

# Blackpool Council

13 June 2023

To: Councillors Boughton, P Brookes, Hoyle, B Mitchell, D Scott, S Smith, Thomas, Webb and Wilshaw

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

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

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

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

#### **2 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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

#### **3 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS** (Pages 1 - 12)

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

#### **4 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 13 - 16)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, July 2023 - October 2023, within the remit of the Committee.

**5      LEVELLING-UP INTRODUCTION** (Pages 17 - 26)

To provide an overview of Levelling-Up in Blackpool.

**6      TOURISM PERFORMANCE** (Pages 27 - 32)

To provide the committee with a background to the visitor economy and how performance is assessed.

**7      TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE** (Pages 33 - 52)

To provide an overview of progress on various projects being undertaken to secure the regeneration of Blackpool Town Centre following the last update in September 2022.

**8      SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 53 - 60)

To consider the details of the Committee's workplanning workshop.

**9      DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 4 October 2023 commencing at 6.00pm.

**Venue information:**

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

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Jodie Stephenson, Democratic Governance Senior Advisor, Tel: 01253 477169, e-mail [jodie.stephenson@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.stephenson@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).

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 June 2023

## EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

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

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

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

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

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

### 5.0 Background Information

5.1 Attached at the appendix 3(a) to this report is a summary of the decisions taken, which have been circulated to Members previously.

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

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

#### **5.4 Witnesses/representatives**

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

**NB:** The portfolios of Cabinet Members have changed since the decisions in Appendix 3(a) were taken.

- Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Councillor Jo Ferrell, Levelling Up - People
- Councillor Mark Smith, Levelling Up - Place

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### **List of Appendices:**

- Appendix 3(a) Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

#### **6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

#### **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

#### **8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

#### **9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

#### **10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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APPENDIX 3(a)

DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<p><b>Item Title</b></p>				
<p>Mental Health Provision For Young Men Scrutiny Review Final Report</p> <p>The Executive agreed: To consider the report and offer a response to the recommendations contained within the Action Plan, forwarding the recommendations to the relevant officers for consideration and implementation.</p>	<p>To consider the Mental Health Provision for Young Men Scrutiny Review Final Report.</p>	<p>EX15/2023</p>	<p>27 February 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Community Health and Wellbeing</p>
<p>Foxhall Village, Blackpool – Completion Of West Development Site</p> <p>The Executive agreed: To approve the preferred option (Option 4) in relation to completion of housing on the West site at Foxhall Village in partnership with Great Places Housing Group (GPHG). To grant delegated authority to the Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive or the Director of Resources (where appropriate, in finalising the terms of the arrangement subject to the parameters set out in Appendix 5a to the Executive report.</p> <p>To approve the Council’s commitment to complete the remaining enabling / supporting works in relation to completion of drainage and roads (see details in Appendix 5a to the Executive report).</p>	<p>To acknowledge a number of delivery options that have been fully investigated in relation to the completion of housing on the West site at Foxhall Village (also known as the Rigby Road development, land bounded by Seaside Way/ Rigby Road/ Tyldesley Road/ Princess Street). To seek approval for Officers to pursue the Preferred Option.</p>	<p>EX18/2023</p>	<p>27 February 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance</p>

<p>To grant delegated authority to the Head of Legal to authorise the drafting and agreement of the relevant Heads of Terms and completion of the Development Agreement/Lease with Great Places Housing Group. This in turn will enable Great Places Housing Group to deliver 88 new affordable units on Foxhall Village West site.</p>				
<p>Blackpool's Levelling Up Pilot: Progress Since March 2022 The Executive agreed: To note the significant progress made since Blackpool entered into national Levelling Up Pilot with Government in March 2022, to endorse the work already undertaken outlined in paragraphs 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6, and to agree for the Council to continue to work with the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) and Homes England in support of Blackpool's regeneration objectives.</p>	<p>To report on progress made since Blackpool Council entered into its national Levelling Up Pilot with Government in March 2022.</p>	EX16/2023	27 February 2023	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<p>Multiversity And Levelling Up Fund Round 2 The Executive agreed: To note the report and the success of attracting £40m towards the Multiversity.  To authorise the £16million Prudential Borrowing, the costs of which are to be covered by Blackpool and the Fylde College, as incorporated within the Levelling Up Fund bid and to delegate to the Chief Executive the agreement of the final terms after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.  To note that pursuant to Executive decision EX35/2022 that the voluntary acquisition of</p>	<p>This report provides an update on the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 bid submissions subsequent to the 25 April 2022 Executive decision (EX19/2022) which agreed to "delegate to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, the submission of the final bids by the deadline of 6th July 2022 and for the Executive to receive a report on the final submissions". An update report (EX33/2022) was also provided to the 5 September 2022, Executive. In addition the report seeks authority to take forward the next stages</p>	EX17/2023	27 February 2023	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation



<p>properties for the Multiversity is continuing and that a further report will be brought to the Executive to authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order should such powers be required.</p> <p>To authorise the Head of Legal to enter into such contracts as are necessitated by the successful approval to deliver the scheme.</p>	<p>of the Multiversity project in the light of the successful £40m Levelling Up Fund 2 bid.</p>			
<p>Whitegate Manor (261 Whitegate Drive) - Redevelopment In Principle For Sheltered Housing</p> <p>The Executive agreed: To support the principle of redevelopment of the Whitegate Manor site using Housing Revenue Account resource for new-build sheltered housing.</p> <p>To grant delegated authority to the Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive to continue with detailed design work to develop a detailed scheme for consideration at a future Executive meeting and support the work to relocate existing users of the building to enable future demolition and redevelopment to take place.</p> <p>To approve the transfer of land from the General Fund into the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and consider opportunity for provision of a capital receipt to the general Fund for the land.</p>	<p>To agree the principle of redevelopment at Whitegate Manor, Whitegate Drive for sheltered accommodation using Housing Revenue Account resources. To acknowledge work undertaken to-date in regards to project feasibility and securing vacant possession of the building and confirm support to ongoing design work that will facilitate a detailed project proposal to be considered for approval by Executive at a future meeting.</p>	EX19/2023	27 February 2023	Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance
<p>Revoe Community Sports Village – Site Assembly</p> <p>The Executive agreed:</p>	<p>To report on progress of the Revoe Community Sports Village project which is being brought forward by Blackpool Football Club (BFC) and supported</p>	EX21/2023	27 February 2023	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business,

<p>To agree, in principle, that if all other options are exhausted then the Council would consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to assemble the site outlined in Appendix 8a to the Executive report (Land Assembly Plan).</p> <p>To authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to pursue detailed negotiations with interested parties as necessary.</p> <p>To authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to pursue negotiations with Blackpool Football Club in relation to the transfer of the land required to deliver the Revoe Community Sports Village project, as shown on the plan in Appendix 8b to the Executive report (Masterplan).</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Communications and Regeneration to authorise expenditure and contracts pursuant to clauses 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above.</p> <p>To instruct relevant Officers to commence all necessary preparatory works for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to support the site assembly of the land required and any associated road improvements and road closures.</p> <p>That Officers be requested to bring a further report to the Executive to seek the authority prior to the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order should such powers be required.</p>	<p>through the Council’s Town Deal programme and which helps to kick start the implementation of the ‘Revitalising Revoe Masterplan’.</p> <p>To consider the approach to assembling a site for the development of the Community Sports Village and the proposed transfer of the land.</p>			<p>Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
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<p>To authorise the Head of Legal Services to prepare legal documentation and enter into and complete appropriate documents/contracts as necessary to complete the transactions.</p>				
<p>Library And Heritage Service - Fees And Charges 2023-24</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To approve the amended Library and Heritage Services fees and charges for 2023-24</p>	<p>To consider proposed changes to fees and charges for the Library and Heritage Services in 2023-24.</p>	<p>PH16/2023</p>	<p>9 February 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Lynn Williams</p>
<p>Estates and Valuations Fees and Charges 2023/24</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To approve the proposed fees and charges for the Estates service as outlined at Appendix A with effect from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.</p>	<p>To consider fees and charges proposals for 2023/24 for the Estates service.</p>	<p>PH28/2023</p>	<p>20 February 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
<p>Provision of Furnished Council Tenancies</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To approve a furnished tenancy service for Council tenants to be introduced, alongside existing unfurnished tenancies.</p> <p>To agree that this concept be run as a pilot (proof of concept) for an initial twelve month period, with initial outlay of up to £100,000 with the intention that this is fully recoverable over 3 years</p> <p>To agree that the service is only offered to new tenants at the outset.</p>	<p>To summarise the business case for Blackpool Coastal Housing, on behalf of the Council, commencing a furnished tenancy provision from the Housing Revenue Account, and to seek approval to introduce and fund a pilot scheme.</p>	<p>PH34/2023</p>	<p>1 March 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance</p>

APPENDIX 3(a)

<p>New Provision of Temporary Accommodation with Support</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To agree in principle to lease the property at 141 Hornby Road and to engage with the current owners, HomeGroup, with a view to entering into a leasing arrangement for the building.</p> <p>That subject to satisfactory lease terms being agreed, and financial viability, signing of the lease be delegated to the Director of Strategy.</p> <p>To agree that, subject to a lease being approved, the building is to be used as female only accommodation (in line with existing planning) to provide emergency accommodation to women, including those with children.</p> <p>To agree that the scheme be run, on the Council's behalf, by Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited.</p>	<p>To seek permission to develop additional temporary accommodation provision at 141 Hornby Road.</p> <p>To obtain authority to allow the Head of Legal Services to enter into any such documentation as may be necessary and to consider and deal with such due diligence as may be required to provide for completion of any proposed lease.</p>	<p>PH33/2023</p>	<p>1 March 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience</p>
<p>Lease Renewal of 9-19 Abingdon Street (Known As Coastal House) to Blackpool Coastal House.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To approve a renewed ten-year lease to Blackpool Coastal Housing to continue to occupy space at 9-19 Abingdon Street (known as Coastal House) in line with the proposed Heads of Terms attached at Appendix A and Plan attached at Appendix B.</p>	<p>To consider the lease renewal of 9-19 Abingdon Street (known as Coastal House) to Blackpool Coastal Housing in line with the proposed Heads of Terms</p>	<p>PH37/2023</p>	<p>2 March 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation</p>
<p>Review of Council Sheltered Housing</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed:</p>	<p>To consider the findings from the recent Sheltered Review, undertaken at request</p>	<p>PH38/2023</p>		<p>Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the</p>

<p>To agree that the minimum automatic age of sheltered is raised from 55 to 65, to fall more in line with national policy and to more accurately reflect the demand. Exceptions should still be made for people under this age on a needs basis, with particular sensitivity to those 55+ who may be preparing for old age.</p> <p>To agree the principle that the schemes identified as “red” in section 6 of the report be de-commissioned and turned into general needs stock, and that this should be done in a phased way, over time with updates being given the Shareholder Committee.</p> <p>To agree the principle That investment is made in the remaining identified “amber” schemes to bring them up to the standards expected for the future, with costs built in over-time to the annual Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme.</p> <p>To agree to continue to work on the new scheme at Grange Park to make it a flagship scheme, and also ensure that any further new/replacement schemes are designed to a high standard suitable for older people.</p>	<p>of Shareholder Committee, and make recommendations for future changes.</p>			<p>Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance</p>
<p>Proposed Appropriation and Disposal of Land Known as Flagstaff Gardens, Osborne Road</p> <p>The Cabinet Member agreed: To delegate authority to Director of Resources to appropriate the Subject Land under section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>				

<p>2.2 To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to negotiate and enter into leases with operators of appropriate leisure attractions (subject to any necessary planning approvals and agreements in order to secure best consideration for the use of the land).</p>				
<p>2.3 To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into any such documentation as may be necessary to give effect to or flowing from the appropriation of the Subject Land.</p>				
<p>2.4 To agree that the Subject land is not actively used as recreation space, and a leisure operation on the land would enhance its use subject to 28-day public consultation. To seek approval to appropriate the parcels of land between Osborne Road and the Promenade known as Flagstaff Gardens (“the Subject Land”) as shown edged red on the attached Land Registry Title Plan LAN60398 for commercial leisure use (subject to any necessary planning approvals). PH39/2023 8 March 2023 Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Arts, Tourism and Culture</p>				

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 June 2023

## FORWARD PLAN REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan July 2023 to October 2023, relating to the portfolios of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

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

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

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

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

### 5.0 Background Information

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

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

5.3 Attached at Appendix 4(a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item is contained in the Forward Plan, which has been forwarded to all members separately.

**5.4 Witnesses/representatives**

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

- Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Councillor Mark Smith, Levelling Up - Place

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4(a) - Summary of items contained within Forward Plan July 2023 to October 2023.

**6.0 Financial considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Legal considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Human Resources considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Risk management considerations:**



9.1 None.

**10.0 Equalities considerations:**

10.1 None.

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

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS****JULY 2023 TO OCTOBER 2023****\* Denotes New Item**

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
July 2023	Town Centre Investment (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	1/2021	Executive	Cllr Williams
July 2023	Applications for Business Loans above £500,000. (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	2/2021	Executive or Shareholder Committee	Cllr Williams
July 2023	To agree strategic acquisitions and investments in or adjoining the Enterprise Zone (this item to be considered in private by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	3/2021	Executive	Cllr Smith

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive
<b>Meeting:</b>	21 June 2023

## LEVELLING-UP INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview of Levelling-Up in Blackpool.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For Committee to note the significant progress made since Blackpool entered into the National Levelling Up Pilot with Government in March 2022, and the work with the Department for Levelling Up (DLUHC) and Homes England in support of Blackpool's regeneration objectives.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Blackpool's Levelling Up Pilot has delivered clear benefits to the town since it commenced in March 2022 and is likely to continue to deliver important investments in the town.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 The Council could opt to discontinue its partnership with Government. However, this option is discounted as the partnership is delivering investment that Blackpool needs.

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

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

### 6.0 Background information

**6.1** Blackpool Council is consistent about what we need to improve the town and our residents' life chances. Our Council Plan sets out two over-arching objectives: improving economic opportunity and helping communities to develop the resilience they need. In March 2022, we agreed to partner with Government to deliver on these on these objectives as one of three national Levelling Up Pilot areas.

Winning Blackpool's status as a national Levelling Up Pilot was the outcome of many years of hard work – by the Council, and key supporters such as Blackpool's Pride of Place Partnership - to engage the Government in helping to deliver the transformational change that Blackpool needs and deserves. Our Blackpool Town Prospectus, developed jointly with our Pride of Place Partnership, made clear Blackpool was the ideal location to pilot a "Levelling Up Programme" building on the town's strong narrative and delivery record in terms of economic regeneration.

We are clear that Blackpool needs a multi -faceted approach to delivering economic opportunity, alongside housing renewal in the inner areas to build stable communities. Our plans have resonated locally and nationally, winning the confidence of partners, senior civil servants and government Ministers since our Levelling Up Pilot began its work.

Since March 2022 Blackpool's Levelling Up Pilot with Government has delivered clear results. The headline benefits to Blackpool are set out in the paragraphs below. These benefits have been underpinned by a 'Team Blackpool' ethos led by the Council, its wholly owned housing companies and other partners, alongside commitment from civil servants and agency officials notably from the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) and Homes England.

**DELIVERY AND CAPACITY:**

Significant internal resources have been directed to working on the Levelling Up Pilot since March 2022. There has been a recognition that designing and delivering holistic regeneration at scale requires additional new capacity and DLUHC has supported the development of additional capacity with a £400k one year award to supplement the resources committed by the Council, its wholly owned companies and Business in the Community (BITC). The capacity fund has been vital in ensuring rapid progress been made.

**ECONOMY AND GROWTH:**

The Council has long recognised that it needs to do everything it can to develop the local economy. This is the only sustainable way of giving local people the skills and jobs they need have better lives. There is an established growth programme that the Council has led over a number of years resulting in a redeveloped promenade and sea defences, a renewed Tower and Winter Gardens, renewed and modernised tramway, phase 1 of the Talbot Gateway

development and everything now happening on our Enterprise Zone. We have been able to accelerate key elements of our Growth Programme through our status as a Levelling Up Pilot.

### **£40m to enable the full development of Blackpool Central**

Our partnership with Government through our Levelling Up Pilot played the crucial role in securing £40m of capital funding in November 2022 to enable the full development of Blackpool Central, a scheme that will deliver £300m of private investment and 1,000 jobs for Blackpool people.

The Blackpool Central scheme is a £300m leisure led development being brought forward by the private sector developer, Nikal Ltd. The development is critical to Blackpool's future growth and regeneration and has been earmarked as a strategic development site by the Council for in excess of two decades. This development will see desperately needed investment into a very deprived area of the town, which sits right in the heart of the visitor economy.

The Council and Nikal Ltd agreed the terms of a land sale in January 2020 with the Council having to provide the Developer with full vacant possession of the site prior to a phased draw down of the land. A planning submission for the Development was granted consent in October 2021. In order for the Council to deliver on its contractual obligations there are a number of matters which lay outside of Council control, more specifically in relation to a compulsory purchase of properties within the boundary of the proposed site and the relocation of the existing County and Magistrates Courts.

An application for CPO was submitted in June 2021 and was granted approval by Secretary of State on 30 September 2022, which paved the way for the delivery of the first phases of the project, but as part of the Crown Estate, the courts could not be compulsorily acquired.

The obstacle relating to the courts had the potential to have much wider impacts in relation overall potential of the site and development. The courts outdated facilities occupied a significant area on the site and had proven to be a substantial frustration in the redevelopment of the Central Station site over many years. The courts complex was historically connected to the former police divisional headquarters but having vacated to new premises on the outskirts of town back in 2018, the police buildings remained redundant and derelict for some while, blighting the area.

The Council had been pursuing funding to support the relocation of the courts for a considerable time and was successful as part of the Blackpool Town Deal in obtaining a proportion of funding towards the building and the eventual demolition / remediation of the existing site. However, there remained a substantial funding gap of circa £40m. Following

many years of discussions and an impasse with HMCTS, it was through the intervention of DLUHC as part of our Levelling Up Pilot that a solution was found. The Secretary of State, Michael Gove MP, made an announcement to support the delivery of new courts on a visit to Blackpool in November 2022, releasing the required £40m of funding.

It is now the responsibility of HMCTS to take forward the delivery of the new court facilities on an alternative site on the edge of the town centre, bought by the Council with Town Deal funding, with a predetermined deadline of March 2025 for the decant from their existing facilities.

With regards to the delivery of the Blackpool Central leisure development, Nikal are now well underway with the construction of the multi-storey car park, with an anticipated opening forecast for November 2023. Following the delivery of the car park the developer will then move on to drawing down land to deliver the exciting new leisure elements of the scheme, creating scores of new jobs.

#### **£40m toward the development of our Multiversity**

The Council is determined to secure investment to develop the skills our residents need. The delivery of a higher skills and education campus for Blackpool and the Fylde College in the heart of the town is at the centre of our collective ambition. We want all of our residents to think that further and higher skills, and the jobs in our local economy that are reliant on these skills, can be for them. Through our Levelling Up Pilot we have been able to make the case for this investment direct to Government, and we have now secured the essential investment from Government to make this ambition a reality.

Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) in January 2023 delivered one of the largest LUF bids (£40m) in the UK for our £65m Multiversity project. The project had already received £9m Town Deal funding towards the site acquisition. This truly transformative project had the support of Wyre and Fylde Councils, both MPs, the Town Deal Board and a wide range of other partners.

The Multiversity project will deliver a world class university experience facilitating higher level upskilling, reskilling and lifelong learning. The scheme, town centre based and close to the train station and tram interchange, will free up the existing College site for future redevelopment. Multiversity will be carbon neutral in operation.

The Multiversity Campus will be delivered through a partnership involving Blackpool Council and Blackpool and the Fylde College in association with Lancaster University. It will be a unique proposition, providing a cutting-edge response to local, regional, and national priorities, designed to accommodate up to 3000 learners.

The overall project to deliver the Multiversity is underpinned by six key project objectives:

- Injection of a new life to the heart of Blackpool;



- Embed holistically into the town centre;
- Allow people to up-skill through life through enabling more people to gain higher level qualifications each year;
- Raise the college profile in the town and beyond;
- Create an iconic building that sings Blackpool; and
- Increased footfall in the town centre to encourage regeneration

The anchor projects of Blackpool Central and Multiversity will sit alongside the next phases of the Talbot Gateway and other transformative developments including the new Civil Service Hub. They will support the growth of Houndshell with the new extension and cinema and the tram extension to link to Blackpool North and the opening of a new Conference offer at the Winter Gardens. These investments will secure the future of Blackpool Town Centre and make an important contribution to the overall development and regeneration of the town. Few other places are in the process of such positive investment and change.

## **HOUSING**

Alongside the need for economic growth it has long been recognised that the housing conditions in the inner wards, particularly in the private rented sector (PRS), are among the worst in the country and exist at scale that is without any national comparator. This market is underpinned by rents set at benefit levels and is typified by short tenancies, a lack of quality and a transient group of tenants. This mix undoubtedly drives many of the poor socio economic outcomes that sees Blackpool rank among the worst in the country. Without addressing the poor inner ward housing conditions Blackpool risks not getting the full social benefit of the economic regeneration agenda that is now so obviously in delivery across the town.

Housing failure in the centre of Blackpool is our number one public policy challenge. Sustained intervention and investment is now needed to reverse decline and deliver a better future. This challenge was recognised immediately by Government in the run up to announcing our Levelling Up Pilot. In March this year the Secretary of State (Michael Gove MP) made the following statement:

*“Longstanding neglect by some local landlords has led to Blackpool experiencing some of the worst housing conditions in the country, with at least 1 in 3 properties classified as ‘non-decent’. An expanded local enforcement team will take tough action against those not meeting existing standards and measure landlords against future national standards. This beefed-up inspection regime will tackle exploitation in the local private rented sector and supported housing market driving up housing quality and protecting the most vulnerable.*

*Alongside this enforcement drive, Homes England will join forces with Blackpool Council, using*

*additional funding of £650,000 to explore regeneration opportunities to improve Blackpool's housing stock and quality of place."*

This was followed in June 2022 with the publication of the "Fairer Private Rented Sector" white paper, to build upon the Levelling Up White paper launched earlier in the year. The opening paragraph states:

*"Everyone has a right to a decent home. No one should be condemned to live in properties that are inadequately heated, unsafe, or unhealthy. Yet more than 2.8 million of our fellow citizens are paying to live in homes that are not fit for the 21st century. Tackling this is critical to our mission to level up the country."*

The paper contains a 12 point action plan, which includes:

- Halving the number of non – decent homes by 2030 by introducing a Decent Homes Standard to the PRS.
- Abolishment of section 21 "no fault" evictions.
- Introduction of a new single housing ombudsman.
- Introduction of a new property portal

Government's experience of working with Blackpool via our Levelling Up Pilot played a key role in framing these commitments and proposed reforms. Indeed, regulatory reform of the PRS is something Blackpool Council have been lobbying for over many years, especially in respect of property standards. The Council have consistently maintained that the current measure in the PRS (the Health and Housing safety Rating System) is far too low a bar, and both creates and compounds some of the atrocious property conditions and associated impacts on health endemic in Blackpool. The current proposed new legislation is therefore welcome, and supported.

### **£1.2m to Pilot a new Decent Homes Standard for the Private Rented Sector (PRS)**

Discussions started in earnest in Spring this year around how Blackpool could potentially be an early adopter of the new proposals, which would be used to put pressure on landlords who operate below current minimum standards, and provide advice and support to good landlords on future standards.

We have now agreed with DLUHC to pilot the new Decent Homes Standard for the PRS, with £1.2m of support. The proposed pilot will consist of the following key elements.

- We will create a team of staff, which will consist of Housing/Decent Homes Enforcement Officers, dedicated legal support, and tenancy related support for more vulnerable tenants
- We will undertake a comprehensive inspection programme across the inner area, starting in the Central area (which already has an existing Selective Licensing Scheme)
- We will fully utilise all aspects of existing legislation

- We will work with DLUHC to evaluate what works, and what doesn't
- We will also assess against the new future Decent Homes Standard
- We will work with DLUHC to evaluate potential impact of the new Decent Homes Standard for Blackpool, and nationally.
- We will start to set the scene with landlords around future change and link findings in with the capital work stream.
- We will work with DLUHC to provide accurate and meaningful monitoring and evaluation of the pilot
- We will conduct a full stock survey of the inner area towards the end of the pilot.

Assessment against future standards will be advisory at this stage. The pilot will commence in Spring 2023 and recruitment for new staff is now underway.

### **£1m for a Three Year Extension to our Supported Housing Improvement Programme**

Following an initial 12 month Supported Housing Pilot, we agreed a further 3 years of funding as part of our Levelling Up Pilot. The original pilot produced a number of outcomes, notably, the development of several key documents including:

- A clear process for new providers to follow
- A clear set of quality standards which we expect providers to follow
- A comprehensive Needs Assessment and accompanying Market Position Statement
- A single point of contact for supported housing enquiries, supported by a multi-disciplinary team of officers to provide expert advice and guidance.

The main objectives of the extended Blackpool Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP), which will now run until 2025 include:

- Building on the pilot activity and continue to use all our existing powers and the expertise developed by individuals in Housing Benefit, Planning, and Enforcement to bring supported housing providers up to a standard across the town which provides genuine value for money.
- Tracking from allocation through the three year period the welfare and progress of people using supported housing in different forms with different providers and work with an academic research partner to draw together a comprehensive and coproduced social research piece.
- Mapping, visiting and inspecting over the three year period all current and new Supported Housing schemes housing more than 4 people.
- Aligning the review of the Market Position Statement for supported housing with the Place Based Partnership and Integrated Care Partnership to ensure good quality housing with support is an enabler for improving wider population based health outcomes.

- Working alongside the wider DLUHC and Homes England housing intervention and private rented sector programme across inner Blackpool to maximise impact and positive outcome for residents
- 

Despite all the progress made in this area, with support from government funding, change is still needed at a legislative/regulatory level to deliver meaningful reform. We are pleased to see that a private members Bill, supported by homeless charity Crisis, is currently working its way through the parliamentary process and has reached the committee stage in the House of Commons. The Bill is described as:

*“A Bill to make provision about the regulation of supported exempt accommodation; to make provision about local authority oversight of, and enforcement powers relating to, the provision of supported exempt accommodation; and for connected purposes.”*

We will be closely following the progress of the Bill, to ensure we are well positioned to respond to any changes that come from it.

### **The Case for Sustained Physical Intervention to Create a Balanced Housing Market**

While we expect to see positive improvement from the initiatives above, alongside our existing range of housing investment via the Council and its wholly owned companies, it is widely recognised that Blackpool’s inner area housing issues require significant physical intervention at scale over an extended period.

The Council first raised its ambition for major housing intervention in the production of a prospectus 'ask' to Government used in initial engagement with the Secretary of State during his visit in March 2022, when he also witnessed first-hand the issues of poor-quality housing faced in Blackpool. Following the visit, it was announced that Blackpool was identified as one of the first Levelling Up priority areas nationally.

During the summer of 2022, Homes England was tasked by the Department for Levelling Up with £650k of funding to produce a master plan framework outlining what a major housing regeneration programme could entail. High level progress on this has been reported to the Council’s Leadership Board in August and December 2022 and work continues to analyse the likely investment requirements and outcomes in preparation of a detailed business case to Treasury.

Production of the housing master plan framework and business case are cognisant to other levelling up programme themes, supporting broader long-term outcomes. This work will take a long-term horizon extending over decades and will identify regeneration principles, intervention opportunities and the proposed initial area of focus for commencement of an

extensive intervention to refurbish or replace existing poor-quality building stock, invest in creating enhanced public realm and creation of new quality homes and neighbourhoods.

Based on current timescales, we expect that initial findings from this work will be presented to the Council to form the focus of community and stakeholder consultations during the summer months 2023. Alongside critical confirmation of a first phase of Government funding via Homes England, this consultation process will shape a detailed programme for initial investment and kickstart long-term regeneration ambitions for our inner areas.

**SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS:**

The Council and our partners worked hard to win Blackpool's status as a national Levelling Up Pilot in March 2022. The benefits of our work with Government in the period since are clear. A strong working relationship with DLUHC and Homes England is now embedded and producing tangible results, giving everyone confidence that the partnership will continue to develop.

Work is now beginning to take place with other government departments to push and test their response to making levelling up work right across government. In the coming months we expect to see commitments and inputs ramp up across government to deliver on Blackpool's ambitions over an extended period of time.

The first strategic target will be to secure a financial commitment to a first phase of physical housing intervention at scale via Homes England. In parallel, we will be working with Government to review capacity and governance arrangements to ensure Blackpool is in the right position to deliver a wider programme of holistic regeneration, and start to truly level up for our residents and businesses.

**6.2** Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

**7.1** None

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

**8.1** Through our Levelling Up Pilot we have secured £40m for Multiversity, £40m to enable the move to the courts so that the full Blackpool Central Scheme can happen, £2.2m of revenue support for extensions to our supported housing pilot and trailing of the DHS for the PRS, £650k of support for Master planning work with Homes England, and £400k of general capacity funding. Further significant investments are expected in 2023.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Failure to continue to support our Levelling Up Pilot will jeopardise the chances of securing further investment for the regeneration of Blackpool.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None

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

12.1 Many of the investments already secured will make a contribution to our climate change and sustainability ambitions. For example, Multiversity will be a net zero building, better housing standards will lead to fewer emissions.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Council's Corporate Leadership Team and Leadership Board

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Tourism and Communications
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 June 2023

## TOURISM PERFORMANCE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the committee with a background to the visitor economy and how performance is assessed.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the report.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Background information only.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 N/A

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool

### 6.0 Background information

#### 6.1 OVERALL PERFORMANCE

6.1.1 Our tourism performance is measured in a number of ways. Individual attractions, hotels, venues and hospitality businesses use their own bespoke indicators to measure performance whether that be through ticket sales, room occupancy, revenue generation or satisfaction

ratings.

6.1.2 In order to measure the resort-wide impact, Blackpool Council (through its destination marketing arm, VisitBlackpool) uses two distinct methods:

- **The annual STEAM report** (a tool used by many UK destinations) which generates an estimate of the overall number of visitors to Blackpool, and the monthly Visitor Economy Performance Indicator (VEPI) report, which is produced by our own research team and comprises a basket of indicators including footfall, parking and tram usage and inbound rail journeys.
- STEAM is an externally-validated tourism economic impact model that analyses relevant local data including visitor attraction numbers, tourist accommodation bed-stock and occupancy levels, transport usage, attendance at events and levels of visitor expenditure.
- That information is used to create an estimate of the annual value, volume and economic impact broken down into multiple categories including day visitors and overnight stays.
- The annual STEAM report is usually published approximately nine months after the end of the calendar year. Hence, the STEAM report for 2022 should be available in September 2023.
- The last report, covering 2021, illustrated the speed and scale of Blackpool's post-pandemic recovery. It revealed that the resort attracted a record number of almost 19million visitors in 2021 – despite losing the first four months of the year to COVID lockdowns and restrictions
- The total figure of 18.81m was more than double the figure recorded in 2020 when pandemic restrictions on tourism was at the most severe level and 4% higher than the pre-pandemic year of 2019. It reaffirmed Blackpool's place as the UK's most visited seaside destination.
- The report also showed that Blackpool accounted for almost 40% of all visits to Lancashire in 2021. It valued the resort's tourism economy at more than £1.4bn, supporting in excess of 20,000 jobs.
- **The monthly Visitor Economy Performance Indicator (VEPI) report** is produced in-house with contributions from Blackpool Transport, Northern Rail, a selection of visitor attractions and town centre retailers, as well as town centre and promenade footfall which is measured using mobile phone data.
- Given the lag in production of the annual STEAM report, the VEPI reports give more of a "real-time" flavour of how key indicators are performing against previous year.
- Given the additional Bank Holiday in May to mark the King's Coronation, the VEPI indicators for that month will give an early indication of how the tourism industry is performing. On the back of an extended spell of good weather over the final two weeks of May (coinciding with a Bank Holiday Weekend and school holiday), early signs suggest a very positive start to the season with one of our major visitor attractions reporting record



attendance.

## **6.2 VISITOR ECONOMY 2023**

6.2.1 A preview of the year ahead was presented by VisitBlackpool and resort partners at the annual Season Launch event attended by more than 300 tourism businesses at the end of March. The highlights included:

- More than £15m of investment in new attractions including the world's first Gruffalo and Friends Clubhouse which has been opened by Merlin Entertainments on the Golden Mile; a new big cat enclosure at Blackpool Zoo; the return of the award-winning Valhalla thrill ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach; a new three-tier Ninja assault course at Ascent Trampoline Park and a new multiplex cinema in the town centre featuring one of the country's largest IMAX screens.
- A repeat of the "Only In Blackpool" destination marketing campaign developed in partnership with Merlin Entertainments and other resort partners. The summer campaign will again feature resort "ambassador" Nigel C Gull giving TV viewers a whistle-stop tour of the resort. The marketing campaign, which also includes radio and digital advertising, is a £600k investment by Blackpool Council, Merlin Entertainments and the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID).
- The planned opening of a new four-star Holiday Inn and Marco Pierre White restaurant; a 70-bedroom extension to the Hampton By Hilton; and a much-enhanced hospitality offer with the summer arrival of a Turtle Bay restaurant and the opening of the newly-regenerated Abingdon Street Market with multiple food and drink concessions.
- The planned return of the annual Switch-On ceremony to the outdoors where the Illuminations will be turned on as part of a free event with music and family entertainment. For the past three years, the Switch-On ceremony has been performed indoors with a limited audience, largely due to COVID restrictions. Further details will be revealed in the weeks ahead.
- Another two-month extension to the Illuminations season with the lights shining from 1 September until 1 January, 2024. As part of the Towns Deal funding, the Illuminations team is working on three brand new installations for the 2023 season which will be unveiled over the coming weeks.
- A packed calendar of free events including the two-day Blackpool Air Show with the Red Arrows performing on both days, as well as Ride The Lights, World Fireworks Championship Blackpool, the award-winning Lightpool Festival, and the return of Christmas By The Sea.
- A vast selection of West End shows and live entertainment at venues including the Winter Gardens, Grand Theatre, and Pleasure Beach, including Six The Musical; Annie; Shrek The Musical; The SpongeBob Musical; and a new production of Hot Ice. Sir Cliff Richard will also mark 60 years since he first performed a summer season in Blackpool with a concert at the Opera House.

6.2.2 The launch event also saw the publication of a free entertainment guide containing hundreds of listings for shows, musicals and concerts running from Easter to the end of the year at numerous venues including the piers and Viva Blackpool.

### **6.3 BUSINESS TOURISM**

6.3.1 Whilst the primary responsibility for marketing Blackpool to leisure tourists sits with VisitBlackpool, business tourism is now managed within MeetBlackpool, a partnership comprising VisitBlackpool, Blackpool Council, the Winter Gardens and various resort partners who have a vested interest in the conference and exhibitions market.

6.3.2 This partnership approach, which was adopted following the opening of the new £30m Conference and Exhibition Centre, is intended to make best use of Council and Winter Gardens resources to attract new and lapsed conferences back to Blackpool in all venues as well as the Winter Gardens. Since its formation a few months ago, MeetBlackpool has:

- Established a Steering Group (chaired by Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications for Blackpool Council). It meets on a quarterly basis and has representation from the Winter Gardens team, large venues and attractions, and accommodation providers including StayBlackpool. Its key objective is to ensure there is a “One Blackpool” approach to winning conference business.
- Rebranded MeetBlackpool to include a new website and marketing collateral.
- Appointed an external PR company (Davies Tanner) to spearhead communication of the new branding and build awareness within the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) industry through social media, blogs, case studies and press releases.
- Established a new accommodation booking platform for conference delegates via a well-established provider, Convenus.
- Attended (or planning to attend) various conference industry exhibitions including Confex in Leeds and the Meetings Show in London.
- Planned a familiarisation visit to Blackpool for the Association of British Professional Conference Organisers on July 7 and 8, when around 20 conferences bookers will be in resort to experience the new Conference and Exhibition Centre and see some of the significant improvements to the overall business tourism offer.

6.3.3 Over the past 12 months, the new Conference Centre has attracted a significant number of large-scale meetings and exhibitions. These include:

- Conservative Party Spring Conference, March 2022, with 800 delegates and an estimated economic benefit to the resort of more than £1m
- Awakenings annual seminar EXPO in June 2022 with 600 attendees and an economic impact of £160k
- Inner Wheel annual conference in March 2023 with 1,000 delegates and an economic impact of almost £400k

- Society of British Neurological Surgeons – a first for this type of health conference for Blackpool.
- 

6.3.4 Some of the events already confirmed between June 2023 and June 2024 include:

- Northern Premier Football League AGM and dinner, June 2023 (400 attendees)
- National Association of Retired Police Officers Annual Conference, September 2023 (800 delegates)
- JD Outdoors Annual Conference, October 2023 (450 attendees)
- Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, November 2023 (1,000 attendees)
- Labour Party N-W Conference, November 2023 (700 delegates)
- Federation of Small Businesses Conference and Expo, May 2024 (500 delegates)
- Civil Service Live Annual Conference, June 2024 (2,000 delegates).

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 N/A

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 N/A

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 N/A

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 N/A

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 N/A

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

12.1 N/A

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 N/A

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 N/A

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 June 2023

## BLACKPOOL TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview of progress on various projects being undertaken to secure the regeneration of Blackpool Town Centre following the last update in September 2022.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To accept the report and note the progress being made and the content with regard to the work of the scrutiny committee in the future.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

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

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

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

### 6.0 Background information

6.1 In the period since the previous Town Centre Update, significant progress has been made on the delivery of a number of projects, with further approvals having been received for the

funding of a number of additional projects, and progress being made on the implementation of the Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan.

## 6.2 Ongoing Projects Update

- 6.2.1 Talbot Gateway Phases 2 and 3 – Work on the Holiday Inn is in its final stages with a view to opening in early 2024 together with the completion of the tram extension. Construction of the Civil Service Hub is progressing very well and is due for completion in 2025. Work also continues to explore options around further office developments and increasing parking provision in the Talbot Gateway area
- 6.2.2 Blackpool Central and Courts Relocation – Construction of the multi-storey car park continues at pace and is due for completion later this year. HMCTS received confirmation of £40m in funding to support their relocation from the Blackpool Central site to the former Devonshire Road Hospital site, and draft plans have been subject to pre-application advice and a consultation exercise is to be held by HMCTS (or appointed agents) in June.
- 6.2.3 Showtown – Internal fit out of the building is underway, with development of audio-visual installations also in progress prior to opening next year. A new Chief Executive has been appointed, and is due to start in September.
- 6.2.4 Houndshell Phase 2 – Construction of the shell and core of the extension is nearing completion, and is due for hand over to the Imax cinema and Wilko in the next few weeks with a view to opening this autumn.
- 6.2.5 Abingdon Street Market – The phase one food hall of Abingdon Street Market opened to the public on 27 May, and has been very successful and enthusiastically received since opening. Work to finalise the entrance from St John’s Square is ongoing. Whilst there is a 12 month window for the opening of Phase 2 comprising the retail units, the operators are hoping to be in a position to open them later this year.
- 6.2.6 The Edge (Stanley Buildings) – Following projected costs for the initially designed building coming in well over budget, revisions have been made to the plans and the total project cost has been significantly reduced whilst maintaining the core outputs. A revised planning application has now been submitted for design alterations following the value engineering exercise. The procurement process for the works package is due to begin in June.

## 6.3 Projects Receiving Funding Approval

- 6.3.1 Multiversity : Levelling Up Fund: – The Council was successful in its bid to the Levelling Up Fund for £40m towards the Multiversity project. This is in addition to £9m already obtained as part of the Town Deal funding package. Subsequent to this approval, Hawkins Brown and CBRE have been appointed as the consultancy team for the building design continuation, and acquisition of a planning consultant is being finalised. As part of the programme tied to Town

Deal, acquisition of property in the area within which the Multiversity will be situated continues via negotiation with property owners. Negotiations are also being finalised with Blackpool and The Fylde College regarding the funding of the balance of £16m of this £65m project.

6.3.2 *Hotel Indigo – Former Post Office –Capital Regeneration Project* : Following news that the Hotel Indigo project had been unsuccessful through the Levelling Up Fund’s second round announcement, as a result of each local authority having been limited to one successful project during Government’s assessment process, the Council received surprising news in the March Budget Statement that Former Post Office had subsequently been included on a list of ‘Capital Regeneration Projects’, and was to able to receive the full £8m funding allocation asked for within the Levelling Up Fund bid in relation to the originally outlined project. As such, work has resumed on aiming to bring this project forward to implementation with Ashall Developments in what are challenging market conditions.

6.3.3 *Shared Prosperity Fund: Town Centre Interventions* – Having received confirmation of the approval of Blackpool’s Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan in December 2022, 13 projects were subsequently initiated, with the largest of those projects being the Town Centre Interventions project. This is a £1.5m project, split across capital and revenue, which looks to address four areas outlined within the refreshed Town Centre Action Plan presented to a recent Scrutiny Committee in the last cycle:

- 1A - Streetscape: Furniture and planting; Promenade gateways
- 1B - Environment: Biophilia/planting
- 1C - Illuminate: Lighting enhancements
- 2C - Signage and Wayfinding: Visual appearance; Key entry and decision points; Pedestrian traffic flow

c.£250,000 from this project has supported the completion of the Abingdon Street Market refurbishment, and planning is underway to allocate the remaining spend across the town centre through the Town Centre Action Group (see below).

#### 6.4 **Town Centre Action Group**

6.4.1 Following the completion and approval of Blackpool’s renewed Town Centre Strategy and outline Action Plan in May 2022, work commenced on establishing a detailed Town Centre Action Plan in Summer 2022, which followed the priorities outlined by CBRE in the development of the Town Centre Strategy. This involved extensive engagement with Council officers, Blackpool BID officers, and representatives from private sector and other organisations who are key stakeholders across the town centre, particularly those holding responsibilities for the management or improvement of key facilities or public spaces.

Following this engagement process, a 117 action Town Centre Action Plan, split across seven priority areas, was completed and approved by the Council’s Executive in February 2023 and presented to the former Tourism and Economy Scrutiny Committee. This Action Plan is

designed to operate on a 5 year rolling basis, with an annual update being carried out. The Action Plan will also form the basis for any investments in the town centre from the Shared Prosperity Fund's Town Centre Interventions Project.

With the Action Plan being as extensive as it is, the establishment of a Town Centre Action Group has been established to act as a body overseeing the delivery of the Action Plan, as well as outlining priorities within the Action Plan that would benefit from investment from the Shared Prosperity Fund project.

The Town Centre Action core Group comprises:

- Growing Places
- Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group
- Built Heritage
- Ellandi
- Growth and Prosperity
- Highways

In addition, other Council teams that hold lead roles in relation to the Town Centre Action Plan will be invited to join the group, or any 'task and finish' sub-groups, when specific areas of focus are identified

Membership of any 'task and finish' sub-group will draw from appropriate Council officers, BID officers and business and third-sector community members with experience or expertise in the specific area or space being focused upon

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

- 7.1
- Appendix 7(a) Town Centre Action Plan

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

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

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

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

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**



10.1 Each of the developments and projects, including those included in Levelling Up Fund bids, has a business case which includes a review of risks or has undertaken a separate risk assessment.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The implementation of the Council's £2bn+ Growth and Prosperity Programme is designed to create extensive opportunities for employment and economic benefit to Blackpool residents and businesses.

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

12.1 Whilst sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations are not a key focus of the majority of the outlined projects, each project has its own business case that will look to address sustainability and the environment where appropriate. In the case of the Shared Prosperity Fund application, three of the outlined projects that were put forward in the Investment Plan had a specific focus on sustainability, climate change and the environment.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Both formal and informal consultation has been and will continue to be a key part of the implementation of such an extensive programme of improvement. Engagement has also been undertaken around the Levelling Up Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund bids. In addition the Town Centre Action Group includes parties external to the Council (in particular the Town Centre BID) and will involve other Town Centre partners through the establishment of sub groups.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None

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ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline	Outcome
<b>1. Public realm</b>					
<b>1A - Streetscape</b>					
1A.1	Develop an innovative and effective <b>enforcement mechanism that allows for the securing of St John's Square</b> , allowing for pedestrian flow and the restriction of vehicle movement where required, whilst adding to the quality of the urban environment. This could include the utilisation of Traffic Regulation Orders where required.	Built Heritage	Highways, Parking, Planning Strategy, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	April 2024	Improved usability of St John's Square, safer events, improved pedestrian flow, improved public realm
1A.2	<b>Improve shop frontages on key routes</b> through the town centre, identifying focus areas that will remain part of the retail core, enforcing against standards set out locally, and ensuring tie-in where possible with other significant public realm works to minimise disruption.	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Planning Enforcement	Ongoing	Improved built environment, additional footfall draw, better perceptions
1A.3	Introduce a <b>regular 'deep clean' regime into the town centre</b> , improving street cleanliness to the level of that supported by the Welcome Back Fund in 2021.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	VisitBlackpool, Enveco	Ongoing	Improved built environment, better perceptions of the town centre
1A.4	Undertake a <b>town centre-wide street furniture audit</b> , looking at clutter that can be removed from the town centre's footpaths and pedestrianised areas, and identifying useful street furniture that is currently lacking in the town centre that can be installed strategically rather than on a piecemeal basis.	Highways	Planning Enforcement, Telecomms and other utilities, Growth & Prosperity, Built Heritage	June 2023	Better navigation of public spaces, more inviting built environment, increased dwell times
1A.5	<b>Undertake assessments, and create a rolling programme of ongoing actions, relating to footway and highway quality</b> throughout the town centre, and particularly outside key assets in the town centre, including retail, food and beverage, leisure, cultural and heritage assets, to ensure visitor experience is positive and safe.	Highways	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Growing Places	June 2023, then ongoing	Improved town centre safety, better navigation of public spaces, improved perceptions
1A.6	<b>Develop a cohesive approach to public realm creation, maintenance and development</b> that provides consistency across the town centre whilst maintaining unique character in specific areas, and ensuring other strategic documentation is referenced when creating public realm.	Highways	Built Heritage, Planning Policy, Growing Places	June 2024	More cohesive and inclusive public realm, better quality urban design
1A.7	Undertake a <b>town centre pilot for multi-faceted enforcement</b> to ensure standards across all areas are maintained via a designated 'taskforce'.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growing Places, Highways, Enforcement Teams	September 2023	Improved standards across the town centre, better quality built environment, improved user experience.
1A.8	<b>Investigate co-ordinated approaches to utilities management</b> , via the sharing of work programmes, that does not have a detrimental effect on investment in the public realm.	Highways	Utilities providers, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Improved user experience, better quality streetscape (particularly surfacing)
1A.9	Seek to improve the streetscape, and identify future projects and investment for the ' <b>priority streets</b> ', including: <b>Bank Hey Street; Victoria Street; Church Street; Birley Street; Topping Street.</b>	Growing Places	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Ellandi, Highways	Ongoing	Focus for investment, improvement to most visited areas
1A.10	Assess the town centre's built environment to <b>identify opportunities to increase public open space</b> , external dwelling areas with seating and town centre greening	Growth & Prosperity	Planning Strategy, Parks and Green Environmental Services	Ongoing	Improved visitor experience, more green space, longer dwell times
1A.11	Ensure that any <b>physical interventions within the town centre's built environment support climate adaptation</b> , enabling the area to better cope with increased extreme weather events.	Strategy and Climate Team	Growth & Prosperity, Built Heritage, Highways, Private Sector Developers	Ongoing	Better longer term user experience, less disruption brought about via weather events

1B - Environment					
1B.1	<b>Undertake a town centre 'greening audit'</b> , which aligns with the audit of town centre streetscape and identifies current green space within the town centre, and identifies potential new locations to install greenery and planting at all scales across the central area.	Parks and Green Environmental Services	Strategy and Climate Team, Planning Strategy, Growth & Prosperity, Highways, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	September 2023	Better understanding of current green picture, locations outlined for planting
1B.2	<b>Develop a strategic approach to introducing green infrastructure into the town centre</b> , which builds on existing strategic documentation and looks to source resource and other forms of support to aid greening.	Parks and Green Environmental Services/Planning Strategy	Growth & Prosperity, Highways, Strategy and Climate Team	September 2024	Stronger strategic approach to introduction of green space, improved town centre greening
1B.3	<b>Explore options regarding, and pilot, temporary planting within the town centre</b> , utilising movable planters that can be relocated during periods of adverse weather, and look for additional value in locating temporary planting in key areas and in areas where additional infrastructure, such as power supply, is present. Loading and access considerations need to be made when determining locations. Innovative planting methods should also be explored in order to best utilise limited space, with research partners acquired where possible.	Parks and Green Environmental Services	Strategy and Climate Team, Planning Strategy, Growth & Prosperity, Highways, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Improved greening in the town centre, better quality streetscape
1B.4	<b>Identify funding sources, or alternative options, for the maintenance of planting and greening</b> within the town centre, and establish a maintenance programme to support greening and planting efforts.	Parks and Green Environmental Services	Growing Places, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Improved perceptions, better quality streetscape, improved greening
1B.5	<b>Connect community projects that look to support greening activity with potential spaces within the town centre that could benefit from planting</b> , to increase perceptions of ownership and support community development.	Parks and Green Environmental Services	Strategy and Climate Team, All private sector partners, Street Scene, Growing Places, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Public Engagement	Ongoing	Improved sense of community, improved green space
1B.6	<b>Explore options regarding the development of new, purposely-developed green space</b> within the town centre, replacing hard landscaping which currently dominates.	Parks and Green Environmental Services	Growth & Prosperity, Planning Strategy, Development Control, Strategy and Climate Team	Ongoing	Better quality town centre green spaces, more green areas in the town centre
1B.7	Identify options and sites for the installation of infrastructure that will <b>support the sustainable generation of electricity in the town centre</b> , including the option of utilising roof spaces as urban solar farms, and work with private sector partners who have expertise and experience in delivering this infrastructure.	Strategy and Climate Team	Growing Places, all private sector partners, Estates	Ongoing	Addressing of Blackpool's Climate Emergency, sustainable electricity provision, reduced reliance on grid infrastructure
1C - Illuminate					
1C.1	<b>Undertake a town centre 'lighting audit'</b> that aligns with the audit of town centre streetscape and identifies key streets and areas that should be prioritised for a lighting upgrade.	Illuminations	Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, Growth & Prosperity, Planning, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	September 2023	Develop a better understanding of areas that require improved lighting
1C.2	<b>Develop a Lighting Strategy for the town centre</b> , which looks to set out a footing to provide lighting that is both practical and attractive across the central area, whilst also taking into account other strategic documentation regarding planning, highways, transport and the Climate Emergency.	Illuminations	Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, Highways, Growth & Prosperity, Planning, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	September 2024	Develop a framework that provides standards, ambition and consistency for lighting across the centre of Blackpool

1C.3	Work with our street lighting provider to <b>improve lighting coverage in areas where this is required</b> , and develop innovative and feature-based lighting solutions for areas of high footfall that aid with security, streetscape and wayfinding. Consideration should be made of potential conflict between commercial requirements and residential locations within the town centre.	Illuminations	Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, Highways, Growth & Prosperity, Planning, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Strategy and Climate Team	Ongoing	Improved lighting coverage, better safety perceptions, easier navigation
1C.4	<b>Utilise the expertise of the Illuminations team and Lightpool project leads</b> to animate key areas of the town centre outside of display and festival periods.	Illuminations	Lighting, Highways, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Develop existing skills, improve local streetscape, drive footfall
1C.5	<b>Ensure feature lighting is built into key new developments</b> , wherever possible and enforceable, to enhance the built environment after dark.	Planning Strategy	Growth & Prosperity, Development Management, Enforcement, private sector developers	Ongoing	Improved streetscape, improved security
1C.6	<b>Identify innovative and sustainable ways of powering street lighting</b> , as well as other forms of illumination, that addresses long term provision and accommodates any increased capacity.	Strategy and Climate Team	Lighting, Highways, Illuminations	Ongoing	Addressing the Climate Emergency, economic savings
1C.7	Work with street lighting providers to <b>install physical and electrical infrastructure</b> that allows for the continuation of Blackpool's innovative history with lighting, and allows for additional illuminated features to be installed alongside street lighting.	Illuminations	Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, Growing Places, Highways, BID Town Centre Management Group, PFI Contractor	Ongoing	Improved streetscape, driving additional footfall, stronger seasonal offer
1C.8	<b>Install innovative lighting in key areas that increases activation of those areas</b> , and provides a footfall draw into those key areas, and into the town centre generally from peripheral areas. Victoria Street is a specific example for inclusion.	Illuminations	Growth & Prosperity, Highways, Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments, Ellandi	Ongoing	Improved streetscape, driving additional footfall, improved connectivity

ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline	Outcome
<b>2. Clustering and Town Centre Usage</b>					
2A - Connectivity					
2A.1	<b>Outline walking and active travel routes from key arrival points into the town</b> , including Blackpool North railway station and Blackpool Central/Yeadon Way, into the heart of the town centre, and introduce clear and, where possible, innovative wayfinding measures into the heart of the town centre. This work should also influence wayfinding provision.	Highways	Transport, Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Planning Strategy, Built Heritage, Illuminations, Parks and Green Environmental Services, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Blackpool BID Tourism Group, Active Travel	Ongoing, with work to begin in April 2023	Easier navigation from key arrival points to places of interest, footfall generation into less-visited streets
2A.2	Identify funding opportunities that will <b>allow the improvement of gateways and key routes from the Promenade into the town centre.</b>	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Blackpool BID Tourism Group, Highways	Ongoing	Conversion of higher levels of Promenade footfall into town centre footfall
2A.3	<b>Identify key entries into streets that act as vital thoroughfares</b> to be further developed, with additional greening and illumination, to promote their importance as connected streets.	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Highways, Blackpool BID Tourism Group	Identification to commence in April 2023	Improve attractiveness of walking routes through the town centre, further identify connected streets
2A.4	<b>Develop an overarching, integrated Town Centre Travel Plan</b> , addressing more sustainable travel options into, and across, the town centre. The Travel Plan should look to improve multi-modal access to, and through, the town centre, and include an audit of active travel provision, which assesses facility provision and priority levels for active travel users. This should include identifying a way to move forward with improving travel in the light of the failure to secure the Town Centre Access Scheme in LUF Round 2.	Transport	Highways, BTS, Growth & Prosperity, Planning Strategy, Strategy and Climate Team, Active Travel	June 2024	Improved town centre travel provision, better active travel links, reduced town centre traffic
2A.5	<b>Undertake improvements to Blackpool North Station</b> that are inclusive of greening.	Network Rail	Transport, Growth & Prosperity	June 2025	Improved arrival and departure points, improved perceptions, higher quality built environment
2A.6	Investigate <b>technological options around allowing limited access for certain vehicles to specific areas</b> within the town centre, and identify areas in which limited vehicle access could be beneficial.	Transport	Highways, BTS	Ongoing	Safer town centre usage, improved public transport provision
2A.7	Ensure <b>provision is maintained for coach parking, drop-off and pickup</b> in the town centre, to complement the town's transportation offer.	Highways	Development Project Managers, Private Sector Developers, Transport, VisitBlackpool, Parking	Ongoing	Maintained transport mix, inclusive town centre experience
2A.8	Ensure <b>provision of sufficient parking and infrastructure</b> within the town centre to accommodate the growth in <b>electric vehicle (EV) usage.</b>	Parking	Private Sector Developers, Strategy and Climate Team, Growing Places	Ongoing	Future-proofing of the town centre, better vehicle access, combatting the Climate Emergency
2A.9	Explore options around <b>shared ridership schemes</b> , including 'E-bikes for hire', that will allow people to move around the town centre quickly and easily.	Strategy and Climate Team	Transport, Active Travel	June 2024	Improved town centre accessibility, reduced travel times
2A.10	<b>Develop improved cycle routes into the town centre</b> , and improve cycling infrastructure within the town centre, including cycle parking. Development of the draft Fylde Coast Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan should be taken into account when establishing cycling route improvements, as should links to housing intervention areas.	Highways	Strategy and Climate Team, Growing Places, Lancashire County Council	Ongoing	Improved town centre accessibility, better quality provision for active transport, combatting the Climate Emergency, associated health benefits

2B - Town Centre Realignment					
2B.1	Identify opportunities and implement options to <b>encourage the co-location of complementary businesses and uses across the town centre</b> , including specific marketing activity, in order to support clustering and providing clearer identities for areas within the town centre, whilst supporting mixed-use development and accommodating the National Planning Policy Framework	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Create a clearer town centre identity, develop key destination points within the town centre
2B.2	<b>Explore the potential for pre-approval for street furniture in specific areas</b> to encourage street dining/cafes in areas where this will not be detrimental to trade or navigation.	Built Heritage	Planning Strategy, Development Control, Private Sector Partners, Blackpool BIDs	June 2024	More vibrant streets, improved trading potential, active frontages
2B.3	Where clusters within the town centre emerge or are established, develop methods of <b>promoting these clusters to specific audiences</b> within Blackpool and on a more broad basis.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Working Group	Communications, Arts, Growth & Prosperity, VisitBlackpool	Ongoing	Broadened visitor base, wider demographic attraction, increase in town centre footfall
2B.4	Explore options to <b>promote the Circular Economy</b> (incorporating the sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling of existing materials and products for as long as possible) within the town centre.	Strategy and Climate Team	Private Sector Partners, Growth & Prosperity	Ongoing	Less business wastage, reduced expenditure, improved business relationships
2B.5	Continue to <b>develop a recognised professional services and learning cluster at Talbot Gateway</b> , initially through the development of Talbot Gateway Phase 2 (Holiday Inn and tram terminus), Talbot Gateway Phase 3A (Civil Service Hub), and Talbot Gateway Phase 4 (Multiversity).	Growth & Prosperity	Estates, Planning Strategy, Development Control, Blackpool BIDs, Central Government, Blackpool & The Fylde College	Ongoing	Improved built environment, more year-round town centre footfall, improved employment opportunities, improved educational opportunities
2B.6	Develop a <b>world class year-round leisure development</b> within the town centre boundary at the <b>Blackpool Central</b> site.	Nikal	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool Tourism BID, VisitBlackpool	2028	Improved town centre offer, improved visitor offer, better built environment
2C - Signage and Wayfinding					
2C.1	Work with other public, as well as private, sector partners to <b>develop a comprehensive and integrated wayfinding strategy</b> , that supports uniformity and creativity in aiding navigation of the town centre whilst improving the built environment. This wayfinding strategy should take into account active travel provision, existing strategic documentation, key transport nodes and provision for disabled town centre users, and should also look to develop links across the town centre between similar functions and areas of interest.	Transport	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group; Blackpool BID Tourism Group, Built Heritage, Planning Strategy, Highways, Growth & Prosperity	June 2024	Improve town centre navigation, improve attractiveness of town centre, increase footfall through underutilised areas
2C.2	Explore options to <b>promote the cultural sector, and any other prominent sectors</b> via trails or routes identified via wayfinding.	Growth & Prosperity	Built Heritage, Ellandi, VisitBlackpool, Communications	September 2023	Broadened user base, increased footfall, more diverse town centre offer
2C.3	Work in conjunction with Google Maps and other mapping services to <b>ensure highlights of the town centre are notable within apps and online services</b> that are now primary methods of wayfinding.	Growth & Prosperity	VisitBlackpool, Communications, Ellandi	Ongoing	Better user experience, improved perceptions, better connectivity

ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline	Outcome
<b>3. Community</b>					
<b>3A - Residents and Businesses</b>					
3A.1	<b>Support businesses in addressing planning, trading and other concerns</b> tied to public sector activity by establishing a communications route through the Town Centre BID that will provide key information to business owners and managers	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Planning, Trading Standards, Licensing, Highways	Ongoing, to commence in March 2023	Higher levels of business confidence, better communication between the public and private sector
3A.2	Support the business community by undertaking <b>dedicated marketing and promotion of town centre improvements and business achievements</b> to as broad an audience as possible. Develop a strategic approach to communications around town centre improvements, developments and openings, as well as wider town centre activity, including cultural and event-based activity.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Visit Blackpool, Communications, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Ellandi	Ongoing	Improved perception of the town centre, better business recognition, improved footfall
3A.3	Re-establish key town centre facilities, and establish new town centre facilities once they are developed, as <b>community hubs for activity and information</b> . Look to support the development of the Creative Community to become an active, concurrent business community where this is required.	Arts	Town-wide arts organisations and community groups, Growth & Prosperity, Economic Development	Ongoing	Improved sense of community, better perceptions amongst local residents, higher footfall
3A.4	Where high quality interventions are made within the town centre that tackle the Climate Emergency, explore the possibility of allowing these <b>interventions to be used as demonstrator projects</b> for the local residential and business communities.	Strategy and Climate Team	Estates, Growth & Prosperity, Private Sector Developers	Ongoing, as projects are complete	Tackling the Climate Emergency, better business relationships, improved sense of community
3A.5	Undertake <b>promotional activity for the town centre's evening and night-time economies</b> amongst resident, visitor and business communities.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	VisitBlackpool, Private Sector Operators	Ongoing	Broadened visitor base, increase in footfall, development of overlooked economic elements
3A.6	Capture Fylde Coast spend by <b>improving the comparison retail, food and beverage and services offer</b> across the town centre portfolio, and ensure that the town centre continues to operate as a district centre for local residents.	Growth & Prosperity	Private Sector Operators and Landlords, Ellandi, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Stronger retail offer, more reasons to visit the town centre, better user experience
3A.7	Support the development of Blackpool's business community via the <b>development of The Edge</b> , with support from Town Deal funding.	Economic Development	Growth & Prosperity, Estates	March 2025	Improved business facilities, new catalyst for business growth
<b>3B - Wellbeing</b>					
3B.1	<b>Highlight health and wellbeing benefits</b> in the development of the town centre's active travel infrastructure.	Transport	Highways, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Communications, Public Health	Ongoing	Improved health locally, better accessibility
3B.2	<b>Promote the benefits of cultural activities</b> available within the town centre to mental and physical wellbeing.	Arts	Communications, Public Health	Ongoing	Improved mental wellbeing, improved access to cultural activity
<b>3C - Social Value</b>					
3C.1	Look to derive <b>as much social value activity as possible from all contracts</b> tied to town centre development work, and ensure social value activity outlined at the time of contract award is undertaken throughout the contract period. Assess the quality of social value work undertaken during contracts, and identify opportunities for improvement.	Growth & Prosperity	Social Value Coordinator, Procurement	Ongoing	Increased community engagement, broader town centre benefits
3C.2	Deliver <b>at least one job fair per year</b> within the town centre.	Ellandi	Growth & Prosperity, Communications, Social Value Coordinator	Annual	Improved sense of community, improved employment prospects locally



3C.3	Comprise a <b>report to measure social value derived from activity within the Houndshill Shopping Centre</b> , and look to extend this measurement to a town centre-wide assessment.	Ellandi	Growth & Prosperity, Social Value Coordinator	September 2023	Longer term improvement in social value activity
3C.4	Encourage businesses to help <b>maintain the quality of the town centre visitor experience through social value action</b> including maintaining green spaces, working parties that address cleanliness and other such activities.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Private Sector Partners, Social Value Coordinator, Growth & Prosperity	Ongoing	Better user experience, higher quality urban environment
3C.5	<b>Encourage businesses to provide voluntary opportunities</b> , including work experience, for local residents and others in nearby communities.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growth & Prosperity, Private Sector Partners, Social Value Coordinator	Ongoing	Better opportunities for local people, improved skills, broader workforce

ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline	Outcome
<b>4. Events &amp; Meanwhile</b>					
<b>4A - Events</b>					
4A.1	<b>Create a strategy for events in the town centre that looks at balancing requirements from the BID, Council and private organisers.</b> The strategy must consider management costs, as well as delivery costs, and include the integration of events across multiple venues, including the Winter Gardens, Abingdon Street Market, and Houndshill. The development of a group of organisations that are likely to hold events in the town centre should develop and manage this strategy.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Arts, Growth & Prosperity, Private and third sector events organisers, Ellandi, VisitBlackpool	December 2023	Improved events programme, improved cost management, better cohesion
4A.2	Establish a <b>booking mechanism for St John's Square</b> to allow for the space to be secured at will, with consideration of quality and curation of activity, for events and meanwhile uses (subject to other approvals).	Growth & Prosperity	Built Heritage, Highways, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, VisitBlackpool	December 2023	Increased usage of a key town centre asset, footfall driven by additional events and meanwhile uses
4A.3	Ensure town centre businesses, particularly those in the food and beverage and associated hospitality sectors, are <b>aware of events and activities that will drive town centre footfall</b> , via a dedicated and specific communications route, in order to allow for adjustment of opening times and additional staffing requirements	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Communications, VisitBlackpool	Ongoing	More activated space in the town centre, improved town centre spend, additional footfall drivers
4A.4	<b>Create and promote events that connect with, and integrate, other communities</b> , particularly through food and drink, and utilising advisory support where available.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ellandi, Private and third sector events organisers, VisitBlackpool	Ongoing	Increased diversity, broader demographic base for town centre visits
4A.5	Undertake a <b>town centre-wide assessment of infrastructure needs to support future events in key spaces.</b>	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growth & Prosperity, Highways, Illuminations	September 2023	Improved opportunities for events, increased footfall
<b>4B - Meanwhile initiatives</b>					
4B.1	Establish a range of locations, alongside St John's Square, where <b>temporary seating and dining spaces can be installed</b> that would be beneficial to both town centre users and nearby food and beverage businesses.	Highways	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Growth & Prosperity, Planning, VisitBlackpool	June 2024	More activated streets, improved dining options, improved streetscape
4B.2	Explore options for <b>incentivising extended opening for retail, food and beverage and hospitality businesses</b> within the town centre during major events and other periods of high levels of activity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growth & Prosperity, Ellandi, other landlords and agents	Ongoing	More activated streets, improved dining options
4B.3	<b>Increase street furniture that allows for added dwell time in key areas</b> of the town centre, particularly on Victoria Street, in order to increase social activity and develop additional spend opportunities for surrounding businesses.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ellandi, Growth & Prosperity, Highways, Planning	June 2024	Improved visitor experience, increase in dwell time, improved spend amongst nearby businesses
4B.4	Develop a <b>Council-owned shop or other space</b> , potentially within the Winter Gardens' western frontage or within alternative prime location, and utilise a <b>not-for-profit model to support young and growing businesses</b> in developing a high street presence.	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	June 2024	Improved town centre offer, better opportunities for local entrepreneurs
<b>4C - Vacant Space</b>					
4C.1	<b>Develop a Landlords Register</b> that identifies landlords in Blackpool who are willing to engage in pop-up uses across the town centre and who can benefit from initiatives aimed at tackling vacancy.	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Ellandi	December 2023	Better meanwhile usage, reduction in short term vacancy

4C.2	<b>Support landlords overseeing vacant units in the town centre</b> in attracting new tenants, by providing data and supporting documentation, and exploring financial support options, including grant and loan funds, where appropriate.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growth & Prosperity, Ellandi, Strategy and Climate Team	Ongoing	More active street frontages, better retail and food and beverage offer, improved footfall
4C.3	Catalyse the activation of vacant units by <b>connecting landlords overseeing vacant space with those looking for meanwhile town centre uses</b> , including pop-up retail, pop-up food and beverage, and temporary arts and cultural uses.	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Ellandi, Private Sector Landlords and Property Owners, External Agents	Ongoing	Improved town centre retail, food and beverage and cultural offer, activation of inactive frontages, improved leasing prospects
4C.4	<b>Explore agencies and other organisations</b> who are already well-established in marrying vacant spaces with meanwhile or more permanent uses within town centres.	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Ellandi	September 2023	Better cohesion, reduced vacancy, improved town centre offer
4C.5	<b>Engage with Creative Lives</b> regarding their Meanwhile Use programme	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	June 2023	Better meanwhile usage, improved access to potential users
4C.6	Tackle retail vacancy through the <b>re-initiation of the Culture Shops programme</b> .	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Arts, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	June 2024	Reduction in vacancy rate, increase in reasons to visit, better access to cultural activity
4C.7	Develop a <b>coordinated marketing approach</b> to promote Blackpool's town centre as a place to do business.	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	VisitBlackpool, Communications, Ellandi	Ongoing	Improved recognition of Blackpool as a business destination, improved longer term offer
4C.8	Complete the <b>redevelopment of Abingdon Street Market</b> and look for ways in which the refreshed offer can be used to catalyse further rejuvenation of the area.	Growth & Prosperity, Private Sector Operator	Ellandi	Spring 2023 / Ongoing	Improved offer to town centre users, variation in offer, incentivisation of improvement to surrounding area
4C.9	Following the unsuccessful application to the Levelling Up Fund, look to support private sector developers in <b>rejuvenating the former General Post Office</b> building on Abingdon Street.	Private Sector Developers	Growth & Prosperity	Ongoing	Improved built environment, reduced vacant space, improved visitor offer
4C.10	Ensure there is a continued drive to generate continued occupancy across Blackpool Council's town centre retail and leisure portfolio, and <b>continually look to improve the town centre's retail and leisure offer</b> .	Growth & Prosperity	Ellandi	Ongoing	Improved town centre offer, reduced vacancy

ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline	Outcome
<b>5. Culture &amp; Entertainment</b>					
<b>5A - Storytelling and Entertainment</b>					
5A.1	Develop <b>links between any required wayfinding and Blackpool's individuality</b> and history.	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, VisitBlackpool, Communications, Private Sector Developers and Operators	Ongoing	Better feeling of community and locality, improved accessibility
5A.2	Develop an <b>aligned strategy for town centre marketing and promotion</b> that looks to combat negative perceptions of the area.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growth & Prosperity, Private Sector Developers and Operators, Communications, VisitBlackpool	September 2023	Improved perceptions, increased footfall
5A.3	Support the continued development of the town centre's entertainment offer through the <b>completion and promotion of the IMAX cinema</b> within the extension to the Houndshell Shopping Centre	Growth & Prosperity	Backlot Cinema, Ellandi, Blackpool BIDs, VisitBlackpool, Communications	September 2023, Ongoing	Improved perceptions of the town centre, better built environment, improved offer for residents and visitors
<b>5B - Cultural initiatives</b>					
5B.1	Undertake a <b>feasibility study of the Grundy Art Gallery and Central Library</b> , and its surrounding area, considering facility expansion and overarching regeneration requirements in the immediate vicinity.	Arts	Growth & Prosperity, Economic Development	September 2023	Improvement in cultural facilities, regeneration of peripheral area, establishment of localised strategic direction
5B.2	Ensure the <b>Cultural Strategy shows alignment with the Town Centre Strategy</b> and Action Plan.	Arts	Economic Development, Growth & Prosperity	December 2023	Better cohesion, stronger spatial and strategic alignment
5B.3	Ensure that the <b>three Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations</b> with a presence within the town centre (Grundy, Grand Theatre, Illuminations) <b>work cohesively to deliver a high quality, recognised cultural offer</b> across the town centre in conjunction with other cultural assets and organisations.	Arts, Grand Theatre, Illuminations	Other cultural groups and organisations	Ongoing	Improved cohesion, improved cultural offer, better visitor offer, higher footfall
5B.4	<b>Nurture independent art and cultural organisations</b> across the town centre and include their activity in the publicised cultural offer.	Arts	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, VisitBlackpool, Communications	Ongoing	Improved arts and culture recognition,
5B.5	<b>Explore options regarding a public and street art festival</b> across the town centre, that will help to activate the streetscape and leave legacy artwork in key locations.	Arts	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Blackpool BID Tourism Group, Local arts and cultural organisations and individuals	September 2023	Improved public art offer, street activation, increased footfall
5B.6	Look to <b>marry cultural activity across the town centre with key events and other programming</b> , such as Word Fest, to create a broader events calendar.	Arts	Winter Gardens, Grand Theatre, Visit Blackpool, Communications	Ongoing	Improved cultural offer, town centre cohesion, increased town centre-wide footfall
5B.7	Ensure <b>Blackpool's libraries, and specifically Central Library, are included in any consideration of Blackpool's town centre cultural offer.</b>	Libraries	Arts, Economic Development, Communications, Visit Blackpool, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing	Broader cultural offer
5B.8	Develop a <b>joined up approach to promotion of the town centre's cultural visitor offer</b> that outlines cultural destinations and events alongside Blackpool's broader visitor and attraction-based offer, and marry cultural activity across the town centre with key events and other programming, such as Word Fest.	Arts	Communications, Visit Blackpool, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, Blackpool BID Tourism Group	December 2023	Better recognition of cultural offer, broader demographic amongst visitor base, potential for increased spend and higher footfall
5B.9	Ensure <b>Blackpool Council's Heritage and Arts Collections are available for public access</b> in a suitable facility.	Heritage, Arts	Growth & Prosperity, Economic Development, Estates	Ongoing	Stronger community assets, better built environment
5B.10	<b>Complete the development of Showtown</b> , and actively promote it as an addition to Blackpool's cultural visitor offer.	Showtown team	VisitBlackpool, Blackpool Tourism BID, Communications, Heritage	March 2024	Improved cultural offer, stronger visitor offer

ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline	Outcome
<b>6. Heritage</b>					
<b>6A - Protection of Assets</b>					
6A.1	Utilise the findings of the previously outlined feasibility study to support the identification of <b>funding streams that will allow for the protection of both the Grundy Art Gallery and Central Library.</b>	Arts	Growth & Prosperity, Heritage, Economic Development	June 2025	Improved built environment, long term protection of heritage assets, better visitor experience
6A.2	<b>Support the Grand Theatre in acquiring funding</b> to deliver its heritage capital plan, in order to maintain the building's physical material.	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Friends of The Grand	Ongoing	Improved visitor experience, long term protection of heritage assets, improved built environment
6A.3	<b>Identify funding sources</b> , provide supporting advice for development and ensure compliance with legal requirements in <b>protecting the Winter Gardens, Blackpool Tower and North Pier.</b>	Built Heritage	Strategic Leisure Assets, Blackpool Entertainments Company Ltd, Merlin Entertainments, Private Sector Owners, Growth & Prosperity	Ongoing	Improved built environment, long term protection of heritage assets, better visitor experience
<b>6B - Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)</b>					
6B.1	<b>Create a panel with professional skills from the creative sector to curate tenancies in the live/work units</b> developed as part of the HAZ initiative, and establish a governance process that empowers the local creative community to facilitate development of young local creatives.	Built Heritage	Arts, Growth & Prosperity, Economic Development	June 2024	Diverse town centre mix, better governance, improved creative offer, potential broader demographic visitor base
6B.2	Provide <b>support and assistance to the operators of 28 Topping Street</b> , and monitor outputs associated with the facility.	Built Heritage	Non-Council Operators	Ongoing	Adherence to funding requirements, support for a community asset
6B.3	Investigate the <b>opportunity for expanding the 28 Topping Street model</b> into other properties to provide gallery/creative space/repair café-type activities.	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Economic Development, Arts	March 2024	Stronger town centre offer, better community assets
6B.4	Tackle retail vacancy through the <b>re-initiation of the Culture Shops programme.</b>	Built Heritage	Arts, Growth & Prosperity, Economic Development	September 2023	Reduced vacancy, stronger engagement with cultural activity
6B.5	Explore opportunities to <b>fund the repair of stonework on the northern frontage of the Winter Gardens building.</b>	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Estates	September 2023	Better quality built environment, protection of a heritage asset

ID	Action	Lead Role/Team/Partner	Associated Teams/Partners	Timeline
<b>A. Governance</b>				
<b>Delivery</b>				
G1	<b>Develop a Town Centre Working Group</b> across Blackpool Council's officer cohort, with external support, to aid in coordinating town centre interventions.	Growth & Prosperity	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group, All key Council services	June 2023
G2	Continue to <b>explore all avenues for the centralised funding of town centre schemes</b> and interventions.	Growth & Prosperity	Economic Development, All other service areas	Ongoing
G3	Utilise LTP funding to <b>improve transport and highways provision where possible.</b>	Transport	Highways, Growth & Prosperity	Ongoing
<b>Partnership</b>				
G4	<b>Establish a Cultural Steering Group</b> to draft and deliver Blackpool's new Cultural Strategy, including its town centre elements.	Arts		June 2023
G5	Put together a <b>register that identifies and recognises key networks and organisations</b> that utilise key spaces across the town centre	Growth & Prosperity	Town centre-wide input	December 2023
G6	<b>Support organisations such as Blackpool Civic Trust, the Winter Gardens Trust and the Friends of the Grand</b> in their fundraising for the maintenance and development of key assets.	Built Heritage	Growth & Prosperity, Corporate, other data holders	Ongoing
G7	<b>Utilise business networks, such as BBLG, to promote town centre developments.</b>	Communications	Town centre-wide input	Ongoing
G8	Look to develop a <b>cohesive working arrangement across Blackpool's theatres</b> to create complementary programming across the town.	Winter Gardens, Grand Theatre, Arts	Blackpool BID Tourism Group, VisitBlackpool	Ongoing
G9	Ensure the <b>Blackpool Heritage &amp; Museum Trust is fully recognised in town centre governance</b> when shifting to a new arms length organisation framework.	Arts	Council-wide, Economic Development, Blackpool Heritage & Museum Trust	March 2024
<b>Measurement</b>				
G10	Undertake <b>Event Impact Evaluation activity for all major events</b> within the town centre, utilising data sources already available, as well as additional surveys where necessary.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	VisitBlackpool, Strategy and Climate Team, Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool Tourism BID, Ellandi, Communications	Ongoing
G11	<b>Utilise data sources, such as the Visitor Insights footfall data, effectively,</b> and in a way that improves the visitor experience within the town centre.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool Tourism BID, Communications, Ellandi, VisitBlackpool	Ongoing
G12	Undertake a <b>study that measures the social impact of Houndshill Shopping Centre,</b> with a view to implementing similar measurement across the broader town centre.	Ellandi	Growth & Prosperity, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	September 2023
<b>Enforcement</b>				
G13	Support building and planning enforcement, traffic enforcement, trading standards enforcement and other <b>enforcement activity that improves the town centre user experience</b> by addressing resourcing issues where possible.	Council-wide	Police, security officers, all town centre stakeholders, Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Ongoing
G14	Support the <b>enforcement of existing Traffic Regulation Orders</b> and review the need for new TROs in the town centre.	Transport	Highways	Ongoing
G15	Explore the <b>possibility of moving management of traffic offence enforcement to the civil enforcement team</b> in order to address resourcing.	Transport	Police, Highways	June 2024

G16	Ensure the <b>more peripheral areas within the town centre boundary benefit from enforcement activity</b> to the same degree as the Principal Retail Core.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Council-wide, Security officers, all town centre stakeholders	Ongoing
G17	Initiate a <b>joined up approach to the management of CCTV</b> across the town centre.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Police, security officers, CCTV operators	September 2023
G18	Work alongside the Police and other bodies to <b>address significant antisocial behaviour issues across the town centre</b> and explore ways to design out these issues within developments.	Blackpool BID Town Centre Management Group	Council-wide stakeholders, Police, Growth & Prosperity, Enforcement	Ongoing

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 June 2023

## SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the details of the Committee's workplanning workshop.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To note that the Committee's workplanning workshop will take place on 19 July 2023, commencing at 6pm via MS Teams.

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

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To ensure the workplan is robust and fit for purpose.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

### 5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority are:

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

### 6.0 Background Information

## 6.1 Scrutiny Workplan

A Scrutiny Workplanning Workshop will be held on 19 July 2023 to consider items for inclusion on the Committee's workplan for the 2023/2024 municipal year. The workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that will be undertaken by the Committee over the course of the year, both through scrutiny review and Committee meetings.

Committee Members are also invited to suggest topics at any time that might be suitable for scrutiny review through completion of the Scrutiny Review Checklist (attached at Appendix 8(a)). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny outside of the workplanning workshop.

## 6.2 Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

The table attached at Appendix 8(b) has been developed to assist the Committee in effectively ensuring that the recommendations made by the Committee are acted upon. The table will be regularly updated and submitted to each Committee meeting.

Members are requested to consider the updates provided in the table and ask follow-up questions as appropriate to ensure that all recommendations are implemented. The table includes the work and recommendations of the 2022/23 municipal year.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## 7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 8(a) - Scrutiny Selection Checklist  
Appendix 8(b)- Implementation of Recommendations/Actions.

## 8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

## 9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

## 10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

## 11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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**SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST**

**Title of proposed Scrutiny:**

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

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

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

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

**Please give any further details on the proposed review:**

**Completed by:**

**Date:**

## MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

Updates in **RED**

.	DATE OF REC.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG Rating
1	23 January 2019	That bi-annual updates on the progress of Town Centre Regeneration Projects be included on future agendas	Ongoing	Nick Gerard/John Greenbank	Items for monitoring the progress of Town Centre Regeneration Project have been scheduled for every six-months. Next Update <b>June 2023</b> .	Ongoing
6	28 September 2022	That the Customer Feedback report be brought back to the Committee in eight months time and include more detailed information in relation to complaint categories, complainants and learning outcomes.	June 2023	Joceline Greenway	<b>This item has been scheduled for the 2023-2024 municipal year.</b>	Ongoing
8	23 November	That details of how archived Illuminations displays will be displayed be provided to the Committee.	February 2023	Philip Welsh	<b>This item has been scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee (4 October 2023)</b>	Ongoing
9	23 November 2023	That information on how gaps in the Illuminations caused by the Tramway Extension will be addressed be provided.	February 2023	Philip Welsh	<b>This item has been scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee (4 October 2023)</b>	Ongoing

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