued by:	
Last edited:	1 April 2022

### Record of Amendments:

Date	Version	Amended by	Description of changes

### Approved By:

Name	Title	Signature	Date

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Public Safety, Highways and Transport
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 June 2022

## BLACKPOOL COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2022-2025

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive at its meeting on 25 April 2022 to Council for adoption of the Blackpool Community Safety Plan 2022-2025, which has been developed and produced by Blackpool's Community Safety Partnership [Executive Decision](#)

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree and adopt the Blackpool Community Safety Plan 2022-2025, attached at Appendix 7a, which would be managed and monitored by Blackpool's Community Safety Partnership with effect until 31 December 2025.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 Under Section 6 of the Community Safety Act 1998 the responsible authorities, commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in a local government area, are required to work together in formulating and implementing a Community Safety Plan to tackle local crime and disorder. The recommendation is line with the recommendation of the Executive at its meeting on 25 April 2022.

- 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, as the production of a Community Safety Plan is a requirement of the Community Safety Act.

The recommendation is line with the recommendation of the Executive at its meeting on 25 April 2022.

## **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

## **6.0 Background information**

6.1 Under Section 6 of the Community Safety Act 1998 the responsible authorities, commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in a local government area, are required to work together in formulating and implementing a Community Safety Plan to tackle local crime and disorder in the area.

6.2 Blackpool has a very robust and proactive Community Safety Partnership, which includes Blackpool Council (chair of partnership), Lancashire Constabulary, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackpool Teaching Hospital, Public Health, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, North West Ambulance Service and Blackpool Coastal Housing. Also to note, as and when required other organisations may be opted in from the public, private, third, voluntary and community sectors.

6.3 The proposed Community Safety Plan attached at Appendix 7(a) highlights the current structure of groups on page 3, which sit under the Community Safety Partnership and are used to deliver the priorities of the partnership. In addition, task and finish groups are created as and when required or emerging threats arise.

6.4 Blackpool Community Safety Partnership has key links and workings with the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.

6.5 Key strategic objectives of the Community Safety Partnership relate to the successful delivery of the functions, improving community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime and anti-social behaviour and assist in supporting community confidence.

6.6 The Community Safety Partnership takes a public health approach to preventing and tracking serious violent crime. Through this approach, the partnership considers primary, secondary and tertiary prevention opportunities based on the model of prevention highlighted in the Community Safety Plan.

6.7 In relation to the development of the Community Safety Plan, a due process has been followed which started with a Lancashire strategic assessment of data, followed by a Blackpool strategic assessment, which highlighted local areas of priority. In conjunction with this process, consideration was given to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire’s priorities in ultimately highlighting Blackpool’s key priority areas for the plan.

6.8 In terms of public consultation, questions relating to the Community Safety Plan’s emerging priorities were asked using three approaches – an online shared survey link, face-to-face interviews during a public engagement activity in Blackpool town centre and paper questions that were distributed in Blackpool Council’s public facing buildings. The survey

link was distributed via leaflets during the engagement week and shared on the Council’s social media pages, including Facebook and Twitter, throughout December and early January.

- 6.9 A total of 94 responses were received to the consultation, with 74 online responses, 14 face-to-face and six from the paper questionnaires. The results of the survey showed that 97.8% ranked violent crime and anti-social behaviour as very important or quite important priorities and sexual assault and rape as very important or quite important priorities. Full details are available in the Plan attached at Appendix 7a.
- 6.10 Subsequently, the priorities were shared with a scrutiny review panel of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2022. This was followed by a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership on 3 February 2022, where feedback from scrutiny was shared and the emerging plan developed further.
- 6.11 A revised Plan was taken to the Community Safety Partnership on 28 March 2022, where the Community Safety Plan and priorities were endorsed by the group.
- 6.12 The Blackpool Community Safety Plan priorities 2022-2025 are:

<b>Drugs, alcohol and mental health</b>	<b>Serious organised crime</b>	<b>Vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Road Safety</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begging</li> <li>• Residential burglary</li>   <li>• Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Reduce re-offending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern day slavery</li> <li>• Human trafficking</li>   <li>• Illicit trade</li> <li>• Drugs with harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent crime</li> <li>• Child criminal and sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Sexual offences and rape</li> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> <li>• Hate crime</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area of work will be led by Highways and Traffic Management division, working in conjunction with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership</li> </ul>

- 6.13 The active multi-agency groups that sit under the Community Safety Partnership and identified at page three of the proposed Plan will further develop action plans over the life of the plan to address the priorities. In addition, there are plans to establish working groups to address highlighted priorities not already covered, such as violence, burglary and robbery. It is important to note that where required, the analytical product victim offender location model is used to problem solve particular priorities.
- 6.14 An operational overachieving action plan covering the main issues from the various groups will be established in 2022/2023, which will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 6.15 In addition, the proposed Community Safety Plan highlights the focus in relation to counter terrorism and also the Community Safety Partnership’s role in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews.

6.16 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 7a – Blackpool Community Safety Plan 2022-2025.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The delivery of the Plan is through a multi-agency approach, where resources are coordinated and pooled. Various funding streams are available in relation to initiatives and programmes, which will be applied for during the course of the plan.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 This group includes the statutory responsible authorities, as outlined within the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, as amended by the 1999 Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act, the 2000 Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing Act), the 2001 Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act, the 2002 Police Reform Act, the 2006 Police Justice Act, the 2009 Policing and Crime Act and the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act, the Serious Crime Act 2015 and the Domestic Action 2021 and the forthcoming Responsibilities and Duties around Serious Violence which is due in Autumn 2022.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The plan will address key risk and threats relating to crime and disorder in Blackpool.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 In the course of developing this, the Council and partners have considered whether there could be unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act. The Council is aware of the particular vulnerabilities relating to equality and crime/community safety, these concerns are reflected in the local priorities in particular, hate crime, violence and harassment, and misogyny against women and girls.

11.2 The Council and partners have also reflected on our responsibilities to give due regard to the aims of the public sector equality duty in respect of tackling discrimination, advancing opportunity and promoting cohesion. Given that we know there is evidence to indicate poor levels of cohesion are present in parts of inner Blackpool, we will build consideration of these issues into our equality analysis alongside our priority action plans.

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

12.1 Elements of the Community Safety Plan relate to protecting the environment, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Extensive engagement within the Council and other responsible authorities (see 6.1), Scrutiny Committee and the wider community.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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# BLACKPOOL COMMUNITY

Safety Plan

## 2022 - 2025



Working together to make a difference

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# Foreword

Welcome to the 2022- 2025 BSafe Blackpool Community Safety Plan, which sets out the Community Safety Partnership priorities for the next three years. Strong partnership working has been for many years, and will remain, one of the main strengths of the partnership in addressing crime, antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse. Despite a lot of good work in the last three years and Blackpool remaining a safe place to live and visit, certain crime categories are still higher than the Lancashire and national average, and therefore the partnership will be supporting the development of interventions aimed at reducing these crime categories. The partnership is aware that some of the areas experiencing high levels of crime are some of the most deprived areas in the country, and therefore the partnership is aware that working with those addressing poor education, unemployment, poor housing and poor health is paramount in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as drug and alcohol misuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their hard work in supporting the last Community Safety Plan, and I look forward to working with you all in implementing this one over the next three years.



**Councillor Neal Brookes**

*Cabinet Member for Enforcement,  
Public Safety, Highways and Transport*

# Introduction

## Structure of Community Safety Partnership

The purpose of the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership is to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and re-offending in Blackpool, as well as supporting the victims of crime and the communities affected by crime, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse.

The membership of the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership includes Blackpool Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackpool Teaching Hospital, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the North West Ambulance Service. However, as and when required other organisations may be opted in from the public, private, third, voluntary and community sector.

Over and above these organisations, a number of additional agencies from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors also support BSafe Blackpool. Working together in this way allows the partnership to gain a better insight into the issues within Blackpool, as well as providing wider options

for applying multi-agency responses to these problems. This therefore ensures more holistic and effective solutions to be undertaken.

This group includes the statutory responsible authorities, as outlined within the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, as amended by the 1999 Youth Justice & Criminal Evidence Act, the 2000 Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing Act), the 2001 Anti-Terrorism, Crime & Security Act, the 2002 Police Reform Act, the 2006 Police Justice Act, the 2009 Policing and Crime Act and the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act, the Serious Crime Act 2015, and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and the forthcoming Responsibilities and Duties around Serious Violence which is due in Autumn 2022.

Internally, the work of the partnership is accountable to the local authority scrutiny process on an annual basis. Externally, the partnership is accountable to the Home Office, which ensures that its work addresses both the national and local priorities.



# Working with Lancashire Partners

**Members of the Blackpool Community Safety and Drugs Partnership (BSafe Blackpool) attend the Lancashire Community Safety Strategic Board, and have regular meetings with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.**

## Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board (LCSPB):

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The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board (LCSPB) is responsible for addressing community safety issues through co-ordinating the work of county-wide 'responsible authorities' and other agencies to tackle priorities and deliver stronger and safer communities. The current board structure includes the Lancashire 12 districts and the unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool by invite and together all are referred to as the 'Lancashire 14'.

## The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC):

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The OPCC supports the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his work. The OPCC meets regularly with various partners to work collaboratively in problem solving crime and antisocial behaviour as well as seek funding from the government or PCC funding streams.

## Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (VRN):

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The Lancashire VRN is made up of partners from across public services and the third sector who are working to shift the mind set towards early intervention and prevention to facilitate a culture change and embed new approaches to supporting Lancashire communities.

# Strategic Objectives

A number of strategic objectives have been established for the Community Safety Partnership. These strategic objectives help ensure that the Community Safety Partnership is focusing on the issues that matter most within the local community.

## Strategic Objective 1

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**To successfully deliver the functions of the Community Safety Partnership for Blackpool by:**

- Engaging with local community and statutory groups to identify local concerns in relation to community safety and to invite their contribution to prioritising and addressing those concerns;
- Preparing the Community Safety Partnership plan and organising the work of the partnership to meet priority needs;
- Putting in place implementation structures and delivery mechanisms and facilitating resident focused participatory community safety

structures that will contribute to a reduction in crime and the enhancement of policing and community safety in the partnership's area, directly through the collaborative working of the membership of the partnership, through the work of its delivery groups or through working in partnership with, or supporting the work of others;

- Increasing Community Safety Partnership awareness with the public and key stakeholders by planning communications activity to more proactively inform and promote the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

## Strategic Objective 2

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**To improve community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime and anti-social behaviour through:**

- Working in partnership with designated partners, local statutory bodies/agencies, the voluntary sector and the community to deal with, and reduce the impact of, actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and crime in the community;
- Ensuring that local statutory bodies and agencies deal with the anti-social behaviour

and crime-related issues that matter in their area;

- Providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes;
- Working in partnership with the police, local statutory bodies, agencies and the community to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and crime on the community.

## Strategic Objective 3

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**To support community confidence through:**

- Ensuring local accountability through the Community Safety Partnership's role in monitoring performance of the groups delivering the action plans;

- Ensuring that Community Safety Partnership delivery reflects the involvement, views and priorities of local communities.



# What has happened since the last Community Safety Plan

**In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, lockdown restrictions came into effect from 23 March 2020 and imposed strict limits on daily life. These included significant restrictions on freedom of movement and a requirement by law for a range of businesses to close. Once in lockdown calls for police service reduced tenfold. An analysis of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown showed a decrease in almost all areas of crime recorded by police. This was driven by reductions in theft offences, particularly domestic burglary and theft of personal property. As this period coincided with the majority of people spending long periods at home during lockdown, it is not unexpected.**

The May 2020 – 2021 Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that while there were decreases across a range of individual crime types, particularly theft offences, these were offset by rises in fraud and computer misuse offences, resulting in no change in overall levels of crime.

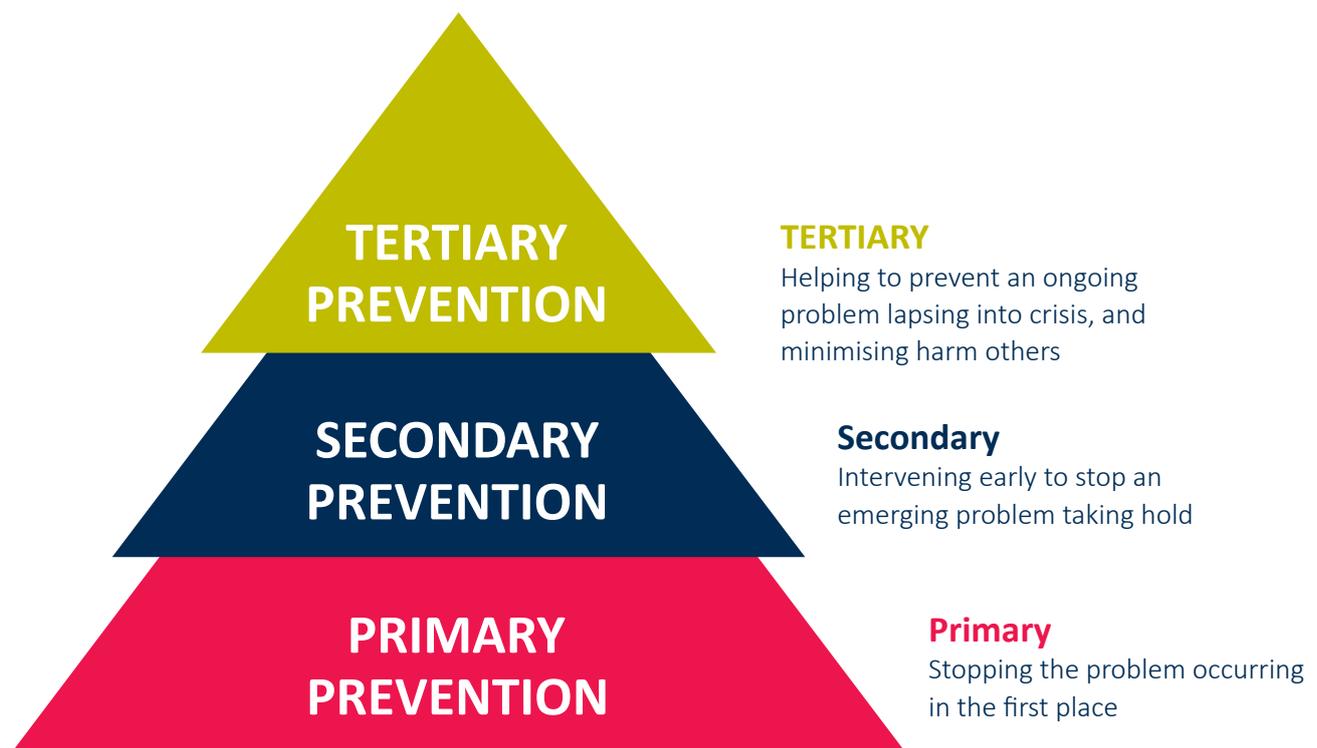
In terms of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime, it is difficult to interpret performance over the last three years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Our Public Health Approach

The Community Safety Partnership is taking a 'public health approach' to preventing and tackling serious violent crime. A 'public health approach' treats violence like an infectious disease and involves using scientific evidence to identify what causes violence and find interventions that work to prevent it spreading.

Preventing rather than reacting to serious violence has both human and economic benefits for individuals, families, communities, services and society as a whole. Therefore, we will be implementing early interventions to prevent people from becoming involved in violent crime.

Through this approach, we will consider primary, secondary and tertiary prevention opportunities based on the model of prevention (see below chart).



*The model of prevention, 2020-2025 Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy, Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.*

# Blackpool

## Economic and social context

To stop crime occurring in the first place (primary prevention) requires an improvement in the economic and social context of Blackpool, such as improved housing and education. The following highlight the economic and social issues that need to be addressed in the wider context to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership in reducing crime and keeping people safe. These issues are not directly within the remit of the Community Safety Partnership but partner organisations have a key role to play in making improvements.

In March 2022, Michael Gove announced new plans to level up Blackpool and in a further boost, Blackpool was also selected as one of 20 areas in England primed to receive a King's Cross-style transformation through an ambitious regeneration programme. The opportunities to address Blackpool's social and economic issues through the Government's Levelling Up agenda is particularly important as plans to crack down on rogue private landlords and invest in regeneration projects will help improve the lives of people in Blackpool by creating new opportunities for regeneration, jobs for the community and new homes for residents.

### Gender

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The population of Blackpool is approximately 138,381, **50.3%** of the population are estimated to be female and **49.7%** are male <sup>(1)</sup>.

### Age

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A larger proportion of residents are aged 65+ (**20.5%**) compared to the national age structure (**18.5%**). The working age population (16-64) in Blackpool is smaller than the national figure, additionally the 0-15 population in Blackpool is also slightly smaller than the national age structure.

### Ethnicity

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Residents are mostly of White British ethnicity (**93.6%**), which is significantly higher than across England and Wales (**80.5%**). Black and minority ethnic groups, including Irish and European residents, are estimated to make up **6.4%** of the population (approximately 9,000 people), compared with the estimated population for England and Wales of **19.5%** <sup>(2)</sup>.

#### Sources:

<sup>(1)</sup> ONS mid-year population estimate June 2020, ONS (2021)

<sup>(2)</sup> Ethnic Group, Census 2011

### Long-term illness and Disability

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**25.6%** of people in Blackpool reported a long-term health problem or disability at the last Census, which is eight percentage points higher than the national average.

### Sexual Orientation

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ONS estimates from Annual Population survey data that amongst adults in Blackpool, around 107,100 (**94.9%**) adults identify as heterosexual, 3,700 (**3.2%**) people identify as gay or lesbian, around 600 (**0.6%**) people identify as bisexual and 500 (**0.4%**) adults whose sexual orientation is classified as 'other'.

Around 1,000 adults in Blackpool sexual orientation is unknown due to answering 'don't know' or refusing to answer the survey question <sup>(3)</sup>. Other estimates have put Blackpool's LGBTQ+ population as higher than the combined estimates from the data above.

## Deprivation

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Blackpool has a large proportion of residents living in deprived areas. According to the English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) from 2019, Blackpool continues to rank as the most deprived of 317 Local Authority areas in England based on both average LSOA score and concentration of deprivation measures. The town has the highest proportion of its neighbourhoods in the most deprived 1% nationally.

**Deprivation is measured using The Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019). It is based on seven different domains of deprivation:**

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation.

Combining information from the seven domains produces an overall relative measure of deprivation

## Qualifications

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In terms of qualifications, Blackpool has a lower proportion of its working age resident population with NVG4 and above qualifications (**23.9%**) as compared to national (GB) average (**43.1%**).

**Source:**

<sup>(4)</sup> *Employment and unemployment (Jul 2020-Jun 2021): Economically Active, ONS annual population survey (2021).*

<sup>(5)</sup> *People on Universal Credit, October 2021, Department for Work and Pensions (2021).*

<sup>(6)</sup> *Gross Weekly Pay, Earnings by place of work, ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis (2021)*

<sup>(5)</sup> *People on Universal Credit, October 2021, Department for Work and Pensions (2021).*

<sup>(6)</sup> *Gross Weekly Pay, Earnings by place of work, ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis (2021).*

## Benefit Claimants

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**There are a high proportion of benefit claimants with out-of-work benefits at a rate of approximately 16.6%, the majority of which claim ESA and incapacity benefits.**

**74.8%** of working age people in Blackpool are estimated to be economically active, compared to national (GB) average rate of **78.4%** <sup>(4)</sup>. There are a high proportion of benefit claimants with out-of-work benefits at a rate of approximately 16.6%, the majority of which claim ESA and incapacity benefits.

As of May 2021, 1,102 working age residents claim disability living allowance (**1.3%**). The proportion is more than double for the North West and England.

As of October 2021, around **15.6%** of Blackpool's working age population are estimated to be on Universal Credit and not in employment, which is more than seven percentage points higher than the national figure (England) at **8.3%** <sup>(5)</sup>.

## Gross weekly pay

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As of 2021, the gross weekly pay for full time employees in Blackpool per week is approximately £541.50 compared to the national median wage at **£612.80** <sup>(6)</sup>.

## Housing

**One of the main drivers of deprivation in Blackpool is poor housing; the oversupply of poor quality rented accommodation has far-reaching consequences on health, crime and antisocial behaviour, worklessness, community resilience and stability.**

**15.3%** (10,810) of all homes in Blackpool are privately rented. Anecdotal data suggests the private rental sector has seen growth, particularly within inner wards. There is a relatively small social rented sector (**5.7%**), and **29.5%** of homes are in the owner occupied sector.

Changes in seaside economies have led to patterns that have created a market based on former guest houses being converted into houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs). This type of accommodation facilitate a predominantly transient population. Poor quality housing concentrated in the inner wards, alongside unstable tenancies, contributes to high levels of crime and antisocial behaviour. The introduction of selective licensing schemes in 2012 in some areas of the town aim to improve management standards in private rented accommodation and reduce antisocial behaviour.

Additionally, recent homelessness figures show that the issue in Blackpool is three times that of the national average per head of population (Blackpool Council Homelessness Review and Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023).

## Health and lifestyles

**Blackpool has the lowest life expectancy across England.**

Life expectancy for males in the town is the poorest in England at **74.1 years** compared to the national average of **79.4 years**. Life expectancy for females is similarly poor at **79.5 years** compared to **83.1 years** for England. The biggest contributory factors for both men and women locally are cardiovascular disease and cancer, as is the case nationally. Additionally, high rates of alcohol-related conditions, drug misuse and suicide are also important factors in attempting to explain low life expectancy in Blackpool<sup>(7)</sup>.

There are high levels of alcohol related harm in the North West, with substance misuse prevalence being the worst in the UK. In Blackpool patterns of alcohol consumption varies depending on the area. The inner wards experience both high levels of deprivation and the highest prevalence of off licence premises, which is associated with higher levels of drinking. Alcohol mortality rates for males in Blackpool are the worst in the country and the alcohol related hospital admission rate in Blackpool is more than double than the national average<sup>(8)</sup>.

Additionally, mental health is an increasingly important issue both nationally and locally. The 'Common Mental Health Disorder Profile' developed by Public Health England indicated that the prevalence of depression is significantly higher in Blackpool than the national average. In Blackpool in 2020/21, **19.8%** of the 18+ population were estimated to have depression compared to **12.3%** nationally<sup>(9)</sup>.

### Source:

<sup>(7)</sup> National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2018 to 2020, ONS (2021)

<sup>(8)</sup> Calculated by Public Health England: Population Health Analysis (PHA) team using data using data from NHS Digital - Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Fingertips PHE(2021).

<sup>(9)</sup> Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), NHS Digital. Fingertips PHE(2021).

## Outcomes for young people

**The challenging social and economic context impacts significantly on children's life chances.**

8,935 (34.1%) of children aged under 16 in Blackpool are living in households below 60% median income after housing costs. Which is higher than the national figure of 30.4% and North West figure of 30.8%.

The health of children is poorer across a range of indicators. Blackpool has the highest prevalence of smoking during early pregnancy in the country at 29.1%. The prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) among children in year 6 is at 25.1%, higher than the national average of 20.4%. There are also significant safeguarding needs with rates of looked after children the highest in England at a rate of 210 per 10,000 children (DFE, 2021).

In 2019/2020, 66.9% of children in Blackpool reached the expected levels in Key Stage 2 compared with 65.3% of all children nationally and 64.6% of children in the North West. Blackpool pupils perform below national levels at GCSE level, with the latest results in 2020/21 showing a lower proportion of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English and Maths GCSEs (57.5% compared to 72.2% nationally).



## Night time economy

**The night time economy (NTE) in Blackpool is particularly vibrant with a very high number of licensed premises in the town centre.**

Blackpool has the highest number of licensed premises in Lancashire with 2018 figures showing 1550 licensed premises. Almost half of all employment in Blackpool is driven by the NTE with a rate of 48.7% in comparison to the NTE employment rate for England at 33.3% (this includes all activity that feasibly operates at night). Although this industry has economic benefits for the town, the health and negative social impacts can be damaging. Tourists contribute a significant amount to the NTE especially during the summer which effects crime statistics, with them featuring as both victims and offenders. The latest figures prior to the Covid-19 pandemic estimate that 18.1 million visitors came to Blackpool, with over half of these recorded as staying visitors.



*\*Although the statistics referred to above are official statistics, it is important to note there have been changes in the Police recording systems and reductions in the time Police are able to investigate crimes. This came into force on 3rd April 2017 under Police & Crime Bill 2016. As a result of this change, crime figures have risen in all nationwide Police forces*

# Crime overview

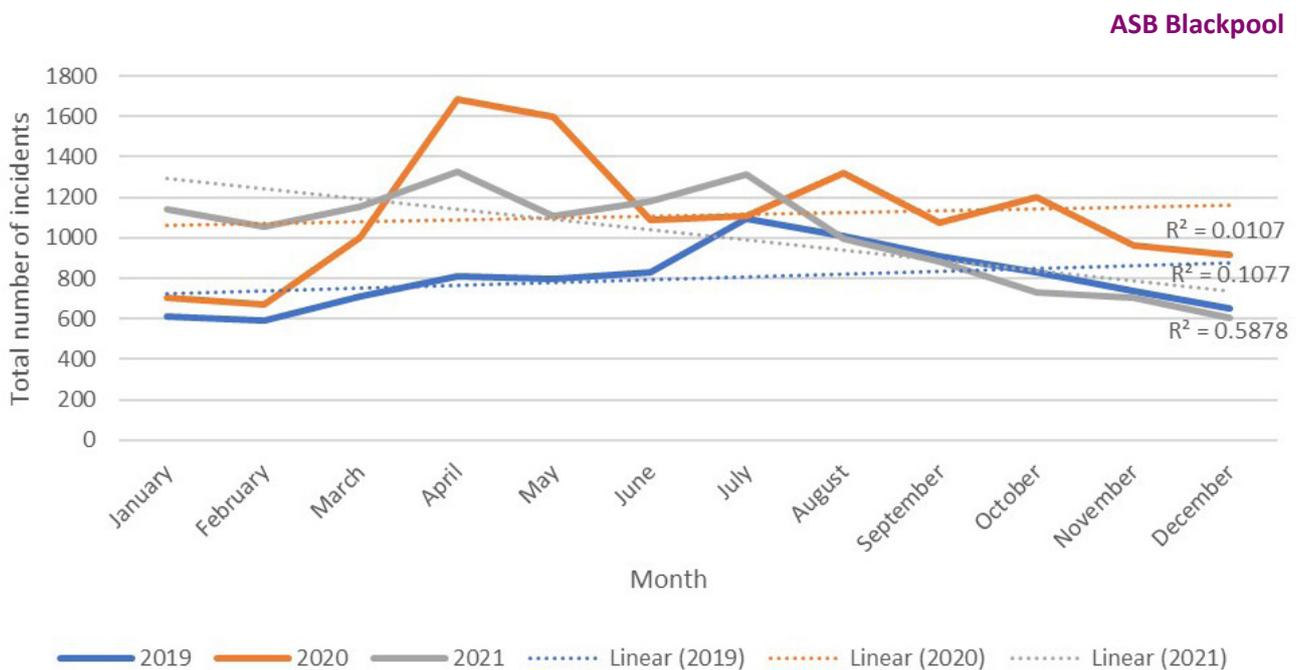
- **All crime:** There were 23,077 crimes recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 13% (+2,590) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 9% (+11,009) increase in all crime.

COVID-19 restrictions/lockdowns during 2020 and part of 2021 caused crime to reduce to fewer opportunities. However, crime levels appeared to return back to pre-pandemic levels as of June 2021.

- **Alcohol-related crime:** There were 3,239 Alcohol related crimes recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 28% (+711) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 20% (+2,465) increase in Alcohol related crime.
- **Residential burglary:** There were 714 Residential burglaries recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was a decrease of -15% (-130) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a -12% (-688) decrease in Residential burglaries.
- **Drug offences:** There were 547 Drug offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was a decrease of -10% (-63) compared with the previous 12 months. In addition to this, possession of drugs has decreased by -8% (-25). Lancashire recorded a -4% (-125) decrease in Drug offences.
- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** CSE is not a specifically recorded crime category because it falls under a number of other offences, and as such it is difficult to establish specific levels. However, CSE in Blackpool remains a significant concern and therefore remains a priority.
- **Sexual offences & rape:** There were 902 Sexual offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 37% (+242) compared with the previous 12 months (caveat- some will be non-recent and historical). Rape offences increased by 45% (+97) and Sexual offences on children under the age of 16 have increased by 25% (+71). Lancashire recorded a 26% (+1,021) increase in Sexual offences and a 33% (+386) increase in Rape offences.
- **Domestic abuse:** There were 4,046 Domestic abuse offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 14% (+485) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 9% (+1,999) increase in Domestic abuse offences.
- **Violence against the Person (VAP):** There were 10,759 Violence against the Person offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 21% (+1,875) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 13% (+6,700) increase in Violence against the Person.
- **Hate crime:** There were 422 Hate offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 21% (+72) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 6% (+157) increase in Hate crime.
- **Reducing re-offending:** The current reoffending rate for Blackpool (Jan 2019 – Dec 2019) is 25.9% which is slightly lower than the pan-Lancashire figure of 26.2%.

# Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Overview

Monthly totals for ASB incidents in Blackpool from April 2019.



There were 12,197 ASB incidents recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was a decrease of -8% (-1,133) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded an -11% (-9,508) decrease in ASB.

The above chart shows monthly totals for ASB incidents incorporating pre-pandemic figures (2019), due to covid-19 restrictions/lockdowns being in place during 2020 and part of 2021, this has had an effect on ASB levels.

Thanks to collaborative working across partner agencies and the easing of coronavirus restrictions, towards the end of 2021 (August onwards) the number of incidents recorded each month started to fall and are now below pre-pandemic figures.

# Strategic Assessment of data

**The Lancashire Strategic Assessment is a rigorous process which uses research and analysis to compile a long term picture of the issues and threats facing Lancashire as a county.**

Unitary authorities, and districts then develop their own Strategic Assessment Local Profiles, which identify the threats that are then used to agree the priorities for the Community Safety Plan. Delivery plans are then developed accordingly to articulate the actions to be undertaken to address the priorities.

The strategic assessment uses the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) tool to assess risk. The MoRiLE risk assessment process has been used to rank the various threats and issues identified.

The MoRiLE tool and the ONS CSSDT were both used to form the Lancashire Strategic Assessment and the Blackpool Strategic Assessment Local Profile.

## Lancashire Profile

**The 2021 Lancashire Strategic Assessment identified the following key risks and threats:**

- Domestic Abuse
- Violence
- Exploitation – criminal and sexual
- Serious Organised Crime
- Road Safety

## Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) Priorities:

In December 2019, the PCC, Andrew Snowden, and New Chief Constable Chris Rowley, launched the 2021- 2025 Police and Crime Plan which sets the strategic direction for crime-related and policing services across Lancashire, including the response to regional and national threats.

**There are five priorities within the Police and Crime Plan:**

- Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour
- Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime
- Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Cracking down on Burglary and Robbery
- Targeting Dangerous Drivers

## Blackpool Local District Profile:

**The 2021 Blackpool Strategic Assessment Local Profile identified the following priorities:**

- ASB
- Domestic Abuse
- Violence
- Road Safety
- Sexual Assault and Rape
- Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation
- Burglary and Robbery
- Serious and Organised Crime (County Lines, Modern Day Slavery/Human Trafficking and Illicit Trade)

The analysis provided in the 2021 District Profile for Blackpool and the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2021, highlighted the following as threats and points of focus:

## Vulnerabilities

*As substantial contributory factors for child criminal and sexual exploitation, sexual offences, domestic abuse, violent crime and hate crime*

- Children and young people are vulnerable to a number of crimes, including criminal and sexual exploitation and violent crime especially involving drugs
- Sexual offences such as rape, were identified as crimes of high risk using the MoRiLE methodology and high levels of harm using the ONS CSSDT
- The elderly population (65+ years), which is expected to increase, are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse, fraud, health related injury and antisocial behaviour
- Reports of domestic abuse are increasing, creating further demands on services
- Alcohol is a common factor in violent crimes, 34% of violence against the person offences in the town centre are alcohol related
- Almost one fifth of hate crime in Lancashire occurred in Blackpool
- Mental health has become an increasing demand on services and more collaborative approaches are being developed to deal with mental health and substance misuse (also known as dual diagnosis).
- County Lines features as a significant risk and threat in Lancashire

## Drugs, alcohol and mental health

*As substantial contributory factors for begging, residential burglary and antisocial behaviour*

- Alcohol and drugs are common factors relating to antisocial behaviour
- Public perceptions showed that areas of significant concern were begging and drugs (including spice)
- Residential burglary was found to be a crime associated with high levels of harm
- Mental health is reported to be a factor in almost half of high risk antisocial behaviour cases
- Reduce re-offending

## Serious Organised Crime

*Linked to modern day slavery, human trafficking, illicit trade and drug dealing*

- Prostitution in Blackpool is often linked to modern day slavery and pop up brothels
- Human trafficking has been identified as a risk across Lancashire using the MoRiLE methodology
- Activity associated with Serious Organised Crime (SOC) has been increasing in Blackpool, particularly with regards to County Lines, which mainly involves drug dealing

# What the residents of Blackpool have to say

In line with the statutory requirement from the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, residents in Blackpool were consulted on the draft priorities for the community safety plan in order to ascertain if they agreed with the proposed priorities, or wished to suggest others.

## Methodology

Questions relating to the Community Safety Partnership priorities were asked using three approaches- an online shared survey link, face-to-face interviews during a public engagement activity in Blackpool town centre and paper questions that were distributed in Blackpool Council's public facing buildings. The survey link was distributed via leaflets during the engagement week and shared on the council's social media pages, including Facebook and Twitter, throughout December and early January. The consultation was open for five weeks from 6 December 2021 to 9 January 2022.

## Results

A total of 94 responses were received to the consultation, with 74 online responses, 14 face-to-face responses and 6 responses from paper questionnaires. The results of the survey showed that 97.8% of respondents ranked Violent Crime and Anti-social behaviour as very important or quite important priorities, followed by 95.5% who ranked Domestic Abuse, and Sexual assault and Rape as very important or quite important priorities.

	Very important	Quite important	Neither important nor unimportant	Quite unimportant	Very unimportant	Don't know/not sure
<b>Anti-social behaviour (Base = 91)</b>	83.5% (76)	14.3% (13)	1.1% (1)	-	-	1.1% (1)
<b>Child sexual exploitation (Base = 89)</b>	79.8% (71)	11.2% (10)	3.4% (3)	2.2% (2)	-	3.4% (3)
<b>Child criminal exploitation (Base = 89)</b>	79.8% (71)	10.1% (9)	5.6% (5)	1.1% (1)	-	3.4% (3)
<b>Domestic abuse (Base = 90)</b>	73.3% (66)	22.2% (20)	4.4% (4)	-	-	-
<b>Sexual assault and rape (Base = 89)</b>	83.1% (74)	12.4% (11)	2.2% (2)	-	-	2.2% (2)
<b>Violent crime <sup>1</sup> (Base = 91)</b>	89% (81)	8.8% (8)	2.2% (2)	-	-	-
<b>Serious and organised crime<sup>2</sup> (Base = 91)</b>	75.8% (69)	17.6% (16)	4.4% (4)	-	1.1% (1)	1.1% (1)
<b>Road safety <sup>3</sup> (Base = 93)</b>	60.2% (56)	33.3% (31)	6.5% (6)	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Includes weapon enabled, domestic/youth/sexual and physical violence

<sup>2</sup> Includes county lines, modern day slavery and human trafficking/illicit trade

<sup>3</sup> Includes road traffic collisions, parking and speeding, nuisance motorbikes, highways obstructions and drink-driving 'Base' refers to the total number of responses for each question (Base = 94)

# 2022 – 2025 PRIORITIES



## Drugs, alcohol and mental health

- Begging
- Residential burglary
- Antisocial behaviour
- Reduce re-offending



## Serious Organised Crime

- Modern day slavery
- Human trafficking
- Illicit Trade
- Drugs with Harm



## Vulnerabilities

- Violent Crime
- Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Offences and Rape
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- ASB



## Road Safety

- This area of work will be led by Highways and traffic Management Division, working in conjunction with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

Our local priorities were identified by the Local District Profile, which were then used in our public and stakeholder consultation exercise. The above priorities have been agreed by the Community Safety Partnership and the community. The priorities identified in this plan will be used to identify actions that will create a safer environment for residents and visitors to be evident in Lancashire.

The Community Safety Plan works towards supporting communities in line with the priorities and strategic approach adopted by Blackpool Council. In striving to retain our position as the UK's number one family resort, one of the council's priorities is to create stronger communities whilst increasing resilience, through delivering core services and partnership working in order to develop a better town.

In addition to these priorities, counter terrorism is identified as a point of further focus for the Community Safety Partnership on account of it being an area of national importance.

## How we will address these priorities:

Currently there are a number of active multi-agency groups, which can be found on page 3, who are working in many of the priority areas and will further develop action plans over the life of the plan to address the priorities. In addition, there are plans to establish working groups to address highlighted priorities not already covered such as violence, burglary and robbery. It is important to note that where required, the analytical product victim offender location model is used to problem solve particular priorities.

An operational overachieving action plan covering the main issues from the various groups will be established in 2022/2023, which will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership.

## Counter Terrorism

**Although counter terrorism is not identified as a specific priority in this plan, it will remain a focus for the partnership as outlined in previous plans.**

The current threat level for international terrorism in the UK is categorised at 'severe', which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. The terrorist threats which the UK now face are more diverse than ever before making the situation unpredictable and leading to potentially more frequent, less sophisticated terror attacks. In October 2010 the government published a National Security Strategy, CONTEST. This has been updated multiple times since and sets out the threats to the UK and the priorities for dealing with these.

On the 1st July 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into effect. The Act places a duty on specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The specified authorities are local authorities, people, prisons, young offender institutions, providers of probation services, schools, colleges, universities and NHS bodies.

### The Specified Authorities must:

- Assess the risk of radicalisation in their area or institution
- Develop and action plan to reduce this risk
- Train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism
- Work in partnership with other partners
- Establish referral mechanisms
- Maintain records and reports to demonstrate compliance

### The four main areas of work identified in the most recent 2018 CONTEST strategy are:

- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of terrorism attack

Further details are then provided on what each Specified Authority must do to comply with the Act.



# Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

**It is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct and oversee domestic homicide reviews.**

## **The purpose of the DHR is to:**

**Establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;**

- **Identify** clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
- **Apply** these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate;
- **Prevent** domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children by developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity;
- **Contribute** to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse;
- **Highlight** good practice.

The narrative of each review should articulate the life through the eyes of the victim (and their children) and talking to those around the victim including family, friends, neighbours, community members and professionals.

## **A successful DHR should go beyond focusing on the conduct of individuals and whether procedure was followed to evaluate whether the procedure / policy was sound.**

- Does it operate in the best interests of victims?
- Could an adjustment in policy or procedure have secured a better outcome for the victim?

This investigative technique is sometimes referred to as professional curiosity. It is a thoroughly inquisitive approach to a review and impact on the tone of the report and the detail in the learning can be dramatically improved by adopting this mind-set.

DHRs are not inquiries into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate. DHRs are not specifically part of any disciplinary inquiry or process.

The rationale for the review includes ensuring that agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic abuse by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions with an aim to avoid future incidents of domestic homicide and violence.

# Partner support

Partnership working is at the core of the Community Safety Partnership. All statutory partners must work together to agree on outcomes and actions in order for the process to run effectively and for the priorities to be addressed.



## How to contact the Community Safety Team

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Email: [communitysafety@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@blackpool.gov.uk)

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 June 2022

## AUDIT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the appointment to the vacancy of co-opted Independent Member on the Audit Committee.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 That the Council expresses its thanks to Ms Gill Brown for her service as Independent Audit Committee member.

2.2 The Chair of the Audit Committee will report on the recommended candidate to the meeting, to be appointed for a three year term of office.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To fill the vacancy on the position within 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 To not make an appointment. However this would be contrary to previous decisions of the Council to have two independent co-opted members of the Audit Committee. The 2022 CIPFA position on Audit Committees now also recommends having two independent co-opted members.

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The recommendations in this report meet all of the Council's priorities.

## **6.0 Background information**

- 6.1 In 2017 Council agreed the appointment of an appropriately qualified independent co-opted member, who would serve on the Audit Committee with non-voting rights. This position was recommended as part of the Council's Annual Governance Statement at the time and is intended to strengthen the assurance and challenge role for that committee.
- 6.2 In November 2020, the Council appointed two Independent Audit Committee Members, Gill Brown and Stuart Green. The co-opted member vacancy has arisen as Ms Gill Brown has recently stood down from the post.
- 6.3 At the Council meeting on 20 July 2020, the Monitoring Officer was authorised to advertise for the position of co-opted Independent Member of the Audit Committee using the same recruitment criteria as previously applied, if a vacancy arose. An advert was therefore placed to fill this vacancy and interviews have been scheduled.
- 6.4 The successful applicant would ideally possess expertise and knowledge in audit/ finance and have an understanding on how local government operated.
- 6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **7.0 List of Appendices:**

- 7.1 None.

## **8.0 Financial considerations:**

- 8.1 The Members Allowances Scheme provides for special responsibility allowance for Independent co-opted members of the Audit Committee.

## **9.0 Legal considerations:**

- 9.1 None.

## **10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 Having an independent co-optee on the Audit Committee is considered good practice and helps to strengthen the assurance and challenge to the committee.

## **11.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 11.1 There are no equalities considerations to this report.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 In line with the decision of Council in July 2020, the Monitoring Officer will liaise with the Group Leaders on the preferred appointment, prior to the meeting of Council.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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## Notice of Motions

To consider the following motions, which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1:

**a) Blackpool FC and Football Governance.** Councillor Owen to propose.

This Council:

1. Noting the welcome return of Blackpool FC to the second division of English professional football and their holding their own during the past season and the value such success brings our town in publicity and economic benefit
2. Appreciating the considerable work which Blackpool Supporters Trust has contributed to the Independent Fan Led Review of Football Governance and including their giving oral evidence to the House of Commons Committee chaired by Tracey Crouch MP
3. Disappointed by the failure of the Premier League (PL) so far to agree with the English Football League (EFL) and the Football Association (FA) a fair and appropriate distribution of the revenues that the television companies pay the PL each year among the English Football Pyramid at all levels
4. Supporting the Statement given on 25 April by Nigel Huddleston MP in the House as to the Government's position on the outcome of that Review, to accept in full its Ten Strategic Recommendations, to publish a White Paper but remaining uneasy that the Government has not dealt as positively in its response to the other 37 key Recommendations

Resolves:

To request the Chief Executive Officer to write to

- A. Simon Sadler as Chairman of Blackpool FC and his colleagues with the Council's congratulations for their success and to reinforce the Council's continuing support for the partnership between the Club and the Council
- B. Nigel Huddleston MP in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to tell him of this Council's hope that the White Paper can be published sooner than "this summer" - generally thought to be June, July and August as mentioned in the Statement (which could also mean its being delayed into the autumn, that is up to November) as precursor for the expected Bill which this Council would like to see enacted by spring 2023 and embrace all of the recommendations in the Report, especially those in Chapter 9, rather than Mr Huddleston's timescale of "*before the next election*" which could mean 2024

- C. the PL and the EFL and the FA urging them collectively to take notice of Recommendation 38 of the Review and reach an agreement on how the television income received by the PL is to be far more equitably distributed within football than it is currently - rather than risk a clause in the promised Bill which will empower the intended Regulator to impose such a regime on them
- D. the two Blackpool MPs and encourage them to use their best endeavours in parliament to have the White Paper and the bill brought forward and enacted within the next twelve months.

**b) Non-Executive Directors of council-owned companies.** Councillor M Mitchell to propose.

The Council calls upon the Chief Executive to dedicate an area of the Council website with details of all council-owned companies, their non-executive directors, Chairs and remuneration, all Councillors to be informed when Councillors are appointed and when Councillor appointments cease.