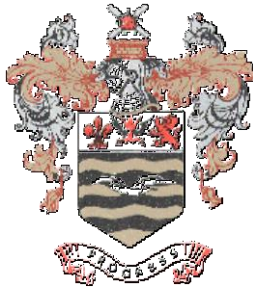


# Public Document Pack



## BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Monday, 12 September 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, 21 September 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 MEETINGS HELD ON 22 JUNE 2022 AND 8 SEPTEMBER 2022**  
(Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the last meetings held on 22 June 2022 and 8 September 2022 as a true and correct record.

**3 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

Council will be asked to consider a resolution of condolence for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Details of the proposed resolution and the proposer and seconder will be circulated in due course.

Following the passing of this resolution, Council will then hold a minute's silence, as a mark of respect.

**4 RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE - COUNCILLOR JOHN WING**

This Council and the people of Blackpool were deeply saddened to learn since its last ordinary meeting of the sad death of Councillor John Wing, ward Councillor for Greenlands ward.

Group Leaders / representatives will be asked to pay tribute to the work and dedication of Councillor Wing.

Details of the proposed resolution and the proposer and seconder will be circulated in due course.

Following the passing of this resolution, Council will then hold a minute's silence, as a mark of respect.

**5 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

**6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT** (Pages 9 - 36)

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.

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

(Pages 37 - 46)

The Council will be asked to consider the re-appointment of its committees, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972, due to changes in the political make-up of two of the political groups.

## **8 MOTIONS AT COUNCIL**

(Pages 47 - 48)

To consider the motion which has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1.

### **Venue information:**

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

### **Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477153, e-mail [sarah.chadwick@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.chadwick@blackpool.gov.uk)

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

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### **Present:**

Councillor Benson (in the Chair)

### **Councillors**

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

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Benson, Owen and T Williams declared personal interests in agenda item 9a 'Notice of Motion – Blackpool FC and Football Governance' as members of Blackpool Supporters Trust.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2022**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 May 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that Blackpool Tower would be lit with the colours of red, gold, green and blue to mark Windrush Day and to honour and thank the Windrush Generation and its contribution to society.

The Mayor also thanked the House of Wings Creative Workshop group on Reads Avenue who had held a performance in The Mall as part of the pageant to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and had been asked since to perform at Notting Hill Carnival.

#### **4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS, COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

Members also received a report from representatives of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority in relation to the work being undertaken by the authority and the Chair of the Audit Committee also presented his report.

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

Notes:

1. Councillor Hugo agreed to provide a written response to Councillor T Williams with further details as to the extent of the issues identified by the consultant in respect of the sea defences at Anchorholme, the reason for taking legal action against the contractors and the likely success and cost of such legal action.
2. Councillor Blackburn left the meeting during consideration of the Executive Member Report in relation to the Place portfolios.
3. The Council agreed an extension of two minutes to the time limits for responses to the questions raised in relation to the Place portfolios.
4. Councillors Cain and Kirkland left the meeting following consideration of the report from the Combined Fire Authority Representatives.
5. There was a short adjournment following consideration of the report from the Combined Fire Authority Representatives.

#### **5 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

Members considered the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board in relation to achievement of scrutiny during the municipal year. Reference was made in particular to outstanding matters in relation to the Meals on Wheels scrutiny and the valuable input of young people into the scrutiny process.

**Motion:** Councillor Mrs Callow proposed (and Councillor L Williams seconded):

‘To receive the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022’.

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

## 6 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

The Council considered the recommendation from the Executive in relation to the proposed Blackpool Community Safety Plan 2022 to 2025 which had been formulated by the responsible authorities that formed the Community Safety Partnership. Members noted that the priorities had been shared with the Council's Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee for its input into the plan's development.

Discussion took place on the plan's content and priorities and the importance of working together with the Council's statutory partners was highlighted.

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

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

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

## 7 AUDIT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Chair of the Audit Committee reported upon the outcome of the recent recruitment exercise in relation to the vacancy on the Audit Committee, as Ms Gill Brown, one of the two co-opted members, had stepped down from the role.

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

1. That the Council expresses its thanks to Ms Gill Brown for her service as Independent Audit Committee member.
2. That Mr David Swift be appointed as a co-opted member to the Audit Committee for a three year term of office'.

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

## 8 BLACKPOOL FC AND FOOTBALL GOVERNANCE

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor Owen proposed (and Councillor Benson seconded):

'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

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE 2022

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'.

Members then went on to debate the motion.

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

### 9 NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF COUNCIL-OWNED COMPANIES

**Motion:** Having submitted notice, Councillor M Mitchell proposed (and Councillor G Coleman seconded):

'The Council calls upon the Chief Executive to dedicate an area of the Council website



## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE 2022

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’.

Members then went on to debate the motion.

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

### **Mayor**

(The meeting ended at 8.56 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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## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

### **Present:**

Councillor Benson (in the Chair)

### Councillors

Brookes	Critchley	Kirkland	Smith
Burdess	Cross	Matthews	Stansfield
Mrs Callow JP	Farrell	B Mitchell	Taylor
Clapham	Galley	O'Hara	Walsh
D Coleman	Hugo	Owen	L Williams
G Coleman	Hunter	Roberts	Wilshaw
Collett	Hutton	Mrs Scott	
Cox	Jackson	R Scott	

### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenni Cook, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

## **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2 BLACKPOOL MEDAL**

The Council noted that at the meeting in May 2021, Members had agreed the amended criteria for the award of the Blackpool medal and at the meeting on 18 May 2022, it had been resolved to bestow the award to Mrs Elaine Smith MBE.

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

‘To award the Blackpool Medal to Mrs Elaine Smith MBE in recognition of her eminent service to the Borough’.

Councillors Cross, Owen, Mrs Scott and G Coleman also paid tribute.

During the speeches, reference was made to Elaine’s work with Civic Trust and her involvement in the Trust’s projects as Secretary, Chair and President. Members also paid tribute to her work with Blackpool in Bloom, the Winter Gardens Trust, Friends of Stanley Park as well her serving on many local committees and boards and her contribution to heritage projects.

**Motion carried:** The motion was carried unanimously.

## **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Mrs Elaine Smith MBE thanked the Council following which presentation of the medal and certificate took place.

### **3 ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Mayor informed members that it had been confirmed that Her Majesty the Queen has passed away.

A minute's silence was held.

### **Mayor**

(The meeting ended at 6.50 pm)

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

**Executive Member Report to the Council**  
**21 September 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 6(a)**

## **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**

### **The anticipated impact of the Cost of Living Crisis in Blackpool**

Nearly a quarter of our population live in income deprived households and over 30% of our children live in income-deprived families. Even before the most recent cost pressures, a fifth of the adult population in Blackpool found meeting monthly bills/commitments a heavy burden or found themselves regularly in arrears with bills.

As we know here in Blackpool, a high proportion of our population do not have access to a savings cushion to help them cope with a real term reduction in disposable income (should they even have disposable income) and rising costs for the most basic essentials – with bread rising by 7.9%, milk a staggering 25.6% and energy costs continuing to climb.

Our communities and businesses were badly impacted by the pandemic and are entering this period of uncertainty with far less financial resilience and greater exposure to risk than may be seen in other less deprived areas.

A high percentage of Blackpool's population has a limiting illness or disability. Many groups representing people with disabilities feel that the help announced thus far is insufficient to support people with disabilities and are pressing for more targeted support. Having a disability or poor health makes life more expensive. You might be more reliant on heating in the home to stay well – and if you cannot avoid the cold because you cannot afford to heat your home putting a jumper on is not necessarily going to be the right solution.

A high proportion of our population are on card meters for gas and electric. The additional costs and hidden disconnections that this brings to already challenged households is well documented.

Being digitally connected gives people access to information about help and support available to them. It can help tackle feelings of isolation and help people access better value goods and services. In 2020, 12.4% of the Blackpool population was considered 'internet non users' and just do not have access to this support. Face to face services are stretched and outreach services simply cannot get to everyone to make sure they are OK.

16.8% of households report experiencing struggles with food insecurity and 8.4% of households report experiencing hunger. 16.3% of the population are fuel poor – before the price cap increase (and lest we forget, it is still an increase). We are not facing a winter where people have to choose to “heat or eat” – some households – perhaps more than people can yet comprehend - will not even be able to afford that choice.

On 7 September a wide range of stakeholders from the third sector, community representatives and public services came together to start to explore how we ensure, as a town, that people know and have access to support with rising costs and income pressures. It was incredibly well attended and some really innovative ideas were shared by a range of people who are really passionate working together on a “Blackpool Offer”.

The Household Support Fund provisional guidance has been shared with local authorities but with only a fortnight to go before the current scheme ends local authorities do not know how much will be available to them for the next six months which are promising to be incredibly challenging for communities or the requirements that will come with the funding – making it very difficult to plan effectively to make sure all the money gets to the people who need it most.

For context the £1.7m of funding that we received for the period April – Sept this year represents 47p per week per head of our population. If we targeted funding at the 25% of our population in income deprived households that rises to £1.89 p/w of additional support. It is some distance from meeting the rise in basic living costs in any household.

Without the concerted efforts of a wide range of partners across the public, private and third sector and perhaps even with these efforts, we will see vulnerable people suffering incredibly in Blackpool this winter. People will lose their lives because they cannot afford the basic necessities. People will experience incredible financial pressure and this will have an impact on their mental health. We will see a strain on family life that we have not experienced for a generation and our children and young people will carry the impact of this strain well in to adulthood.

### **Financial Year 2021/22 – balancing the books**

Despite a challenging and uncertain year, spending on services during 2021/22 was close to breakeven with a £218,000 overspend on a gross expenditure budget of c. £507m. Children's Service pressures were offset by underspends in other directorates and savings in Treasury Management due to low temporary borrowing rates. COVID-19 financial losses added up to just

over £2.6m for the financial year to 31 March 2022, which was helped by receiving £17.4m of COVID-19 government grants. Working balances ended the year at £6.075m, just above the £6m target, while available earmarked reserves increased by £4.7m to £65.6m. Added to this was the delivery of a successful and significant capital programme totalling £72.8m, principally around the areas of regeneration, transport and housing including schemes such as the Central Business District phases two and three, the Conference and Exhibition Centre, the Museum and the Troutbeck housing development. Given the context, from a financial management perspective 2021/22 was a remarkably successful year for the Council.

### **Severe financial challenges and uncertainty ahead in 2022/23**

Over the 12-year period 2011/12 – 2022/23 cumulative Revenue Budget savings amounting to £194.6m have been required to be made by Blackpool Council, a sum which is now greater than the Council's current annual Net Requirement Budget of £160m. To put it into even starker terms, if you add up the cuts from each year since 2011/12, you get a staggering total of nearly £1.4bn of resource lost to the Blackpool economy. This reflects one of the highest cuts per head of population across local authorities in England and in an environment of growing demands upon services with such recognised pockets of significant deprivation.

The last 12 years has seen unprecedented volatility within local government finance: nine years of successive central government funding cuts between 2011/12 – 2019/20 were followed by the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, two years of a global pandemic with ongoing consequences and now a war within the European continent. This has all conspired to produce a perfect storm of labour and supply shortages, pay demands and spiralling inflation including rising energy costs and rising interest rates in an attempt to stem the pressure.

During this period the Council has continued to deliver its annual budget in line with statutory requirements, maintain its reserves and balances at stable and appropriate levels that reflect the risk environment and consistently fund and deliver the ambitions of successive administrations. However, here in the present, sector experts and economic commentators cannot agree the likely overall effect and extent of these economic challenges, which makes medium-term financial planning and financial management extremely difficult.

For the current financial year these pressures will have a significant impact on working balances. The pay award negotiations are still ongoing, but on 25 July the National Employers for local government services made an offer to unions representing the main local government NJC workforce which would cost Blackpool Council £5.5m compared with our previous expectations of around £1.9m, resulting in a pressure of £3.6m. Another significant cost pressure relates to non-pay inflation. The 2022/23 budget was set assuming CPI at the time of 3.7%, however, last month CPI inflation struck a new 40-year-high of 10.1%, with experts forecasting that it will reach 18.6% in January 2023. Early modelling of the Council's non-pay budgets indicates that this increase will result in a pressure of c.£1.5m, predominantly relating to energy costs. Interest rates are also on the rise which will have a detrimental effect on both revenue and capital budgets. The Council is currently using a mix of temporary and long-term

borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure. With increasing borrowing rates the Treasury Management Panel decided to fix £125m of temporary borrowing in order to mitigate the impacts of further interest rate rises, resulting in a broadly 50:50 weighting of temporary: long-term borrowing. The overall impact on the Council in 2022/23 due to these interest rate rises is currently forecast at £3.1m.

Nationally there is also soaring demand for child protection services and adult social care provision and the rising costs of providing such care are creating a burden that current levels of local taxation and Government funding struggle to meet. In addition, the net financial consequences of COVID-19 have been significant (£3.16m in 2020/21 and £2.59m in 2021/22) with little prospect now of any further Government financial support.

We are not alone in incurring significant unexpected cost pressures as a result of the current economic climate. Inevitably this will require some central intervention to resolve, the only question surely being how supportive the measures are in addressing the situation. Research instigated at our suggestion by the Society of Unitary Treasurers has demonstrated that these externally-imposed pressures are mirrored without exception by the experiences of peer unitary authorities. This has been further highlighted in the press and media in recent weeks by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, The Municipal Journal and Public Finance.

The Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/23 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. Despite the circumstances it is still deemed appropriate to retain this target level of £6m for working balances for the medium term and every endeavour is being made to maintain this. Earmarked revenue reserves at the start of the financial year stood at £65.6m, though with known in-year commitments against this the balance will fall to an estimated £52.2m by the end of the year. This should still be sufficient to underwrite the current year's financial risks with a separate financial plan in place for the Council's wholly-owned companies.

These are yet again unprecedented times for the whole of the local government sector. In the context of relatively healthy levels of Earmarked Revenue Reserves per CIPFA's Financial Resilience Index, and with 9 months of the financial year still remaining, officers are working continuously to improve the position. Measures include the development of revised service and financial plans, including the review of technical accounting treatments, freezing of non-essential spend, delays to filling non-front line vacancies and the prospective re-designation of earmarked reserves should they need to be used.

It is imperative that we continue to lobby central government and in particular the Departments for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Health and Social Care and Education, along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the burdens and demands presented as a result of exceptional inflationary pressures and demographic demands upon statutory services.



## **A new era for the Sandcastle Waterpark**

Blackpool Council has awarded a contract to manage the Sandcastle Waterpark to one of the world's biggest entertainment companies. Merlin Entertainments, a global leader in location-based entertainment, has been successful in a tender application to become managing agent for the Council-owned waterpark at South Beach. It is anticipated Merlin Entertainments will commence provision of the management services contracted from week commencing 5 September 2022 for an initial term of up to two years. With Merlin's other fabulous attractions all continuing to pull in the crowds, this further underlines their commitment to constantly developing and improving Blackpool's visitor offer.

## **The bids are in for Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2**

As reported to Executive, the council has submitted three separate bids into the Government's Levelling Up Fund:

### **1. *Multiversity***

This transformational investment will improve skills and opportunities via a high quality, purpose-built educational facility which provides an unrivalled learning environment with a tailored curriculum and which will encourage more learners to choose to continue with their education in Blackpool. The new carbon-neutral building will support town centre regeneration via a physical new build and also providing year-round footfall into the town centre, helping to smooth out the effects of our seasonal economy. We are seeking £40m towards the scheme, which will also be funded via £9m already received from the Town Deal, a Council loan of £16m to be prudentially borrowed (subject to Executive approval) and repaid by Blackpool and The Fylde College via a lease, and a £5m cash contribution to the project by the College.

### **2. *Hotel Indigo - Former Post Office Redevelopment***

This scheme will directly address demand for further high quality accommodation provision in Blackpool via a new boutique-styled 4-star 144 room hotel in the derelict listed former post office building. 48 family suites will be included to ensure the site appeals to both the business and family leisure markets.

The project will be led by Ashall Projects acting as developer and owner who will put in equity combined with a loan to be sourced from the Council and potentially with a private loan facility.

### **3. *Town Centre Access Scheme (TCAS)***

The scheme will transform Blackpool town centre's transport network, providing more attractive public environments to encourage walking and cycling in line with our Climate Emergency ambitions of reducing emissions, as well as improving traffic circulation, incorporating additional bus priority measures, and helping people change onto other forms

of transport more easily. The scheme will cost £17.1m, of which we hope £15.4m will come from the fund, with £1.7m Council funding coming via the Local Transport Plan.

With more than 525 bids submitted to the Fund, the total demand for funding could be around £10 billion, with only a further £3.1 billion available for a further two funding rounds. This demonstrates the huge need and appetite for Levelling Up, at the very moment it seems to be slipping down the government's political agenda.

### **Shared Prosperity Fund bid submitted, and “Multiply” funding confirmed**

The Council has also submitted a bid for Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF). The development and submission of the SPF Investment Plan outlined 13 capital and revenue projects under the themes of Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills. Combined, the schemes will provide a wide range of support from physical town centre regeneration, through to direct business support encouraging existing and new business development, community skills and improved learning projects for residents. I am also particularly pleased that our low carbon and climate adaptation ambitions, for so long underfunded by this government, are also set to benefit from three specific initiatives, two of which will specifically help people deal with the appalling effects of the cost of living crisis.

The proposals will be led by a mix of Council departments and other organisations such as Blackpool and The Fylde College, Business in the Community (BITC) and Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations subject to procurement rules. A decision on the SPF investment plan is due in the autumn.

The SPF also included funding pre-identified by government for the “Multiply” numeracy programme, and I am pleased to report that we have already had approval of our Investment Plan, unlocking £770,711 for this important work. Particular thanks must go to our Adult Community and Family Learning team for their efforts.

## **Corporate Issues**

### **The biggest of “the Big Screen” coming to Houndhill Phase 2**

In July the Council announced that a deal had been signed with IMAX to deliver one of the largest purpose-built IMAX cinema screens in the UK, alongside news that the restaurant space within the phase 2 extension has been fully let. Once open in around 12 months, it will put Blackpool in the front row for all cinema buffs, making us one of the very few places in the UK to have this world leading cinema technology.

With a fixed-price contract, the Council is in a good position regarding the challenges of rising inflation in the construction industry but there is severe pressure on the supply chain as they try to keep costs low. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

## **Debenhams update**

Officers continue to work on the letting of the former Debenhams store, with a number of options open to us. With the store being such a keystone of the Houndshell Centre, there is a healthy level of interest in occupying the unit but we are keen to take this “once in a generation” opportunity to secure a leading anchor tenant which befits the town and drives footfall to the town centre.

## **Blackpool Central**

Construction of the new multi-storey car park on the Blackpool Central site is now well underway, with the erection of the steel frame commencing during September. Developers Nikal Ltd are now firmly focusing their efforts on the future phases of the project, with a view to the appointment of their full technical teams later this year to develop the leisure proposals. As reported previously, the application for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) which would see the acquisition of outstanding interests on the site has been made to the Secretary of State and the Council awaits the outcome of the decision in due course.

## **Talbot Gateway Phase 2 - Hotel and Infrastructure**

The external structure of the hotel is mostly complete, with work now underway on fitting out the internal rooms. Separately, work continues on the construction of the new underpass between the train station and the new tram terminus under High Street. The tramway extension itself is now complete and the area is being handed back to the hotel contractor (Robertson) to enable them to complete the external works to the new hotel.

## **Talbot Gateway Phase 3 - New Office Accommodation**

The visual transformation of the area housing the new DWP accommodation is well underway, with the demolition of the existing buildings (5-29) on King Street now being complete. The tendering process is in its final stages and will hopefully be completed by the end of the month, with the enabling works due to start in the next few months prior to the main construction contract. Work on the office block will complete in summer 2024. In the meantime the refurbishment of the former Hop Inn is approaching completion, into which the King Street dentist will relocate this autumn.

## **Council Tax and Business Rate collection**

Council Tax income is vital to ensure we can continue to provide the services that residents receive. The Council Tax collection rate at the end of July 2022 was 33.33%, which is the same position as it was at this time last year. We acknowledge that 2022/23 will be another difficult year for our residents with the emerging cost of living crisis, yet despite this, the vast majority of residents continue to pay.

As ever, we must balance the real issues faced by people with the obligation to pay their bills. We are piloting a new initiative to target households who choose not to pay their Council Tax by securing debts against properties through charging orders. We hope this sends a strong message that “won’t pay” is not an option. However I would also urge those people who are unable to do so to contact us as early as possible to see what options are available, as we do have support arrangements in place which can help.

The Council has now paid out the majority of main scheme energy grants for properties within Council Tax bands A to D. Direct Debit customers received their payment at the beginning of May 2022 whilst non-direct debit payers were sent a voucher to cash at the Post Office. Where vouchers were not cashed, they have been cancelled and the £150 allocated directly to Council Tax accounts. A total of £9.1m has been paid to over 60,000 households.

Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses within Blackpool continue to benefit from a reduction in Business Rates of 50% in response to the impact of COVID-19.

### **The Return Of Strictly!**

The BBC has confirmed that Strictly Come Dancing will return to Blackpool after a two-year break. The dance competition has missed its traditional trip to the resort's Tower Ballroom in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but will be back on Saturday 19th November 2022. Executive producer Sarah James said the return to the "iconic" venue was the "icing on the cake" of the 20th series. The show, which starts on 17th September 2022, will also see themed weeks, including one about [the BBC's 100th anniversary](#).

### **Switch-on success**

TV celebrity and designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen switched on the resort’s famous Illuminations to kick-start four months of Illuminations. The star of Channel 4’s Changing Rooms pulled the switch at the end of a 90-minute concert in front of a live audience in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, produced in association with MTV and featuring Blue, Tom Grennan, Nina Nesbitt, Fuse ODG and Mae Muller. Thousands of people who had gathered on the Promenade to watch the show on a giant screen were treated to a burst of fireworks and a spectacular light show on The Blackpool Tower. The show and switch-on moment were also live-streamed to a worldwide audience via MTV’s YouTube channel, attracting around 25,000 viewers.

### **Visitor Season – events show their pulling power**

The return of the annual Air Show in August saw record crowds over the weekend. The show, which featured the Red Arrows on both days for the first time since 2018, attracted more than 130,000 people to the Promenade on the Saturday and more than 93,000 on the Sunday. Council-owned car parks were at capacity over both days and a temporary overspill car park set up at the Airport attracted almost 800 users over the weekend.

In general, the school summer holidays have benefited from a strong events programme and good spells of weather. Visitor numbers have fallen slightly compared to last year when people were restricted to domestic travel, with indicators such as car park usage suggesting the resort is performing at a similar level to the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Plans are now in place for World Fireworks, Lightpool Festival and a return of last year's successful Christmas By The Sea event on the Tower Festival Headland, ensuring that we have a strong events programme to complement the extension to the Illuminations season. The Illuminations were switched on by TV star and designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen at the end of a live concert staged in The Tower Ballroom in association with MTV and streamed to crowds on the nearby headland and to a global audience via the VisitBlackpool and MTV YouTube channels.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Winter Gardens Investment**

In an encouraging new approach, the Council has issued a loan to Blackpool Entertainment Company Ltd, which is the company that operates the Winter Gardens. The loan will pay for essential repairs and some significant enhancements that will protect existing income and develop new income streams with, for example, the creation of a new cocktail/wine bar within the complex. The loan will be repaid as a result of the increase in revenue resulting from the improvements.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Libraries**

Libraries have been busy during this summer period, collaborating with a range of partners to deliver a range of family-focussed activities, attended by 298 children over the summer. The libraries and Adult, Community and Family Learning teams have collaborated with the National Literacy Trust on a number of storytelling and activity sessions at local parks this summer with 71 parents and children being supported to work, learn and play together, then joined with Blackpool Better Start to deliver an Early Years Festival at Palatine Library attended by 48 families. Other events included 3D scanning at Layton Library, visits from author and storyteller Dan Worsley, Percy the Park Keeper stories at Moor Park Library, and Drag Queen Story Hour and STEM activities at Central Library.

Blackpool Libraries have also collaborated with Blackpool Coastal Housing and LeftCoast on a new community build library and launderette in Mereside. Residents and community volunteers have been working closely with architects from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) to build a dedicated new space on Langdale Parade. Wash Your Words: Langdale Library and Laundry Room is now open to residents, a modern and spacious home for the

library and a range of community events. The formal opening of the library will take place in late September.

## PEOPLE PORTFOLIOS

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The 'People' portfolio consists of:

- Councillor Gillian Campbell - Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools 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

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

### COVID-19 Update

As of 30<sup>th</sup> August, COVID-19 infections are falling as the current wave caused by the BA.5 variant passes. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) COVID-19 Infection Survey suggests COVID-19 prevalence in England had fallen to approximately 2% by mid-August, from a peak in the BA.5 wave of 6% in early July. Hospital admissions, bed occupancy and deaths relating to COVID-19 are also in decline.

At present there are no identified variants that are determined to be likely to produce the next wave, making the prediction of the timing and scale of the next COVID-19 wave difficult. A reasonable worst case scenario might be to consider that the previous pattern continues and to plan for a new wave in late October of similar intensity to the previous Omicron waves. Similarly, predicting the pattern of the flu season is complicated by COVID-19, with evidence from Australia suggesting this could occur 2-3 months early, equating to November in the UK, and be of a 'low to medium' severity. However, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the potential impact in the UK.

A comprehensive vaccination programme for COVID-19 and seasonal flu is planned by NHS England and will be supplemented by additional activity locally. This additional activity will include a Blackpool Council Occupational Health offer, led by the Corporate Health Manager Karen White's team, engagement and activity to increase vaccination across Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and Blackpool Council's vaccination bus making it as easy as possible to get your jab, targeting communities with low uptake and dedicated resources to support vaccinations of our most vulnerable population in care homes.

## **Youth Services**

Our ambition that every young person in Blackpool has access to youth provision within a 15 minute walk of their home has reached a key point, following a recent review of youth provision across the town with key third sector partners. This identified the need for a collaborative approach to maximise funding opportunities. As a result, the Council has agreed to invest in the creation of a small Youth Service team to take on a coordinating and support role, with a particular focus on workforce development, funding opportunities and youth engagement to help shape the type of provision available.

## **Exam results**

Congratulations to all of our students who have, despite such significant challenges over the past two years, received their results and are now making plans for the future. For those who didn't get the results they hoped for, support and services are available across the town to help and we have some great opportunities across further education, apprenticeships and employment ready and waiting for our young people.

In the absence of published examination results across the school years 2019-20 and 2020-21, it is important not to draw conclusions from unpublished data on outcomes that have been generated through Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) and Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) even though many children did very well and progressed onto further education or employment. This summer has seen the re-introduction of nationally assessed examinations, with grades delivered through the major examination boards and official grade boundaries applied for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic period.

Whilst children have received their examination results at GCSE equivalent and A-Level equivalent, a period of appeal and validation of school cohorts occurs between August and January where these results remain unpublished. Whilst it is therefore inappropriate to comment upon results for individual schools and results in aggregate across Blackpool, the outcomes do appear to show a positive, upward trajectory of performance for the town.

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

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission inspected the local area SEND system in March 2022 and published their report in May. Whilst highlighting positive work across the town and some real strengths in the work with Children and Families with SEND the local area (which covers Health, the Local Authority and Education and primary partners) was found to be under-performing in four areas:

- The lack of specificity, ownership and accountability in the area's improvement strategy for SEND
- The duties around preparing children and young people for adulthood, such as ensuring continuity of health care, not being fulfilled



- The poor communication with parents and carers across the area
- The long waiting times for some therapies

We responded swiftly to this with a Statement of Action, submitted in advance of the required deadline. Since the inspection there has been considerable partnership activity to strengthen the delivery of SEND and a new Head of SEND, Charlotte Baron, has been appointed. Charlotte is an experienced SENDCO who brings with her a wealth of school experience. She will work closely with the Director and Assistant Directors of Children's Services, the Director of Adult Services / Director of Health and Care Integration and local NHS partners to deliver the written statement of action and to produce a revised and updated SEND strategy.

## Corporate Issues

### Adult Social Care - service overview

As the Adult Social Care team works through the pandemic recovery period, we continue to experience high levels of referrals for support. Alongside this sustained increase in demand we are seeing a shortage of staff within the care sector nationally and difficulties recruiting qualified social workers. The process of developing integrated ways of working with health will allow us to avoid duplication and tackle staff shortages across the whole system, including through shared working with health colleagues based within the Primary Care Networks. We are also looking at ways to develop working relationships with the wider multi-disciplinary teams and our community staff to improve the care and support offered.

- **Hospital and Health Based Teams:** New ways of working introduced during the pandemic are now embedded in practice and national guidance. Across the estate of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust, we have worked jointly with NHS colleagues to create a multi-disciplinary Transfer of Care Hub, which supports all patients identified as medically fit for discharge and in need of support to leave hospital. They triage patients who are ready to leave hospital and commission the appropriate pathway to an appropriate interim care arrangement, allowing for an assessment of medium and long term care needs outside of hospital. Shortages of availability of care in your own home due to recruitment challenges can mean some people having to go into short term residential care while they wait for a care package in their own home and, whilst not ideal, is preferable to staying in hospital beyond the period that you need acute care.
- **Adult Social Care Initial Contact Team (ICT) and North and South Teams:** Staff shortages in both ICT and North community teams have led to the use of agency staff to cover essential work. Changes to posts has allowed for the recruitment of unqualified staff to provide some extra capacity but they are unable to deliver complex case work and safeguarding cases which remain difficult to allocate. To help with capacity, the team is also exploring options for telephone review for those who are considered less vulnerable where this is safe and meaningful.

- **Adult Social Care:** Despite huge demand, the team continues to respond to urgent same day work as well as the more routine requests for Care Act Assessments and are moving to a more flexible approach to hybrid working from October.
- **Autism Team:** This team has grown substantially since being established in March 2019, with one Deputy Team Manager, five qualified Social Workers, one Case Assessor and four Support Workers. Due to the high level of referrals and staff vacancies, the service currently has a waiting list for assessment, which will be addressed once the posts are filled. The team is currently planning our second Autism event, to be held at the Winter Gardens on 1 November, which will include local employers from various sectors and are planning and implementing an Autism Strategy and Board.
- **Integrated Community Learning Disability Team:** This consists of staff employed by both Blackpool Council and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and is currently dealing with a backlog of reviews caused by two Social Work job vacancies. We are now seeing Day Services attendance figures similar to pre-COVID attendance.

### **Number of children in public care continues to fall**

The number of children in public care has fallen consistently through the summer of 2022 and now stands at 575 as at the end of September. This is the lowest reported total since the summer of 2019 and reflects a lower number of children entering care, positive outcomes at the conclusion of court proceedings and more children leaving long term care or being adopted.

Demand for children's social care services has been steady throughout 2022 and the number of children with child protection plans is in line with expected levels when compared to similar local authority areas. Key outcomes for care experienced young people (care leavers) continue to strengthen and have now been in line with or above national average levels for the past 6 months.

Despite this improving picture challenges remain, in particular the number of children in care in residential homes and the stability of the homes of our children in care. Children's services will be focusing on this critical issue through the latter part of this year and into 2023.

Following the recent sequence of positive monitoring visits by Ofsted, the Council's Children's Services are likely to be subject to a full re-inspection by Ofsted in the autumn/winter of 2022.

### **Chef's Academy**

As Blackpool Catering Services Chef's Academy begins its second year of operation, demand for the alternative educational provision has grown significantly. A total of 18 young people are enrolled on the programme starting in September, from a range of Blackpool secondary schools, which will see them gain knowledge, skills and qualifications in the catering and

hospitality sector along with support to progress to further education or employment once finishing secondary school.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Community Stop Smoking Services**

A new Community Stop Smoking Services contract was awarded on 1 January 2021 and despite initial set up problems as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the service was fully established with a team in place and operational by June 2021. As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, face to face clinics began across Blackpool which were well received. The service also offers home visits and telephone support for those unable to attend clinical sessions, i.e. people discharged from hospital, people more seriously affected by multiple co-morbidities and older people. The Community Stop Smoking Service achieved 289 quits in 2021-22, equating to 89% of the first-year target of 325 – this was despite the delays and complications of COVID-19.

The service customer satisfaction survey, Friends and Family, has shown a rating as either Excellent or Very Good and this may largely be due to the fact that there has been a real focus on development of the team - equipping them with the skills and competencies to better meet the needs of our residents. The service also had additional Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products added to the formulary, matching those available in secondary care and improvements were made to the NRT direct-supply systems.

The Community Stop Smoking Service receive direct referrals from the NHS Targeted Lung Health Check Pilot Programme and 63% of their referrals have gone on to achieve the goal of having 4 weeks smoke-free. The community service also has targets to reach specific population groups with high rates of smoking. In line with this, they have taken steps to actively recruit smokers with mental health conditions and prioritise smokers with mental wellbeing conditions by developing closer links with Community Mental Health Teams, Supporting Minds and the harm reduction community. The service has also developed closer links with Renaissance and Horizon in Blackpool and are designing interventions to support our LGBTQ community where smoking rates are thought to be up to 50% higher than the general population.

Smoking is one of the biggest risk factors contributing to very high levels of premature morbidity and mortality in Blackpool. These incidences of disease are seen mostly in our more deprived areas and the service places great emphasis on targeting smokers in routine and manual occupations and those with co-morbidities and/or long-term conditions. Manual workers and workplaces across Blackpool have been approached to see if they would like the support of Community Stop Smoking Services for their workplace and a positive example of this has been engagement with Blackpool Transport. In 2022/23 the service will focus on supporting social landlords and their tenants. Bespoke training packages Smoking and Mental Health, Having Difficult Conversations, Dual Use Smoking and Cannabis and Harm Reduction are designed to equip the team with the necessary skillset to tackle smoking-related inequalities in Blackpool.

Finally, a significant connection has been made between the Community Stop Smoking Service and the new Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Inpatient Smoke-free Service, ensuring that robust pathways are in place for patients who start their quit attempt in hospital to receive timely support and continuation of treatment when they are discharged in the community.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Blackpool Council Care and Support – Provider Services (All Age)**

The summer months have been a particularly busy period as we continue our recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic whilst also developing our services in response to both local and national drivers across health and social care as well as the development of an ‘all age’ offer of services to the residents of Blackpool. These include:

- **Virtual Wards:** The Council’s Vitaline Service is working with Blackpool Teaching Hospital and Fylde Coast Medical Services in the development of a remote monitoring function supporting individuals who have a respiratory condition living at home. This helps to identify early deterioration in someone’s respiratory condition, ensuring that they receive a timely clinical response which prevents an admission to hospital or presentation at Accident and Emergency.
- **Rapid First Approach:** The council’s Vitaline Service has worked with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Community Services and Rapid Response to develop a new approach to people who have fallen at home, using the clinician on duty to reduce the use of emergency or GP services. Since June 2022 this has avoided 7 admissions to hospital and improved customer care. Data and a Case Study has been shared with Integrated Care System partners and a similar model is being developed across Lancashire as a result of the positive impact we have had in Blackpool.
- **Friend for Life/Independent Visitor** - Building on the positive work achieved by Headstart, the Friend for Life and Independent Visitor schemes have transferred to the Council’s Shared Lives and Volunteers Service. The integration of these services will further enhance the support offered to some of our most vulnerable residents, including ‘our children with cared for experience’. Work is underway with the Children’s service to understand how we can use a Shared Lives model to support some of our young people aged 16 and over as part of their preparation for adulthood and/or move on plans following a Fostering placement.
- **Moving with Dignity – Single Handed Care FIRST Approach** - As part of the overall ‘dignity in care’ ethos, we will be embarking on a journey with health and social care partners that challenges us to think about how we care for people in different ways. We will be creating a dedicated training suite at the Health and Social Care Career Academy supported by Blackpool and Fylde College. This training suite will be available to health and social care providers as a resource to use to train their staff in different moving and

handling techniques that can be safely done by one person. This will be a transformation change across health and social care, ensuring people receive care in hospital and at home in the least intrusive manner and empowering people to take a level of control around their care based on their needs.

- **Social Care Workforce** - We have adopted a very different approach to our recruitment in recent months. In part this is due to the challenges the health and social care sector are experiencing but also to help support more people into employment, no matter what their experience or availability of time to work. We have worked in partnership with the Job Centre in developing a Guaranteed Interview Scheme which is targeted towards individuals who are in receipt of work related welfare benefits and available for work. In addition, we have delivered 'make social care count' sessions where individuals come along, hear about what jobs are available, meet with managers from services and then we try and match them to the different roles available. There has been some measured success from adopting these new approaches and interest has been high with eventual appointments being made to more than six candidates from a pool of fifteen. Further sessions are planned going forwards and links with the Health and Social Care Career Academy, Job Centre and Blackpool Football Club are creating new opportunities to support recruitment into the sector into the future.

### **Stanley Park Athletics Track Investment**

Work to replace the athletics track and make throwing cage modifications at Stanley Park athletics arena have started. The £325,000 investment will ensure the facilities can continue to host regional athletics events and will be complete ready for the next athletics season. The project has been developed in partnership with Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Athletics Club, England Athletics and Blackpool Council, with a mixture of external funding and council budget being used to fund the project.

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## 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 and Environment
- 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

### Town Deal Scheme progress update

Progress on the seven Town Deal schemes, several of which are supported by Council funding, are as follows:

#### 1. **Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Infrastructure (£7.5m Town Deal)**

The scheme will create and refurbish highways to open up 10.5 hectares of development sites that will attract jobs and investment within the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. Site investigations are underway and designs are progressing, with a delay in delivery due to awaiting provision of technical information and costs estimates from United Utilities and Electricity North West and some queries from Sport England, The Health and Safety Executive and Lancashire County Council Highways. The first phase of works, remodelling the Division Lane Junctions, will commence in October and last 6 weeks. As the Common Edge site remains Greenbelt until completion of the ongoing examination in public process for part 2 of the Local Plan, any decision of the Planning Committee will be subject to final confirmation by the Secretary of State. It is anticipated that the consents will be in place for the planned start of the main highway construction works in February 2023, with completion scheduled for the end of the calendar year.

**2. The Youth Hub ('The Platform') (£0.5m Town Deal)**

The scheme provides a physical space where advice and guidance will be available to up to 400 young people aged 16-24 in the town, with the anticipated outcome that they will progress into rewarding and fulfilling opportunities in education, training or directly into work. So far 318 young people have benefited from the Hub, with 75 gaining paid employment and 69 going into training or education. Those who are at risk of disengaging with the service are given additional support, including looking at other support options, and have the option to re-engage at any time.

**3. Revue Community Sports Village (£6.5m Town Deal)**

The project will aid the regeneration of the area, creating jobs and encouraging over 1,700 people to engage in health and well-being activities through the creation of a new community sports centre and facilities. Spoil has been cleared from the site, with planning applications for the work now being prepared for submission in the next few months.

**4. The Edge (£4.5m Town Deal)**

The scheme will redevelop/refurbish the historic Stanley Buildings within the town centre, creating 1,200m<sup>2</sup> of modern office space for start-up and growing businesses to locate and /or access business advice. Planning consent has now been achieved, a branding exercise is underway and construction costs are being reviewed to achieve value for money.

**5. The Illuminations (£4.5m Town Deal)**

With £8.75m of Council funding together with the Town Deal funds, the scheme will upgrade the Illuminations to attract 1,750,000 additional visitors (by 2026) by improving the associated infrastructure and developing new features using novel and environmentally friendly lighting. The creation of new centrepiece attractions will create four permanent full time equivalent (FTE) jobs and support five artists to develop new skills. Several purchases including a box van, two cherry pickers, a lorry mounted crane, a tele handler, a custom robotic arm and computer equipment are now being finalised and new feature designs will see 'Odyssey', the first Town Deal funded attraction, completed in time for the current Illuminations season and will see future manufacturing of the other new features brought forward. The team has also taken a battery-operated zero emissions truck on trial, which is proving to be a success.

**6. Multiversity land acquisition (£9m Town Deal)**

As part of the Multiversity project (see details of the associated Levelling Up Fund bid in the Corporate portfolio report), the Town Deal is funding land acquisition to enable the relocation of Blackpool and the Fylde College's Park Road campus to Blackpool's town centre. Negotiations with property owners are now underway, with a further report related to the compulsory acquisition of the site to be considered in due course if necessary, depending on progress with negotiations.



## **7. Blackpool Central Courts Relocation (£6.95m Town Deal)**

Relocation of the county and magistrates court will allow the demolition, clearing and remediation of the current courts building and plot to further open up 'Blackpool Central', the £300m leisure development, which will create a year-round, world-class visitor attraction.

Discussions are continuing with Government regarding funding for the construction of the new courts on the site purchased at Devonshire Road, for which a planning application will be submitted when funding is secured. Construction of the car park as part of the scheme continues to make progress.

## **Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone update**

Good progress continues to be made on the Enterprise Zone development. The construction work for the new Common Edge Sports pavilion and car park will complete in late September but planning conditions require the completion of the Division Lane junction before this can be brought into use, which is anticipated from January 2023. The planning consent for the building also prevented any work commencing on the junction until the building itself was complete. The interim period will be utilised for staff training and commissioning works.

The pavilion includes changing rooms, an activity space and a take-away café facility to complement the newly-relocated grass pitches. The new facilities are very much welcomed by the local football clubs and leagues who have visited the site whilst under construction to see for themselves the new facilities on offer. The tender for the construction of a new 3G floodlit sports pitch and a new grass Rugby League rugby pitch has been awarded to Carrick Sports, with work planned to commence in mid –September and is scheduled for completion late March 2023.

Initial design proposals and high level feasibility studies are underway with Enterprise Zone consultant engineers WSP and Enterprise Zone architects and planners Cassidy and Ashton, working alongside the airport's operational management team, to develop proposals for new aircraft hangars on the eastern and western flanks of the airport. These will enable the Council to support the relocation of airport operations in line with approved master plan and add additional hangar capacity to help attract new business.

Despite the present economic uncertainty there remains a reasonable level of interest in investment in new property at the Enterprise Zone, with advanced discussions underway with a number of data centre operators wishing to benefit from the transatlantic cable.

Studies are also underway into supporting infrastructure that will both enable development of ethically powered data facilities and assist the progression to achieve net zero by 2030, including for a large solar farm within the airport boundary, a battery storage facility and a connection to new off shore wind farms. Engineers WSP are also conducting a detailed study into the existing and required future power requirements of Enterprise Zone phase 2, as the

necessary primary electricity sub-station may now have a delivery time lag from order to commissioning of up to four years.

### **Abingdon Street Market rejuvenation**

The refurbishment of Abingdon Street Market is progressing and in September the contractor will hand over the market ready to commence the fit out. The new glazing for the Edward Street elevation will arrive soon and this will bring forward the most striking physical change on Cedar Square. Terms are also close to being finalised with the potential operators of the Market.

### **Coastal Protection Scheme**

Following the delivery of the outline business case in line with the Blackpool Coastal Strategy, Blackpool has been allocated £61m for the coastal protection schemes between Little Bispham and Bispham and Gynn Square to Cocker Square.

The Environment Agency (EA) has developed a collaborative delivery framework, which has been through a rigorous procurement process in the selection of suitable designers and contractors for coastal protection schemes. We will be using the framework, working collaboratively with the EA and DEFRA's commercial team to deliver the project, strengthening the contract through previous learning.

### **Blackpool Beach Nourishment Works**

The outline business case for the proposed beach nourishment works between North and Central piers commenced earlier this year. The Council has commissioned Jacobs from the Environment Agency's framework to assist in the preparation. The outline business case will complete by the end of 2022 and it is anticipated that it will be submitted to the Environment Agency's large project review board in early January.

## **Corporate Issues**

### **Council "Highly Commended" for our response to the Climate Emergency**

I am very pleased to report that the Council won a prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) "Highly Commended" award at their 2022 ceremony in the category of "Climate Response", marking us out as one of the top three Councils in the country. The judges noted that they were impressed at the range of measures and initiatives which had been put in place, and felt there were many strong examples of the Council demonstrating leadership on the agenda. They liked that the measures taken were clearly tailored to address local circumstances and cited the Eco Coaching project led by Groundwork on Grange Park as a great example of how we can also tackle the cost of living crisis in a "green" way.

I was particularly proud of their comment that our team “truly seemed to be responding to the climate change emergency like it is an emergency, and acting with urgency”. We are all aware that there are other places in the country which need to do much more than us to reduce their impact on the environment and over the next 12 months we will be demonstrating that if we can take the climate crisis seriously, others with greater resources at their disposal certainly can too. We already have 45 staff and councillors trained as part of efforts to make the Council “carbon literate”, with more to follow.

### **“Council of the Year” from the Northern Housing Awards**

It seems that every one of my reports brings news of another award for our work on housing, and this one is no different! Blackpool added to its success at the Inside Housing Awards in November 2021 by coming away with three awards from the Northern Housing Awards in May. The Council once again picked up “Council of the Year” and our ALMO Blackpool Coastal Housing also collected two awards for “Best Approach to Diversity and Inclusion” and “Best Approach to Employee Wellbeing”. Our congratulations go to all involved.

### **Grange Park work progresses**

The contractors have now started work on phase 2, as work continues to progress well on phase 1 of the site. This £20 million project will provide 131 new homes for affordable rent, comprised of 2 to 6 bed houses, bungalows and new sheltered housing. With the support of the European Social Fund and council investment, these new homes will have a number of energy saving measures and technologies, including 30 air source heat pumps and good levels of insulation. Once complete they will act as a demonstrator for how we can reduce the large proportion of our emissions which come from housing in Blackpool. Hopefully by then the government will make some coherent proposals to fund insulation to reduce energy use and bills, so we can bring the benefits to more and more people at a time when they need it most.

### **Troutbeck - completed**

I am very pleased to report that the final units have now been completed on this scheme, totalling 75 new affordable homes, a number of which have been customised to meet the needs of disabled families. Replacing ageing and unwanted housing stock is essential if we are to deliver communities which provide a settled place for families to flourish and create a desirable place to live.

### **Leading the way on Supported Housing**

Blackpool Council is one of four Councils to be awarded a first share of the Governments £20m funding for the Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP). At a visit to Blackpool in June this year, Housing Minister Eddie Hughes announced that this funding would allow Blackpool “to build on their successful pilot schemes”, and stated that “this work is already

benefitting local communities by tackling poor practice and improving conditions for vulnerable tenants”.

The SHIP will enable Blackpool Council to continue the work of the pilot to work with providers to drive up standards, tackle poor quality accommodation and support and ensure providers are clear on the needs of the town to ensure we have the right accommodation, for the right people, in the right place. To do this we will offer support but also challenge the market to make sure that the supported housing schemes in Blackpool deliver great outcomes.

### **Rollout of trauma first aid kits**

In conjunction with Blackpool Community Safety Partnership, we are currently rolling out 45 publicly accessible trauma first aid kits into key locations, forming part of measures that are being considered and taken in relation to our Protect and Prepare Duty. These would be available for use in the event of serious injuries that requires appropriate lifesaving first aid with vital and available equipment in publicly accessible locations.

The equipment is designed so that a member of the public is able to use it, but will potentially allow access to staff from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals to support the rollout of equipment with a training offer for those organisations who host or are located near to the equipment.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Stanley Park – a National Treasure**

Stanley Park has been named “England Park of the Year” for the third time and as a result awarded 'National Treasure' status. This amazing accolade is thanks to the partnership work between the Council's Park Development Service, Friends of Stanley Park and ENVECO NW Environmental Services who have all worked tirelessly to bring engaging events, activities and high quality green spaces to local residents.

I would also like to congratulate the Friends of Stanley Park on receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK, almost an equivalent of an “MBE” for community groups, and reflects their tireless work in helping to keep Stanley Park's place amongst the very best parks in the UK.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Bee Hives installed in Revoe Community Garden**

The Park Development Service's Park Ranger Team has been working with the HeadStart team and the local community to install two new bee hives and replace an existing one. The three hives will house around 140,000 honey bees at Revoe Park, one for everyone living in Blackpool!

The project has been led by the Park Rangers, who understand the importance and benefits of bees. The hives will contribute both environmentally and be used as an education tool during Forest School and wider Park Rangers activities. Bees are responsible for pollinating around 80 percent of flowering plants, making them an essential part of any healthy ecosystem and supporting the growing of vegetables, fruits and crops.

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## **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 with Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met once on 27 June 2022. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of that meeting and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

### **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 27 JUNE 2022**

#### **1. Combined Fire Authority annual meeting**

The meeting held 27 June was the Authority's Annual Meeting and Members appointed County Councillors D O'Toole and J Shedwick as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority respectively for 2022/23.

#### **2. Composition of the Combined Fire Authority**

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2022/23 included 3 new Members from Lancashire County Council: Steve Rigby, Ash Sutcliffe and Barrie Yates.

#### **3. Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service White Paper**

The Authority was made aware that the long awaited Home Office publication "Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service" White Paper had been published for consultation from 18 May 2022 to 26 July 2022. The Chief Fire Officer would be drawing together a draft response on behalf of the Authority following discussion at a forthcoming Strategy Day. It was acknowledged there was potential for additional political group and individual responses and that the Service would be submitting a separate response.

#### **4. Annual safety, health and environment report 2021/22**

The Authority noted that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance.

In March 2022 the auditor from British Assessment Bureau carried out a surveillance audit against health and safety standard ISO 45001:2018 and environment ISO 14001: 2015. The scope for both standards was 'The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire'. This broad scope encompassed all Service activities with audit visits to five fire stations that operated different duty systems and to a number of supporting departments. Continued certification was granted without any non-conformance. During 2021/22 there were 85 accidents, 94 near misses and 14 RIDDOR events. The report provided a summary of the total accident and ill-health statistics for 2021/22. A comparison against previous performance showed an overall downward trend from absence following work related injury/illness however the figures reported in 2018/19, 2020/21 and 2021/22 had seen a smaller number of staff away from work for long term absence (which related to safety events which had impacted the overall performance). The focus for health and wellbeing had continued to be on supporting staff, colleagues, families, and friends in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. A range of material continued to be developed to support staff through this difficult time and a new support resource, Wellbeing Support Dogs had been introduced. The Carbon Management Plan 2010 included a target of 40% carbon emission reduction by March 2030 from a baseline of 4352 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> in 2007/08. The Service had achieved an overall reduction of 24.9% by March 2022.

## **5. Member champion activity report**

The Authority received a presentation from pupils from Cardinal Allen Catholic High School, Fleetwood who had been invited by County Councillor Andrea Kay, Health and Wellbeing Champion to present their energy saving thoughts for the future. These included: better insulation in all public buildings, better public transport systems, the planting of more trees in parks, grants for land owners, campaigns on buses, switching lights off, insulation for houses, encouragement of the bee population and a big wind turbine on the school field.

## **6. Operational incidents of interest**

The Authority received a short presentation on a large fire which had occurred on Church Street, Preston, on 19 May 2022. The former Odeon site (more recently the Evoque nightclub) was a sizeable incident that ran for a number of days. It was a complex incident because of the condition of the building and reports at an early stage that there was the potential for people to be inside. The presentation gave an overview of the incident. Hazards included: an unstable structure, large smoke plume, asbestos suspected, difficult access (due to the proximity of other buildings), electric and gas supplies were present. Operational priorities were to: save saveable lives, firefighter safety, protection of property and the environment and the reduction of the impact on the community. The incident lasted throughout the evening and a number of partnership agencies were on the scene (Lancashire Constabulary, North West Ambulance Service, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council, Cadent gas and Electricity North West). Crews and Officers remained on scene for over 3 days.



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor L Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 September 2022

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Council will be asked to consider the re-appointment of its committees, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972, due to changes in the political make-up of two of the political groups.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To re-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
- 2.2 To re-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 Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee).
- 2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, to continue the inclusion of the non-aligned member Councillor Mrs Callow to the Board and to also appoint her as Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board.
- 2.4 To agree the political balance attached at Appendix 7(a) and appointments to the above committees at Appendix 7(b) (the latter will be circulated separately).
- 2.5 To re-appoint the Licensing Committee with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (equating to a revised membership figure of 12 and a composition of six Labour, five Conservative and one Blackpool Independent).

- 2.6 Subject to (2.5) above, 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.
- 2.7 To agree that any membership changes to committees or sub-committees during the remainder of the Municipal Year be reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader for implementation.
- 2.8 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree to the memberships of the committees of the Council and their Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out in Appendix 7(b) (to be circulated separately).
- 2.9 To note the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as this is unaffected by political balance arrangements.
- 2.10 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

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

- 3.1 To enable Council business to be transacted by various committees and for the size of the committees to reflect the current political balance of the political groups on the Council. This will also meet statutory requirements.

3.2a	Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?	No
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3.2b	Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?	Yes
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- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are no other options other than a different or varied set of committees; however, the current committees have been appointed by Council in recent years and help transact the business of Council efficiently.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

- 4.1 The appointment of Council committees will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

**5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 **Proposed committees** – the committees are set out below:

- Scrutiny Leadership Board
- 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

- 5.2 The last review of the political balance requirements was undertaken in May 2022 at the Annual Meeting. Since then there have been two changes to the political groups. Councillor Owen on 2 August 2022 informed the Director of Governance and Partnerships that he would no longer be a member of the Labour Group and sadly Councillor John Wing passed away on 12 August 2022. These events have caused a review of the political balance on committees. This makes the political membership of the council to be currently 19 Labour, 15 Conservative, 3 Blackpool Independents and 4 non-grouped independent members – Councillor Blackburn, Councillor Cain, Councillor Owen and Councillor Mrs Callow, with 1 vacancy.
- 5.3 The allocation of seats to committees and the structure agreed at the Annual meeting has been the foundation from which this review of the political balance calculations has been undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the associated regulations and this report seeks to do that.
- 5.4 Although not subject to political balance rules, it is recommended that the same methodology be applied to the Licensing Committee and for a committee to equate to a membership of 12, then there would be six Labour councillors, five Conservative councillors and one Blackpool Independent group councillor (resulting in minus 1 seat for the Labour Group).
- 5.5 The Licensing Committee would also need to appoint one permanent sub-committee - Public Protection - which is subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations.
- 5.6 A full schedule of political balance calculations for all the proposed committees and the permanent sub-committee is attached at Appendix 7(a). These have been allocated by 'political group'. A 'political group' is one, which has been constituted in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and consists of at least two members. The 4 non-grouped independents, as they are not part of a political group, are not automatically entitled to a seat on a committee. The reduction in the Labour Group and Conservative group

memberships has meant that as a result the calculations indicate that both groups need to forgo 2 seats on committees, from the original allocation at the Annual Council meeting.

- 5.7 Following consultation with Group Leaders, the following adjustments were agreed at the annual meeting to achieve overall political balance:
- Planning Committee – plus 1 Labour, plus 1 Blackpool Independent
  - Appeals Committee – plus 1 Labour
  - Chief Officers’ Employment Committee – minus 1 Conservative
  - Standards Committee – plus 1 Labour
- 5.8 Subsequent to these revised calculations and as a result of changes to the political party memberships of the Labour Group and Conservative Group, following consultation with the respective group leaders (in addition to paragraph 5.7 above):
- the Labour Group will forgo 1 seat from Standards Committee and 1 seat from Appeals Committee and
  - the Conservative Group will forgo 1 seat from Standards Committee and 1 seat from the Public Protection Committee.
- 5.9 **Appointment of Chairs** –Appendix 7(b) (to be circulated separately) lists the notified names of committee members and proposed chair and vice-chair positions. The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for the Licensing Committee to deal with.
- 5.10 It is recommended that as has been previous practice, the following principles be applied:
- the Chair of the Audit Committee is from the principal opposition group and the Vice Chair from the majority group
  - the Chair positions in all three Scrutiny Committees be filled by majority group councillors and the Vice Chair positions be filled by principal opposition councillors
  - the Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee be filled by a principal opposition councillor
  - all other proposals for Chairs and Vice Chairs are filled by councillors from the majority group.

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a) - Political balance calculations

Appendix 7(b) - Proposed membership of the Council’s committees and the Health and Wellbeing Board (To be circulated separately)

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review periodically the political composition of the Authority and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990. See:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/1553/regulation/17/made>

**7.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 7.1 There are no equalities considerations.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

- 8.1 Special responsibility allowances for the proposed Chairs and Vice Chairs are met from the Members Allowances' budget.

**9.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 9.1 Failure to appoint certain committees will hinder the Council in maintaining its statutory duties i.e. consideration of planning applications, hearing of appeals etc.

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

- 10.1 None.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 11.1 The Group Leaders put forward nominations for their representatives to serve on the recommended committees.

**12.0 Background papers:**

- 12.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.

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## Political Balance Allocations - September 2022

**STAGE 1 - Percentage representation on the Council:**

Party	Membership	Percentage %
Labour	19	45.24
Conservative	15	35.71
Blackpool Independents	3	7.14
	<u>37 *</u>	<u>88.10</u>

\* Four councillors are not part of a political group and therefore are not included in these political balance calculations. There is also one vacancy on the Council.

**STAGE 2 - Total number of seats on committees to be allocated:**

Committee Name	Membership
Scrutiny Leadership Board	7 (plus Independent Chair giving overall membership of 8)
Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee	9
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	9
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	9
Audit Committee	7
Planning Committee	7
Appeals Committee	5
Public Protection Sub-Committee	7
Chief Officers Employment Committee	9
Standards Committee	5
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>74</b></u>

**STAGE 3 - Total allocation of seats to each party:**

(This stage is to ensure as far as possible that the number of seats allocated to a group in total, is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the Council as a whole)

Party	Number of seats	Seats (rounded)
Labour	33.48	33
Conservative	26.43	26
Blackpool Independents	5.29	<u>5</u>
		<u><b>64</b></u>

**STAGE 4 - Working calculations for individual committees**

(This stage is to ensure that as far as possible, the number of seats allocated to a group on each committee, is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the Council as a whole).

Committee	Party	Seats on each committee	Seat entitlement	Allocation for each committee		Adjusted seat allocation	New total of seats on each committee	
Scrutiny Leadership Board	Labour	7	3.17	3		3	7	
	Conservative		2.50	3		4		
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0		0		
Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Labour	9	4.07	4		4	8	
	Conservative		3.21	3		3		
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1		1		
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	Labour	9	4.07	4		4	8	
	Conservative		3.21	3		3		
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1		1		
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	Labour	9	4.07	4		4	8	
	Conservative		3.21	3		3		
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1		1		
Audit	Labour	7	3.17	3		3	6	
	Conservative		2.50	3		3		
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0		0		
Planning	Labour	7	3.17	3		4	8	Adjusted at annual meeting for political balance purposes - see paragraph 5.6 of the report
	Conservative		2.50	3		3		Adjusted at annual meeting for political balance purposes - see paragraph 5.6 of the report
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0		1		
Appeals	Labour	5	2.26	2		2	4	This was adjusted at annual meeting to achieve a political balance totalling 5, however this is position that Labour has chosen to forgo as a result of membership changes of the political party
	Conservative		1.79	2		2		
	Blackpool Independents		0.36	0		0		
Public Protection Sub-Committee	Labour	7	3.17	3		3	5	See paragraph 5.6 of the report. This is position that Conservative has chosen to forgo as a result of membership changes of the political party
	Conservative		2.50	3		2		
	Blackpool Independents		0.50	0		0		
Chief Officers Employment	Labour	9	4.07	4		4	7	Adjusted at annual meeting for political balance purposes - see paragraph 5.6 of the report
	Conservative		3.21	3		2		
	Blackpool Independents		0.64	1		1		
Standards	Labour	5	2.26	2		2	3	This was adjusted at annual meeting to achieve a political balance totalling 5, however this is position that Labour has chosen to forgo as a result of membership changes of the political party
	Conservative		1.79	2		1		
	Blackpool Independents		0.36	0		0		
Total Seats				64		64		

	Stage 4	Stage 4 (revised)	Stage 3
Labour	32	33	33
Conservative	28	26	26
Blackpool Independents	4	5	5
	64	64	64



**Note 1**

Stage 3 overrides Stage 4. Therefore there has to be changes to the stage 4 allocations to align with the allocations produced by stage 3. (Council At the Annual Council meeting in May 2022, committees were adjusted to achieve political balance and where appropriate this has continued. Any exceptions to this are listed in the table above.

If the Council wishes to allocate seats **other** than reflects the revised stage 4 allocation per group, this would require a resolution of Council, which no member votes against.

**Note 2**

The Licensing Committee does not fall under these statutory rules and has therefore not been included in the political balance calculations

However, it is recommended that the composition of the Licensing Committee be also reflective of the political balance of the Council which now equates to a committee of 12: 6 Labour, 5 Conservative, 1 Blackpool Independent.

**Note 3**

The Public Protection Sub-Committee **does** not derive its responsibility from the Licensing Act 2003 and **is** therefore part of the aggregate political balance calculations.

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## Notice of Motion

To consider the following motion, which has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1:

**Advertising on Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles** Councillor T Williams to propose.

The taxi companies have recently been presented with further cost challenges caused by rising fuel costs and road closures around the resort.

The Council currently has a mixture of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles all with different liveries.

To increase their revenue streams and promote local and regional business the council should permit advertising on both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles with an agreed type of content. It is noted that advertising approved by the licensing service is already permitted on Hackney Carriage vehicles.

The Council requests the Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with a nominated officer and the directors/owners of taxi companies to discuss the viability of a more enhanced combined advertising programme utilising the services of a preferred advertising agency and the council tourism office.

Any recommendations from this meeting to be subject of a report to the relevant Committee/s to allow any change of policy needed.

The intent would be collective campaigns where advertising revenue is shared on an equal basis between vehicles and the companies to formulate a payment procedure for their drivers.

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