

# Public Document Pack

## Blackpool Council

16 January 2024

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

The above members are requested to attend the:

### **LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 24 January 2024 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 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2023** (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 November 2023 as a true and correct record.

**4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS** (Pages 7 - 16)

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

**5 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 17 - 32)

To consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan, January 2024 – April 2024 within the remit of the Committee.

**6 ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN FOR BLACKPOOL** (Pages 33 - 46)

To provide the Committee with an update on progress in developing a new Cultural Strategy for Blackpool.

**7 LEVELLING-UP UPDATE**

To provide the Committee with a verbal update on Levelling-Up in Blackpool.

**8 ALCOHOL SERVICES AND STIGMA/ALCOHOL DEATHS AND COVID** (Pages 47 - 52)

To report on the stigma of accessing treatment and impact of increased alcohol consumption during lockdown.

**9 EMPTY PROPERTY DATA** (Pages 53 - 56)

To provide the Committee with an update on how the service are actively reducing the number of empty properties across Blackpool.

**10 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN** (Pages 57 - 70)

To consider the Workplan and to monitor the implementation of Committee recommendations, together with any suggestions that Members may wish to make for scrutiny review topics.

To note the outcomes of the meeting and the suggestions made toward the strategy.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, 13 March 2024 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)

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

MINUTES OF LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER  
2023

## Present:

Councillor S Smith (in the Chair)

Councillors

Boughton  
Hoyle

Humphreys  
B Mitchell

D Scott  
Thomas

Wilshaw

## In Attendance:

Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications

Ms Vikki Piper, Head of Housing

Ms Liz Petch, Consultant in Public Health

Ms Jodie Stephenson, Democratic Services Senior Advisor

Councillor Paul Galley, Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board

Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling-Up - Place

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

Ms Vicky Leake, Y-LET Coordinator, Streetlife

Ms Stacey Taylor, Y-LET Coordinator, Streetlife

## 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

## 2 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

## 3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2023

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 October 2023 and requested that the following wording be added to the third paragraph of Item 7 – Levelling Up – Housing Update;

“The Chairman raised concerns regarding the impact and capacity of the additional support on the team, the Committee was reassured that there were sufficient levels of staff in place.”

Subject to this amendment, the Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held

## **MINUTES OF LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

on 4 October 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

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

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

Members discussed EX39/2023, Town Centre Investment - The Post Office project. Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration confirmed that the Council would own the building however, once the project was complete the hotel would be run by a professional hotel management company.

The Committee raised a number of concerns regarding EX38/2023 and the process for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and the affect this could have on housing and homelessness. Mr Cavill advised Members that there would be 66 properties affected, consisting of houses, flats, houses of multiple occupancy and small businesses. All affected tenants had been contacted via written communication. The Council had received significant engagement from tenants and business owners who had been offered additional support and advice. Negotiations had been progressing well and a number of properties had been sold voluntarily. The CPO would be the final step in the event of negotiations being unsuccessful.

### **5 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the contents of the Council's Forward Plan November 2023 to February 2024, relating to the portfolios of the Cabinet Members whose responsibilities fell within its remit and noted the upcoming items.

The Committee discussed the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) for the Revoe area. Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling-Up Place, confirmed that the project affected a much smaller number of properties, predominantly businesses and landlords. Close communication and support was being offered to those involved and the CPOs would be a final step.

### **6 LEVELLING-UP UPDATE**

Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration, provided the Committee with a verbal update on Levelling-Up in Blackpool.

Mr Cavill notified the Committee that a number of Levelling-Up projects were in the final stages of development and on schedule to open for Easter 2024:

- Holiday Inn
- Cinema
- Houndshill Shopping Centre extension
- Central carpark (handover January 2024, for opening Easter 2024)

## **MINUTES OF LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) development was progressing well and ahead of schedule by approximately ten weeks.

Showtown Blackpool - The Blackpool Museum project scheduled to open on 15 March 2024.

A discussion took place regarding the Central car park development, Mr Cavill advised that the car park would be leased from a pension fund on a 30 year contract with a chance to purchase at the end of the agreement.

### **7 TOURISM PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications, gave a detailed update on the performance during the main tourism season from April 2023 to the end of August 2023. This included key performance indicators, details of the major events programme, marketing activity, investment in Illuminations and progress on developing business tourism.

He explained that the annual STEAM data for 2022 was not available at the time of the meeting but would be released in a number of weeks. Indicators for 2023 to date suggested a successful season for Blackpool. The various performance data received demonstrated that the free events provided by VisitBlackpool had proved a success and significantly increased visitor numbers.

The Committee enquired as to the possibility of using silent fireworks at future firework championship events. Mr Welsh assured the Committee that the Council worked closely with the provider for whom social responsibility was a priority, and that the production was under regular review taking into consideration, noise and the potential for eco-friendly options.

Members discussed the true impact and value of free events on Blackpool, and whether the output was conducive for the town.

#### **The Committee agreed:**

1. That the Tourism Performance update be noted
2. To request that the next tourism performance report include additional information regarding the true value and impact of providing the free events in Blackpool and how this would be measured.

(Mr Philip Welsh and Councillor Lynn Williams left the meeting on conclusion of this item)

### **8 HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY 2023-2028**

Ms Liz Petch, Consultant in Public Health gave an overview of the progress against the recommendations following the Health Weight Scrutiny Review.

The Healthy Weight Strategy was discussed in detail and Members acknowledged the

## MINUTES OF LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023

barriers in place with regards to the success of a Healthy Weight Strategy for Blackpool and the validity of the proposed recommendations.

Healthy eating, was recognised as the main barrier in the current economic climate. Ms Petch confirmed that the strategy tackled concerns with poor nutrition and insufficient cooking skills and facilities, targeting school aged children.

Concern was raised regarding housing with no cooking facilities, Ms Vikki Piper, Head of Housing advised that this was the case within all social housing properties and often the case within private rented properties. Ms Piper advised that voluntary sector grants were accessible for cooking facilities. Ms Vicky Leake, Young Lived Experience team (Y-LET) Coordinator, Streetlife added that they were able to offer assistance with regards to microwaves, kettles and air fryers.

Ms Piper also informed the Committee a pilot was underway with regards to fully furnished tenancies. This was at a very early stage and it would be sometime before the project could be evaluated.

Members recognised that co-production and cross sector working would be essential to achieve the recommendations in the strategy, along with support from national government.

Ms Petch advised that whilst the strategy was a five year document, due to the nature and the target audience (e.g. school children), it would be difficult to measure effects on healthy weight within the life of the document.

Progress would be evaluated and monitored against a specific programmes of work and interventions using surveys, physical activity records, GP patient data etc.

Members raised concern with regards to the vision statement, and the need for this to be more detailed and direct.

### **The Committee agreed:**

1. To sign off the Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review Recommendations as completed.
2. To support the Health Weight Strategy document subject to the following considerations:
  - More detail be provided with regards to evaluation and data information,
  - The need for a more direct vision statement.

## **9 ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration, presented a report outlining the level of third party spend on external consultants during 2022/23.

The Committee requested that the details of the individual procurement process used for each project to be added to the report.



## MINUTES OF LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023

### The Committee agreed:

1. To note the annual spend paid to external consultants during 2022/23.
2. To receive an updated version of the report with the procurement details following the meeting.

### 10 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Vikki Piper, Head of Housing presented the Housing and Homelessness Annual Report.

The Committee discussed the period of significant change in housing. With regards to the changes in three key pieces of emerging legislation, the Council felt that the changes should have a positive impact for Blackpool.

Members highlighted the limitations for building new property within Blackpool, in response Ms Piper advised that the main obstacle was due to lack of land availability. The Committee noted the high percentage of the private rented sector within Blackpool and was advised that this characteristic was due to the historic decline in holiday accommodation coupled with the business model available in Blackpool which allowed for properties to be bought at a relatively low-price and rented out at a significant profit by private landlords.

Discussion regarding the Housing Register took place, Ms Piper reported that the current number of people on the register was approximately 12,000, however the data had not been cleansed to remove out-of-date information for some time. She also advised that the number within the priority category was approximately 6,000.

Members discussed the rough sleeper data and Ms Piper confirmed that the Council had been proactive and had a very solid multi agency approach to this issue.

The Salvation Army had submitted a written report which was considered by the Committee. The main issue raised in the report regarded the coalition between the voluntary sector, stakeholders and the local authority, Ms Vicky Leake, Y-LET Coordinator added that she supported this concern but also advised that partnership working in Housing Options had improved considerably over the last two years. Both the Streetlife representative and Ms Piper agreed that data sharing arrangements were in place.

In respect of Winter Provision for rough sleepers, Ms Piper advised this had always been a partnership response between the local authority and voluntary sector, but that during Covid, the shift in responsibilities changed to predominantly the local authority and extra funding was provided. This had started to re-balance now and a number of providers were offering help with space and volunteers.

The Decent Homes Standard Pilot was also discussed, with Ms Piper acknowledging the concerns of the Committee with regards to the possible increase in homelessness.

Ms Piper informed the Committee that Housing Options staff had received Trauma

## **MINUTES OF LEVELLING UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

Informed Training, but more work was needed to recognise and support staff exposed to second hand trauma. She advised that a training programme had commenced across the sector, that additional training would be provided by an external provider and that staff wellbeing was also a priority in this area.

**The Committee agreed:** To note the Housing and Homelessness update.

### **11 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

The Committee considered the Scrutiny Workplan Report for 2023/2024 and noted the items within.

### **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 24 JANUARY 2024**

The date and time of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 6.00pm.

### **Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 8.18 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Jodie Stephenson, Democratic Governance Senior Advisor  
Tel: 01253 477169  
E-mail: [jodie.stephenson@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.stephenson@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>	24 January 2024

## 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 4(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:

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

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

- Appendix 4(a) Summary of Executive and Cabinet Member decisions taken.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

11.1 None.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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DECISION / OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	DATE	CABINET MEMBER
<b>Item Title</b>				
<p><b>MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - Adoption (Making) of the Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>To recommend to Full Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To formally “make” the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Development Plan with immediate effect, with the consequence that it becomes part of the statutory Development Plan for the designated area.</li> <li>to authorise the Director of Communications and Regeneration to undertake the necessary steps for the adoption process to be completed and that delegated powers be given to the Head of Planning Strategy to make any final modifications to improve readability; correct any factual matters or typographical errors; and the final presentation of the document.</li> </ol>	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>appraise members of the of the outcome of the Referendum on the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>seek Executive to recommend to Council to adopt the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>to inform members of the next stages.</li> </ol>	EX43/2023	6 November 2023	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<p><b>CORPORATE SCHEME OF DELEGATION</b></p> <p>The Leader of the Council agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the updated Corporate Scheme of Delegation.</li> <li>To request the Director of Resources to take suitable steps to publish the revised scheme of delegation and ensure that relevant officers are made aware and suitably trained.</li> <li>To approve the Directorate Scheme of Delegation included in the document and remind Directors that if a new or amended scheme is required it requires approval of that scheme by means of a published Officer Decision.</li> </ol>	<p>The seek approval of a Corporate Scheme of Delegation provides additional clarity as to the levels of the delegation within the Council and at what levels decisions should be made. It is recommended by CIPFA guidance and provides assurance for Budgetary Control.</p>	PH68/2023	9 November 2023	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council

<p><b>COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2024/2025</b>          The Executive resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the impact of the Scheme to date as set out in paragraphs 6.7 and 6.8 of the Executive report.</li> <li>2. To recommend Council to agree the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 3c, to the Executive report.</li> <li>3. To recommend to Council that the reduction applied to working age claimants remains the same as the 2023/24 Scheme agreed by Council on 1 February 2023 and that the main elements and method of calculating awards will be the same.</li> <li>4. To recommend that the Council agrees to continue to operate a Discretionary Discount Policy to be awarded in cases of exceptional hardship as set out at Appendix 3a, to the Executive report.</li> <li>5. To note at this point in time the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities may still issue changes to the known position for the Pensioner National Scheme. Required changes would be incorporated into the final Scheme presented for adoption at Council on 31 January 2024.</li> </ol>	<p>To provide an update on the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme since the introduction in 2013/14 and to seek approval to recommend to the Council the proposals for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25.</p>	<p>EX46/2023</p>	<p>11 December 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up People</p>
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<p><b>CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL COUNCIL HOMES AT GRANGE PARK (PHASE 2 HOUSING SITE), BLACKPOOL.</b></p> <p>The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the redevelopment of the former Blackpool Coastal Housing neighbourhood office site on Sidford Court providing two new two-bedroom bungalows</li> <li>2. That the Council bids to Homes England for capital grant to help fund the construction of the proposed two units.</li> <li>3. That the existing principal contractor, Tyson Construction, is formally instructed to build the additional units under the existing JCT Design and Build contract dated 09 November 2021.</li> <li>4. To approve the additional expenditure to develop the additional bungalows and note the revised scheme costs, to the Executive report, financial considerations.</li> </ol>	<p>This report outlines the proposal and level of investment required to deliver two additional two-bedroom bungalows at Grange Park scheme (Phase Two site). These additional units will replace the existing Blackpool Coastal Housing neighbourhood office on Sidford Court, Grange Park. The report seeks formal approval for the units to be delivered as an addition to the existing build programme (EX34/2021). The report also updates Executive on the additional costs incurred by the scheme.</p>	<p>EX49/2023</p>	<p>11 December 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up - Place</p>
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<p><b>BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE: ANNUAL REVIEW</b>  The Executive resolved as follows:  1. To agree that Appendices 7a, 7b, 7c, 7e and 7g to the Executive report, are not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as they include detailed costings that enable the scheme to be viable. The publication of such information could prejudice continuing and future negotiations.  2. To note the progress made on the delivery of the Enterprise Zone Masterplan to date.  3. To note the higher levels of risk associated with the overall whole life expenditure and income forecasts, given the present volatile nature of the economy and uncertainty over the long-term format of business rates.  4. To note, the total estimated cumulative expenditure from April 2016 to end of March 2024 of £32.17m and the proposed works to take place.  5. To approve the forecast expenditure budgets set out in exempt Appendix 7a, to the end of financial year 2023/24 (£14.85m), 2024/5 (£13.19m) and Town Deal project spend in 2025/26 (£8.62m), totalling £54.17m (from the current approval of £44.2m) and to note the increased whole life cumulative expenditure estimate of £ 83.69m at present values to March 2041.  The £54.17m forecast expenditure referred to above includes:  a) The increase in the commitment to provide match funding for the Towns Fund project from £16.4m approved in December 2022 by an additional £2.8m to £19.2m.</p>	<p>This report sets out for review and approval:  a) The further progress on the delivery of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and related activity at Blackpool Airport since the Executive of 5 December 2022  b) Outlines activity planned for the next fifteen months to the end of financial year (FY) 2024/25; and,  c) Seeks authority to proceed with planned activities, related investment expenditure and required prudential borrowing in relation to:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued progression with work to undertake Phase 1 - highway and utility provision at Eastern Gateway and Airport East.;</li> <li>• Advance preparatory work and property acquisition to facilitate delivery of phase 2 at Silicon Sands, together with approval in principle to progress developments for a technology demonstrator data centre, solar farm and battery storage.</li> <li>• Confirmation of relevant delegated authorities including the letting of larger construction contracts and formal expenditure approvals in respect of match funding under the Town Deal.</li> <li>• To confirm amended governance arrangements</li> </ul> </p>	<p>EX50/2023</p>	<p>11 December 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up-Place</p>
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<p>b) The capital costs in relation to the Phase 1 works (Eastern Gateway and Area A / Airport East) and shown in Appendix 7d to the Executive report.</p> <p>c) The initial capital spend profile in relation to key enabling items in respect of Phase 2 (Silicon Sands) including the proposed development of a Tech Demonstrator its project methodology and proposed funding model.</p> <p>d) Expenditure of up to £200,000 to prepare a planning application and undertake due diligence for the development of a solar farm at Blackpool Airport.</p> <p>6. To delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the direct contract award to the preferred contractor for the road infrastructure following the period of Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) (as set out in detail in exempt Appendix 7e to the Executive report).</p> <p>7. To approve the delegation hierarchy and thresholds, to authorise expenditure on individual schemes and property acquisitions within the Enterprise Zone and inter-related airport holdings of Blackpool Airport Properties Ltd (BAPL) as set out in exempt Appendix 7g to the Executive report.</p> <p>8. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into the NEC4 construction contract for the construction of Eastern Gateway, Common Edge Road and Airport East Access highways once approved by the Chief Executive under decision 6.</p> <p>9. To note the ongoing review of the Airport business strategy and masterplan and its role in determining the nature and timing of new operational infrastructure provision and that a further report will be presented to the Executive in 2024 to identify Enterprise Zone investment in</p>				
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<p>airport infrastructure spend which is not included within the funding approved in decision 5.</p>				
<p><b>BLACKPOOL TOWN DEAL: UPDATE</b>                  The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:                  To note the progress with Blackpool’s Town Deal Programme.</p>	<p>To provide an update on progress with the delivery of the Town Deal Programme.</p>	<p>EX51/2023</p>	<p>11 December 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up - Place</p>
<p><b>TOWN CENTRE ACCESS SCHEME : LEVELLING UP FUND</b>                  The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:                  1. To note the grant funding award of £15,385,023m for the scheme under the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) grant award and to delegate approval of expenditure to the Director of Community and Environmental Services                  2. To delegate to the Director of Community and Environmental Services any amendments that arise out of the validation exercise required by DHLUC (the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities) (or any other Government Department eg Department of Transport), and any detailed amendments required to the scheme, and to agree the legal structure and contracts to take forward the scheme after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Levelling Up Place and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods                  3. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into such contracts as are necessary to deliver the scheme.</p>	<p>This report is to provide an update on the Town Centre Access Scheme (TCAS) which was originally submitted as a Levelling Up Round 2 Bid in July 2022, authorised by the Executive in April 2022 (EX19/2022), its eventual approval in November 2023 and seeks authorisation for the proposed way forward.</p>	<p>EX52/2023</p>	<p>11 December 2023</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up - Place</p>

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 January 2024

## FORWARD PLAN REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the content of the Council's Forward Plan January 2024 to April 2024, 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 5(a) is a list of items contained in the current Forward Plan. Further details appertaining to each item is contained in the Forward Plan, which has been forwarded to all members separately.

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

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

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

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

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

Appendix 5(a) - Summary of items contained within Forward Plan January 2024 to April 2024.

#### **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 and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

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**

Appendix 5a

**JANUARY 2024 TO APRIL 2024**

**\* 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>
January 2024	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
January 2024	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 M Smith
February 2024	To consider the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to assemble the site identified in the February 2023 Executive report to deliver the Revoe Community Sports Village Project	12/2023	Executive	Cllr Smith
February 2024	To consider the making of a compulsory purchase order to assemble the sites identified in the February 2023 Executive report (EX20/2023) to deliver the Town Centre Car Parking Strategy	13/2023	Executive	Cllr Smith

<b>Anticipated Date of Decision</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
January 2024	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	18/2023	Council	Cllr Farrell
*January 2024	Housing Investment	30/2023	Executive	Cllr M Smith
*January 2024	Feedback and Action Plan from the 'Be Who You Want To Be' area in the Claremont Ward	34/2023	Executive	Cllr Farrell
*January 2024	Additional funding allocation, in the form of debt finance, to meet the capital expenditure associated with the Gruffalo attraction	35/2023	Executive	Cllr Williams

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for Decision</b> <b>Ref N° 1/2021</b>	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))
<b>Decision making Individual or Body</b>	Executive
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	January 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Senior Officers
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	None Applicable
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Report
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Director of Communications and Engagement e-mail: alan.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 47 7006

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for Decision</b>  <b>Ref N° 3/2021</b>	To agree strategic acquisitions in 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))
<b>Decision making Individual or Body</b>	Executive
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up (Place)
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	January 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Fylde Borough Council (for any acquisitions that fall within their boundary) Commercially confidential and sensitive.
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	N/A
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Report(s) supported by External Valuations and Justification report and Enterprise Zone Masterplan.
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Director of Communications and Engagement Alan.Cavill@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 477006

## **EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for decision</b> <b>Ref No: 12/2023</b>	To consider the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to assemble the site identified in the February 2023 Executive report to deliver the Revoe Community Sports Village Project
<b>Decision making individual or body</b>	Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up-Place
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	February 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Director of Resources, Head of Legal Services, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	N/A, there will be no public representations
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Executive Report
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Alan Cavill Director of Communications and Regeneration Chief Executives <a href="mailto:alan.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk">alan.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01253 477006

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for decision</b> <b>Ref No 13/2023</b>	To consider the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to assemble the sites identified in the February 2023 Executive report (EX20/2023) to deliver the Town Centre Car Parking Strategy
<b>Decision making individual or body</b>	Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up-Place
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	February 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Director of Resources, Head of Legal Services, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	N/A, there will be no public representations
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Executive Report
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Alan Cavill Director of Communications and Regeneration Chief Executives <a href="mailto:alan.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk">alan.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01253 477006

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for Decision</b>  <b>Ref N° 18/2023</b>	<p>The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit (CTB), billing authorities were required to adopt a new local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to take effect from 1 April 2013, and the Council formally adopted the 2013-14 Scheme at full Council on 23 January 2013.</p> <p>The legislation requires that billing authorities formally adopt the Scheme on an annual basis.</p> <p>This report outlines the proposed 2024-25 local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) which will apply to working age claimants and the options available to the Council.</p> <p>The report highlights any changes to the CTRS Scheme which accommodate wider welfare benefit changes made by Central Government.</p> <p>It is also proposed that the discretionary hardship fund should continue to be made available through the Discretionary Discount Policy.</p>
<b>Decision making Individual or Body</b>	Council
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Levelling up People
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	January 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	<p>Extensive consultation was undertaken on all options for inclusion in the scheme during 2012-13.</p> <p>Consultation has once again been undertaken with the precepting authorities as required by legislation.</p> <p>No changes are proposed to the Scheme for 2024-25 so no public consultation has been undertaken.</p>
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	N/A
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	<p>Report as outlined</p> <p>2024-25 Draft Council Tax Reduction Scheme</p> <p>Equality Analysis and Action Plan (no significant changes)</p>

<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources, Resources Directorate, Blackpool Council, Number 1 Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool, FY1 3AH  e-mail:steve.thompson@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 478505
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**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for decision</b> * Ref N <sup>o</sup> 30/2023	Housing Investment
<b>Decision making individual or body</b>	Executive (collectively)
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up Place
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	January 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	No formal public consultation is required for this decision.
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	Usual rules for Executive decisions.
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Executive Report Appendices - TBC
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Deputy Chief Executive  e-mail: <a href="mailto:antony.lockley@blackpool.gov.uk">antony.lockley@blackpool.gov.uk</a>  Tel: (01253) 477 267

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for decision</b>  <b>*Ref No: 34/2023</b>	Feedback and Action Plan from the 'Be Who You Want To Be' area in the Claremont Ward
<b>Decision making individual or body</b>	Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up - People
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	January 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Public consultation undertaken
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	Consultation closed 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 – questionnaire, interviews, focus groups
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Report, Action Plan, Consultation Documents
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	John Blackledge, Director for Community and Environmental Services e-mail: john.blackledge@blackpool.gov.uk Tel: (01253) 478400

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - KEY DECISION:**

<b>Matter for decision</b>  *Ref No: 35/2023	Additional funding allocation, in the form of debt finance, to meet the capital expenditure associated with the Gruffalo attraction
<b>Decision making individual or body</b>	Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date on which or period within which decision is to be made</b>	January 2024
<b>Who is to be consulted and how</b>	Not Applicable
<b>How representations are to be made and by what date</b>	
<b>Documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration</b>	Executive report and <b>exempt</b> appendix
<b>Name and address of responsible officer</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration  e-mail:alan.cavill@blackpool.gov.uk @blackpool.gov.uk  Tel: (01253) 47 7006

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Carolyn Primett, Head of Arts and Peter Legg, Head of Economic and Cultural Services
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 January 2024

## DEVELOPING A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR BLACKPOOL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on progress in developing a new Cultural Strategy for Blackpool.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the progress report and to invite feedback from the Council's Scrutiny Committee on the emerging draft vision, mission and priorities.

### 3.0 Reason for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Blackpool Cultural Strategy is not Council led or owned, it is a shared strategy which has been shaped by a wide range of local stakeholders and influenced by public consultation.
- 3.2 The Council has helped facilitate the establishment of an independent Steering Group including the commissioning of consultants to support the work of the group.
- 3.3 The Council is a key stakeholder in terms of the delivery of the Strategy through an emerging Action Plan, and through its ability to leverage other strategies, services and funding opportunities.

- 3.4 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy approved by the Council? No
- 3.5 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered

- 4.1 No Cultural Strategy for Blackpool. This would be detrimental to cultural life of local people and visitors, and will discourage joint work and collaboration to grow a strong cultural sector and offer for locals and visitors in the town. It risks lack of further investment in arts and culture at a time when Blackpool has the opportunity to

maximise its status as an Arts Council 'Priority Place'.

## **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 and key information**

6.1 Blackpool Council convened a number of key stakeholders in August 2022, to develop the methodology for the strategy, including how to involve creative freelancers and how to utilise consultancy support. The Council secured a grant of £15,000 from the Arts Council for developing the Strategy with match of £5,000 from the Council's Arts Service and £5,000 secured from the Town Centre Business Improvement District.

6.2 CTConsults was engaged via a competitive bidding process to help support the Steering Group with their contract beginning in January 2023. CTConsults' role was mentoring and coaching the Cultural Strategy Framework Steering Group (CSFSG), who had varying experience of policy development and implementation. The whole process has been a collaborative one with the key cultural leaders of the town coming together to work on the Strategy. A list of the CSFSG members is included in Appendix 6a.

6.3 CTConsults worked with the CSFSG to lay the foundations for the strategy by exploring Blackpool's cultural realities and ambitions. Once a strategy framework was agreed, members of the CSFSG volunteered to become a Writing Team. The consultants facilitated a Writers' Away Day, building the strategy spine and mapping out content for the core themes, with each writer leading on one section. Once a full draft was ready, the CSFSG met to feedback and an Editing Team was identified to provide a coherent, singular voice.

6.4. Following this, CTConsults facilitated a series of public stakeholder workshops in which the strategy themes were tested by a wider cohort and their feedback incorporated into the next draft. A sample of the public feedback and issues raised is attached as Appendix 6b and features a long list of issues and suggestions for further focus.

6.5 A final draft strategy document is now being finessed and an action plan is being developed, alongside a new delivery model. Consensus decision making has been essential throughout the process. The approach has been to build a more democratic and level cultural leadership for the town and this has taken time. National bodies such as Arts Council England have supported the process and are interested in creating a 'Blackpool Model' for collaborative cultural strategy development which can be replicated elsewhere.

- 6.6 Next steps include:-
- The CSFSG to complete the strategy, which is a more comprehensive document.
  - To complete an accompanying Action Plan and consult widely on its contents.
  - The full Strategy and Action Plan to be published and launched by the Steering Group in spring 2024.
  - Key priorities from the action plan to inform an Expression of Interest (EOI) funding bid to the Arts Council for up to £1M place funding for implementing key areas of work.
  - If the EOI is approved, a full bid will be submitted to ACE for the end of March 2024 with the outcome known by July 2024. Match funding will be required from a range of partners.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **7.0 List of appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 6a - Terms of Reference for the CSFSC, Membership and the Draft Vision, Mission and Priorities for the Blackpool Cultural Strategy 2024-2030.  
Appendix 6b - A sample of the feedback and comments received from the public consultation sessions in September 2023.

## **8.0 Financial considerations**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications in terms of developing or agreeing a Cultural Strategy and action plan. The Council will be required to act as accountable body for any ACE Place bid and grant administration if successful.

## **9.0 Legal considerations**

- 9.1 None.

## **10.0 Risk management considerations**

- 10.1 None.

## **11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

- 11.1 Equality and diversity is one of the key values in the Strategy and underpins all the priorities.

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

- 12.1 Sustainability is one of the key values in the Strategy.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken**

13.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken to date with a wide range of stakeholders including 3 public consultation events with 75 attendees from across Blackpool; in person one to one consultation meetings with 30 key stakeholders both local and regional. Further consultation will take place over the draft Action Plan that will accompany the Strategy and will influence future funding bids and investment plans.

**14.0 Background papers**

14.1 None.



## Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee

### DEVELOPING A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR BLACKPOOL REPORT

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BLACKPOOL'S CULTURAL STRATEGY FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP

##### **Membership of the Core Leadership Group:**

- Blackpool Council - Regeneration and Communications Directorate (Cultural Services) – Peter Legg, Head of Economic and Cultural Services; Vicky Clarke, Head of Libraries; Carolyn Primett, Head of Arts
- Blackpool Heritage and Museum Trust (Showtown) – Elizabeth Moss, Chief Executive; Kerry Vasiliou, Learning and Engagement Manager
- LeftCoast (Creative People and Places) – Tina Redford, Director (Vice Chair of CSFSG)
- Abingdon Studios Ltd (not for profit) – Garth Gratrix, Director and Artist
- Aunty Social (CIC) – Catherine Mugonyi, Director
- Grand Theatre, Blackpool – Adam Knight, Chief Executive (Chair of CSFSG)
- Electric Sunshine Project (CIC) – Melanie Whitehead, Artistic Director
- Winter Gardens (BECL) – Michael Williams, Managing Director, BECL Ltd.
- TramShed Theatre, Blackpool – Zac Hackett, Artistic Director
- Blackpool and the Fylde College – Annie Kerfoot, Head of Leadership, Management and Lifestyle
- Blackpool Business Improvement Districts (Tourism and Town Centre) – Sue Grindrod, Managing Director, BIDs Ltd
- Lightpool Festival – Philip Holmes, Artistic Director
- Grundy Art Gallery – Paulette Brien, Curator
- House of Wingz – Samantha Bell-Docherty, Artistic Director and Aishley Bell-Docherty, Creative Director

*Arts Council England – invited as observer as and when appropriate*

##### **Rationale for membership of Steering Group:**

- strategic cultural partner in the town;
- and/or track record of delivery;
- and/or securing significant investment from regional or national funding partner;
- and/or existing Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation or present applicant for 2023-26 cohort;
- and/or investor in the development of the framework process.

A Chair and Vice Chair will be nominated and appointed by the representatives;  
The Steering Group may invite other representatives from other key bodies to contribute their expertise and knowledge at certain points in the process.  
Substitutes allowed from within same organisation.

**Purpose:**

To lead on devising and implementing a process for:-

- creating a clear and exciting vision for cultural development in Blackpool that is produced through wide consultation and communicated through the production and publication of a Cultural Strategy with an Action Plan for the next 3 to 5 years.
- establishing a strategic partnership working across Blackpool, regionally and nationally to enable arts and culture to make a significant contribution to the economic, social, and environment regeneration of Blackpool; advocate for and enable interventions for investment and collaborative working at a

Once established, a core part of the partnership's work will be to oversee the implementation of the Cultural Strategy, monitor and evaluate the delivery of the Action Plan and regularly refresh the plan to ensure it is relevant to the latest opportunities and developments in the town.

**Meeting Frequency , Longevity and Commitment**

It is envisaged that the Steering Group will need to be in place for up to 12 months (until clearer governance is agreed and established). Meetings will take place monthly; smaller working groups may need to be established and meet more regularly to deliver specific tasks.

It is expected that members of the Steering Group will do their best to attend meetings on a regular basis. If a member of the Steering Group does not attend 3 consecutive meetings they will be asked to step down due to lack of commitment (unless there are extenuating circumstances). Members sending apologies for a meeting will be expected to submit comments on papers received in advance to be shared at the meeting to ensure their views can be taken into account.

**Funding/Commissioning**

Funding secured from the Arts Council to enable a programme of work on setting up a Cultural Framework will be managed by Blackpool Council as the accountable body. Any contracting of freelance advisors, critical friends or consultants and other associated costs for the work will be undertaken by the Council adhering to its procurement policy.

**Freelance Representation on the Steering Group**

The Steering Group is committed to ensuring a range of voices from across the independent cultural sector can be heard through the development process and will seek to ensure barriers to taking an active part are minimised. Honorariums for time committed by freelance creatives to being active members of the Steering Group or any working groups established will be agreed at the outset.

**Decision Making**

By consensus.

**Group Administration**

Setting up meetings and administration of the Steering Group will be undertaken by Blackpool Council unless agreed otherwise by the Group.

Brief notes/actions to be taken of each meeting. Distributed in advance of future meetings.

## **DRAFT - A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR BLACKPOOL**

### **Vision for 2030**

Blackpool is the UK's Coastal Capital of Creativity. Our vibrant communities and our rich cultural heritage are at the heart of a culture that shines brightly towards a sustainable future, attracting diverse visitors and creatives and producing world-class art.

### **Mission**

To unite Blackpool's existing wealth of creative leaders to shape, drive and offer new and exciting opportunities for our town and communities. This collaborative approach will attract long-term investment in Blackpool's cultural development, which will be central to a wider place making agenda and position the town as a compelling place to live, work and visit.

### **Values**

- We are enterprising and ambitious.
- We are inclusive and respect and champion each other.
- We are committed to collaboration.
- We strive to be environmentally sustainable.

### **Priorities**

Our Strategy to ensure Blackpool is recognised as the UK's Coastal Capital of Creativity by 2030 focusses on four priorities.

- **Developing cultural leadership**  
Blackpool's cultural leaders will be inclusive and representative of the wider community. Their collective voice will have weight and presence in conversations that shape the future of the town.
- **Developing our cultural sector**  
Blackpool will have a diverse, energised and sustainable cultural workforce. The town's cultural sector will focus on skills, talent retention, creative business growth and environmental sustainability.
- **Nurturing creativity within our communities**  
We will champion, celebrate and empower our local communities to experience and to shape Blackpool's unique cultural identity.
- **Growing culture's role in regeneration and the visitor economy**  
Culture will be a driving force in future regeneration and in strengthening and diversifying the visitor offer.

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## Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee

### DEVELOPING A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR BLACKPOOL REPORT

#### Blackpool Stakeholder Workshops - September 2023

#### Sample of Collated transcripts from in-person sessions

##### Exercise #1

##### Vision, values and themes – What’s working, what’s missing, new ideas and questions?

##### GOLD STAR

1. Talent retention
2. Authentic, credible championing and advocacy for culture
3. Authenticity and credibility
4. Authentic
5. Process
6. Collaboration
7. New connections
8. Investing in creative workforce
9. Championing
10. Championing each other
11. Highlighting local people
12. A changed narrative of the town
13. Opportunity to relate people and place through art
14. Can do and does do
15. Collaboration and ‘linking up’
16. Changing the narrative about the town
17. Keeping people in Blackpool (challenge is that Blackpool is not seen as a place to be, as an artist)
18. Education – promoting the awareness of the opportunities in the creative sector
19. Championing freelance work – and understanding its value
20. Blackpool has a ‘head start in its history’
21. Collaborative approach (‘that’s a first’) – having a plan we’re all involved in
22. “Culture can support solutions”
23. Collaborative approach – learning approach, taking risks
24. ‘...extraordinary, bold and bizarre’
25. YES! extraordinary, bold and bizarre
26. Big ideas that are multi-faceted – and can involve and benefit different organisations and communities
27. Scale of ambition is laudable
28. A culture that surprises us – Blackpool has always done the unexpected
29. Blackpool’s Northern-ness
30. ‘offer the unexpected’
31. ‘of all ages’
32. Blackpool is the place you can be who you want to be – freedom

33. All about the people – signposting and linking in
34. The welcome
35. Valuing local communities and co-design
36. ‘Artrepreneurial’
37. Three themes broad enough to be inclusive to address all key issues

*Recorded as positives:*

1. Blackpool has a ‘head start in its history’
2. The Grundy
3. NPO for Illuminations
4. Hidden gems – lots going on
5. Signature buildings – The Grand, Winter Gardens, Tower etc.
6. Home of / variety of entertainment, Illumination, LightPool...
7. National renown – dance
8. Diversity of culture, especially LGBT
9. Showtown coming; Tramtown too

IDEAS / MORE OF

1. Advancing the cultural offer – gaming!
2. Inter-generational opportunities
3. More trickle-down from large organisations to smaller ones
4. More cultural tourism encouraged through Blackpool packages to discover more of the town
5. More culture into the wards / out of the centre
6. More integrated transport linked to arts and culture – tickets and deals
7. More diverse voices in culture
8. We need it ALL!
9. Involvement of Civic Trust
10. Pink pound development – the ‘culture’ of Funny Girls
11. Historical walks – history of the town events (energised by arts)
12. Celebrate firsts – electric trams... what's next? Reveal ‘best kept secrets’ of Blackpool
13. Promote what you can get for the price of one show ticket in London
14. Variety of things to inspire young people
15. Value placed in using the arts for wellbeing
16. Making project available to all demographics – working people included
17. Blackpool is a well-known town – lots going on (need to work together more), more shared data, funding activity and skills development
18. Arena
19. Festivals
20. Ensure definition of culture is very broad – gaming, tech etc.
21. LBGTO+ arts and culture focus
22. Connect with heritage (of innovation)
23. Town-wide plans may help achieve sector collaboration, e.g. town wide comedy festival
24. We need one place we can go – it’s difficult to know what’s being delivered and who is partnering who

25. Set responsibility to organisation to share
26. Linking regeneration to the visitor economy may be too limiting – don't just put regen in this context – tourism only 25% of the economy. What about... influencing government metrics to value cultural impact in the cost benefit calculations opportunity here to be a national lead / influence this
27. Holistic approach to regen – design of housing etc., not just the visitor economy
28. Cultural sector development – working out ways to share the load to offer exciting training, skills development opportunities
29. "Creative clusters"
30. Most 16-18 year olds on creative courses in 2023-24 for a decade
31. Cultural quarter?
32. Student culture? Think UCLan's cultural impact on Preston. Can a new culture build around Multiversity?
33. The town motto is 'Progress'... can do, do do, will do!
34. Approach to decarbonisation and climate adaptation through art in the strategy in support of Blackpool's net zero commitments
35. Let's use the words 'pride' and 'proud' more – residents are proud!
36. Develop, illuminate, amplify
37. Ongoing sustainable development
38. Be brave – not just led by same people
39. Giving back ownership to local communities
40. Mapping of collective resources
41. Creative words / new words
42. High street becoming more about experiences than retail
43. Find a symbol that isn't the Tower
44. New ways to describe (Blackpool) culture
45. Beach education – skate, surf, school
46. Letting go is key – less (centralised) control
47. Residents being able to access resources about their history / culture – pride
48. Culture shouldn't be confined to the town centre
49. Communication between / across communities
50. Address the (media) negativity
51. Clean Blackpool – sponsorship of seafront spaces / retail parades
52. Photography biennial
53. Linking up inter-generational communities / skill-sharing
54. Embrace multi-culturalism
55. Celebrate working class culture
56. Nurturing local talent / training / opportunities... what about financial investment?
57. More than championing – needs infrastructure to support local artist development
58. Things being done with not to the town
59. Big stakeholder events – with mixed inputs (locals, artists, organisations)
60. Young people engagement
61. Mentoring – with successful people advising next gen
62. Celebrate our successes – encourage a positive view – show what's actually happening

63. Communications and sharing is key
64. Emphasise (value of, activity of) amateur practice for all – not everyone needs to be a professional artist
65. Look at French model – art school teachers, outreach with public, support arts practice... funding apprenticeships?
66. Build infrastructure to schedule open spaces
67. Talent / skills – challenge to re-attract. Used to UK leader / recognised – need to celebrate careers too / drive aspiration, focus on attainment
68. Find national partners to locate regional hubs / programmes here

#### QUESTIONS / WHAT ABOUT?

1. How to wrap culture around the whole town – transport, food and drink etc.?
2. Funding?
3. Funding?
4. Less red tape / barriers to 'doing'
5. How can we access vacant units?... to create... happiness
6. How does culture link to (or be) digital skills, opportunities and access?
7. Who is the strategy for? Business, artists, locals, all?
8. Blackpool children get free breakfasts – what's their cultural offer?
9. Where is our climate emergency action plan? How does it connect?
10. How can we make Blackpool safer and more hospitable?
11. Where is the connector between tourism, arts and culture (and heritage)?
12. Will the Council embrace the arts more?
13. Local projects: re-education of the value of arts, and involvement – how do we get people involved?
14. Visitor economy – big ask to make the shift to creative sector?
15. Outcomes – how will the priorities be measured... Detail? Accountability? Milestones?
16. What's the commitment to resourcing arts and culture? Who can commit to this?
17. How do we boost access for locals?
18. How do we make sure we all know about what's happening – cooperation, working together, supportive?
19. How do we find a solution to the culture of non-collaboration? Identify quick wins...like Capital of Dance plans for summer 2024 has lots of partners on board (looking for more)
20. Where do the talented go?
21. How do we support the cottage industries / SMEs and micro-businesses – tech, lighting, sound, designers etc.?
22. How do we build young people's aspirations?
23. How do we get more of RSC, V and A, Sadler's Wells, Royal Ballet type partnerships? Can ACE support / champion? How do we build partnerships on our terms? (what do we want?)
24. What about Margate, Brighton? Can we really aspire to be a coastal cultural capital?
25. How do we build up comms? E.g. Blackpool Social Club
26. People from different socio-economic backgrounds – important in prioritising creativity in our communities
27. How do we all know what's going on? Being planned? Not everyone can make network meetings – need mixed media. We need to take responsibility for getting the word out, exchange etc.



28. Don't forget 'quiet culture'
29. Does everything creative have to be fun
30. Ensure inclusion remains in focus – but not tokenistic
31. How do artists and makers access funding opportunities? Town projects should involve local artists
32. Spirit of collaboration? Huge talent pool but don't always work together
33. Have we thought about inclusion for the transient parts of our communities?
34. Communities – are these being targeted in different ways specific to them, e.g. young people's distinct socio-economic needs / backgrounds etc.
35. Financial sustainability?
36. Accessibility?
37. Climate concerns? Environmental impact
38. Share resources
39. Cultural heritage and entertainment
40. Do we need to address isolation of our elderly? Lots disabled, dementia, post-Covid etc. – can do more than bingo
41. Concerns around gentrification impacts on locals
42. Sector still in recovery – reality check, takes time, need to nurture / strengthen the base... how creative can you be with bills to pay?
43. Resilience Revolution has a good approach – secured good commitment, model to learn from
44. Make existing venues the hubs for creative culture – not just their programmes – for schools, colleges, Multiversity (town as campus?)
45. Embed cultural educational uses – help people learn, grow, reach potential.

#### GAPS, FOCUS AND CONCERNS

1. Barriers – such as ticket entry / cost
2. There is more to us
3. 'Bizarre' – is there a more positive alternative?
4. Safety for accessing events, e.g. attending evening events
5. Need space for quiet things, small things, complex and uncertain things
6. 'Fun'? Too much pressure to be fun!
7. Lot of 'hooray' words – not a lot of critical questioning and challenging
8. Values – hooray words again – more detail and seriousness
9. Challenge in the cost of accessing culture for people locally
10. 'Creative capital of fun' sounds a bit crap
11. 'Creative capital of fun' – some concerns; bit too dismissive of serious side of culture. Maybe switch to 'place of freedom' or 'opportunity to try a lot of things!' Element of freedom
12. Use the word 'culture' in the vision statement
13. Need shared ownership
14. Use of businesses out of season
15. Need a hub / central coordination
16. Wider perception of town (and its residents)
17. Need to capture impacts – tell those stories of impact to 'shareholders' we want to influence (can we tell it in a Blackpool way?)

18. Is the strategy too broad (know it's the topline) – we need to focus down into an action plan that is achievable
19. Local talent pool – not utilised enough in consultations
20. How are artists and makers supported?
21. Talking about community – who do we mean? How are you interacting with people – not just asking the same ten people every time?
22. The role of sea in local arts and culture
23. Are the ideas relevant to the community?
24. Large talent pool, but do we communicate, and is it coordinated?
25. Swimming metaphor – bit cringy and unauthentic
26. 'Fun' – childlike and diminishing – it's not always fun
27. Fun?
28. Community identity
29. Involve young people
30. Changing labels for Blackpool
31. Gap – Mixing of local and visitor economy
32. What is the 'collective sense of individuality' please (values)?
33. 'Collective sense of individuality' – meaning?
34. Mis-step – Collective sense of individuality – unclear?
35. Need to see more of working class nature of town in strategy
36. Resilience – it's an assumption, ACE-speak
37. More on outcomes (action plan?) Who inputs to this? Whose voices are we missing? (*role of action planning, comms, engagement, governance*)

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officers:</b>	Judith Mills, Consultant In Public Health and Kerry Burrow, Public Health Practitioner
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 January 2024

## ALCOHOL SERVICES AND STIGMA/ALCOHOL DEATHS AND COVID

### 1.0 Purpose of the report

To report on the stigma of accessing treatment and impact of increased alcohol consumption during lockdown.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To consider the report, identifying any issues for further scrutiny and challenging service performance.

### 3.0 Reason for recommendation(s)

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

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

4.0 No alternative options have been identified.

4.1 N/A

### 5.0 Council priority

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

### 6.0 Stigma

**In the open consultation from OHID – UK Clinical Guidelines for Alcohol Treatment: Core Elements of Alcohol Treatment from October 23 - Stigma is addressed as follows:-**  
'Services and practitioners should work to reduce stigma.

People with alcohol problems experience stigma in society and in some healthcare and support services. Research consistently identifies stigma as a major barrier to help-seeking and

treatment engagement for people with alcohol problems (Kilian and others 2021). The World Health Organization [European framework for action on alcohol 2022 to 2025](#) (PDF, 2.2MB) includes a priority action for healthcare services to reduce social stigma and discrimination that prevent people from accessing alcohol treatment. Services and practitioners should address policies, practices and attitudes that can contribute to experiences of stigma, ensuring people feel respected, heard, and not judged or treated differently because of their alcohol use. Physical and mental health services and social care services should not exclude people from care that they need on the basis that they have an alcohol problem.

Language used to describe people with alcohol problems can also be stigmatising. Preferred language and terminology around alcohol use can vary between individuals and over time. It is useful for services to regularly review the language they use, by speaking to people with lived experience to understand what language they find stigmatising and what are their preferred terms.

Practitioners should be aware that people’s experiences of stigma and discrimination may mean that they minimise their alcohol problem.’

The Lighthouse Alcohol service will adhere to these guidelines both now and when they are implemented formally after consultation. The Lighthouse also provides a trauma informed service and trauma informed training for all partners to support the addressing of alcohol and stigma.

### **Delphi – Summary of the Lighthouse and how they are addressing stigma through the separation of the alcohol service**

The Horizon service was split into separate Drug and Alcohol focused services in January 2023, with the Alcohol Team now branded and marketed as ‘The Lighthouse’.

The branding was co-produced with the client base and includes innovative new ways to engage with the service, including a QR code referral system which allows a quick, confidential and simple way to self-refer.

Data from our service audits suggests that less women access our services, possibly due to the stigma around treatment for substances and links to removal of children. To address this, we have created a women’s specific area on our website and ensured that a member of our family team is assigned full time to The Lighthouse and alcohol clients.

Women, older drinkers and LGBTQ+ are priority groups for the service to target, and 2024 will see further work with Fylde Coast Women’s Aid and Renaissance LGBTQ+ service. Along with more targeted work in the community and engagement of older drinkers and with focus on getting people into treatment earlier.

Audits highlighted a high rate of non-attendance following referral from partner agencies within the alcohol team specifically, potentially due to stigma. To address this issue, the service

has delivered brief intervention training sessions to Adult Social Services, The Police and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations around how to raise the subject of alcohol and the support that The Lighthouse can offer, in an attempt to improve the levels of motivations on referral. This will be offered out to other partners in 2024.

As noted earlier we have also recognised the need for more outreach provision, implementing sessions in community centres and GP surgeries to support those clients that are unable to attend the main town centre office, or may not want to due to Stigma.

**Strategic priority in the new Draft Alcohol Strategy - Stop stigma to improve access to services when people need it and to maintain recovery.**

**What** - We will reduce the stigma faced by people fighting alcohol dependency and along their recovery journey

**Why** - So that more people ask for help, particularly early help, increasing the numbers in treatment and helping people to achieve a sustained recovery

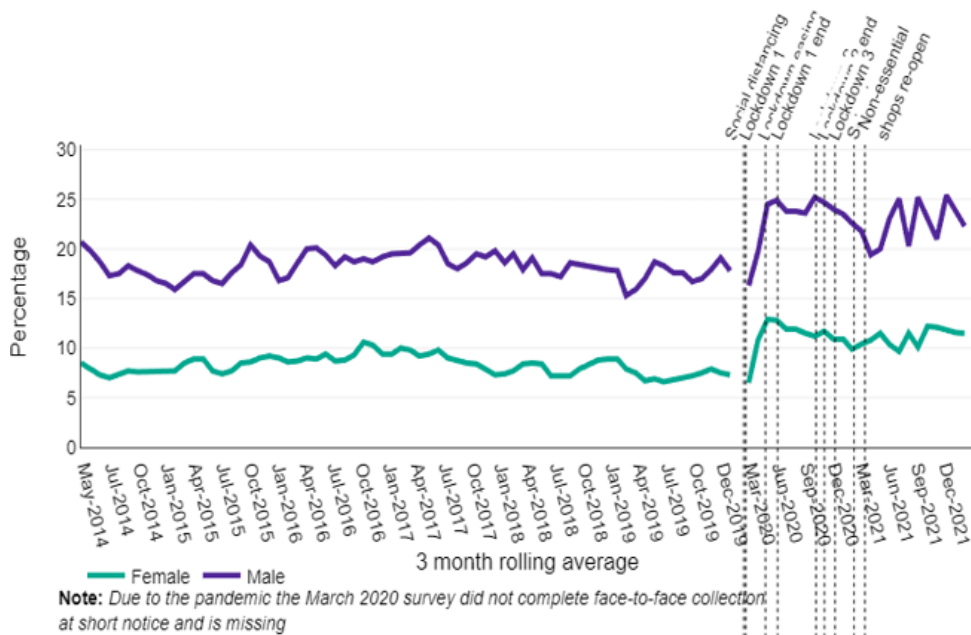
**How** – Through our action plan we will

- Have a trauma informed practice approach to interventions grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development
- Development of a Blackpool Trauma Informed Charter Mark for all organisations
- Do market research, community surveys, and potentially do population wide campaigns based on results
- Explore the possibility of a campaign to encourage more women and other priority groups to access services without fear of judgement

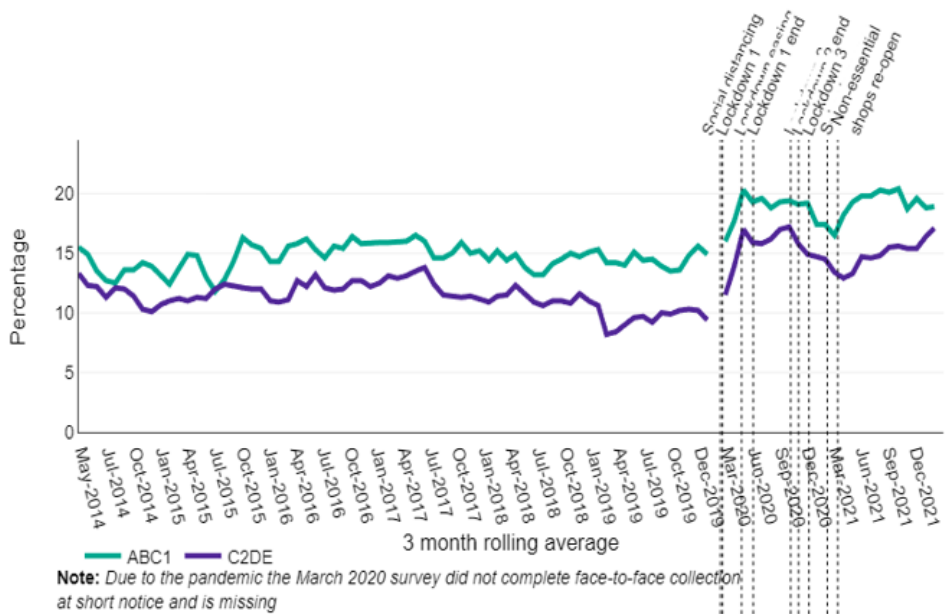
## **7.0 Alcohol and COVID-19**

The following graphs come from OHID, Wider Impacts of COVID-19 on Health (WICH) monitoring tool, Behavioural risk factors (<https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/covid-19-indirect-effects/#>) and show the prevalence in higher risk drinking in England in both sex and class over Covid.

## Prevalence of increasing and higher-risk drinking (AUDIT) in England by sex



## Prevalence of increasing and higher-risk drinking (AUDIT) in England by social class



Although we have no local data on alcohol consumption national data shows that individuals who already consumed medium/high levels of alcohol tended to increase during Covid and **we are still unsure about how this will play out over the next few years, but will be monitoring carefully**. Some individual's drinking patterns may not have returned to normal and may need support from Alcohol services.

Recent studies from the University of Sheffield and Institute of Alcohol Studies show the impact of pandemic-related changes in alcohol consumption on health outcomes and estimate increases in alcohol-related harm even if drinking patterns return to pre-pandemic levels. These impacts are not evenly distributed across the population, with heavier drinkers and those in deprived areas expected to be disproportionately affected.<sup>1</sup>

The term low risk drinking implies that no level of alcohol consumption is completely safe. Furthermore, the context can determine the level of risk, for example drinking and driving, in conjunction with medication or where there is pre-existing chronic illness.

Low risk is not regularly exceeding 14 units per week, spread evenly over the week. This level of consumption represents a low risk of long term or short-term health harm for a healthy adult.

Increasing risk means drinking in a way that raises the risk of ill health from drinking alcohol. For both men and women, this means regularly drinking more than the low risk guideline of 14 units per week and up to 35 units for women and 50 units for men.

Higher risk drinking for women is regularly drinking more than 35 units per week and for men regularly drinking more than 50 units per week. People in this group are likely to already be experiencing health damage from their alcohol use, even if it is not yet evident.

Binge drinking really means drinking enough on a single occasion to get drunk (The technical definition of binge drinking is drinking 6+ units (women) or 8+ units (men) in a single session)

7.1 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **8.0 List of appendices**

8.1 None

## **9.0 Financial considerations**

9.1 None

## **10.0 Legal considerations**

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Alcohol Studies, [The COVID Hangover: Addressing long-term health impacts of changes in alcohol consumption during the pandemic](#), July 2022

10.1 None

**11.0 Risk management considerations**

11.1 None

**12.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

12.1 None

**13.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations**

13.1 None

**14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken**

14.1 None

**15.0 Background papers**

15.1 None



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>LEVELLING-UP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Carl Carrington, Head of Planning Quality and Control
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 January 2024

## EMPTY PROPERTY DATA

### 1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 This report provides an update on how the service are actively reducing the number of empty properties across Blackpool. There will always be a number of short-term empty properties which will be empty in void periods between tenancies, especially in coastal communities such as Blackpool with high levels of transience. The service focus on long-term empty properties (those which have been empty for at least six months, including both residential and commercial)

### 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To consider the report, identifying any issues for further scrutiny and challenging service performance.

### 3.0 Reason for recommendation(s)

3.1 To note the report

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy 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'
- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

### 6.0 Background and key information

6.1 Empty properties blight communities and it is important to do everything we can to

create more sustainable options for housing and better overall quality of living for local residents. Whilst our approach is to work with property owners wherever possible, we will also consider enforcement action where necessary. Through efficient and effective partnership working we have reduced the number of problematic empty properties across Blackpool.

- 6.2 Local authorities across England have called on the Government to give them more powers to deal with empty properties. It comes as a log jam in the social rental sector, high costs in the private rental sector and the chronic undersupply of housing nationwide have forced councils to find temporary accommodation for record numbers of people.
- 6.3 The Empty Property Officer has been in post since June 2021, and the responsibility for the service is in the process of being transferred to Planning as part of the Planning Enforcement team. This will not change the priorities or dilute the responsibilities of the Empty Property Officer.
- 6.4 The Council Tax list of all empty properties in Blackpool (of around 1500 properties) is a fluid list (updated daily) and is sent to the Empty Property Officer on a quarterly basis. He uses this to cross-check the properties he is dealing with. Not all the 1500 are problematic, we estimate about 50 of them are at any one time. The Empty Property Officer deals with the most problematic empty properties on a risk and threat basis.
- 6.5 The Empty Property Officer updates the working group (who meet every 6-8 weeks) about these “top 50” and where in the process the priority properties are and it also allows for the involvement of other specialist officers within the group.
- 6.6 To date, the Empty Properties Officer on partnership with other members of the Planning Enforcement and Public Protection teams have achieved:
- Community Protection Warnings issued – 24
  - Community Protection Notices issued – 15
  - S215 Notices – 7
  - Prosecutions – 10 (8 successful, 1 withdrawn and 1 ongoing)
  - Enforced sales - 7 (2 successful, 5 ongoing)
  - No. properties removed from list – 24
- 6.7 The above figures may seem low in relation to the size of the overall list, but it should be remembered that all of the cases dealt with involve legal or court processes which can take in excess of 18 months to complete. These properties are also usually the worst cases with the most complex background and every case we win through the courts strengthens case law for appeals and encourages owners to deal with issues at an earlier stage.

6.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7 List of appendices**

7.1 None

**8 Financial considerations**

8.1 All activity is in line with and covered by existing budgets.

**9 Legal considerations**

9.1 None

**10 Risk management considerations**

10.1 None

**11 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

11.1 None

**12 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations**

12.1 None

**13 Internal/external consultation undertaken**

13.1 None

**14 Background papers**

14.1 None

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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>	24 January 2024

## SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To review the work of the Committee, the implementation of recommendations and identify any additional topics requiring scrutiny.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To approve the Committee Workplan, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.

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

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To ensure the Committee is carrying out its work efficiently and effectively.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

### 5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

### 6.0 Background Information

## 6.1 Scrutiny Workplan

The Committee's Workplan is attached at Appendix 9(a) and was developed following a workplanning workshop with the Committee in June 2023. 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 invited to suggest topics at any time that might be suitable for scrutiny review through completion of the Scrutiny Review Checklist. 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.

## 6.2 Implementation of Recommendations/Actions

The table attached at Appendix 9(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.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## 7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 9a – Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee Workplan  
Appendix 9b - Implementation of Recommendations/Actions  
Appendix 9c – Scrutiny Selection Checklist  
Appendix 9d – Notes - Draft Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy Meeting.

## 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 and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:**

11.1 None.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

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<b>Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2023-2024</b>	
13th March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Levelling Up, verbal general update</b> – (AC or AL every meeting)</li> <li>2. <b>Growth and Prosperity Programme Update</b> – To include Multiversity update(NG 6 monthly)</li> <li>3. <b>Leisure Services Annual Report</b></li> <li>4. <b>Vaping</b> – impact on Health etc (Kerry Burrow)</li> </ol>
1st May 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Levelling Up, verbal general update</b> – (AC or AL every meeting)</li> <li>2. <b>Levelling Up, Housing - Decent Homes Standard</b> – (VP 6 monthly)</li> <li>3. <b>Tourism Update</b> – to include additional information regarding the true value and impact of providing the free events in Blackpool and how this would be measured. (PW 6 monthly)</li> </ol>
June / July 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Levelling Up, verbal general update</b> – (AC or AL every meeting)</li> <li>2. <b>Annual KPI / Performance report</b> (Ruth Henshaw)</li> </ol>
September 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Levelling Up, verbal general update</b> – (AC or AL every meeting)</li> <li>2. <b>Annual Complaints Report</b> (annual item)</li> <li>3. <b>Growth and Prosperity Programme Update</b> - To include Multiversity update (NG 6 monthly)</li> </ol>
October / November 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Levelling Up, verbal general update</b> – (AC or AL every meeting)</li> <li>2. <b>Tourism Performance</b> - (PW 6 monthly)</li> <li>4. <b>Engagement of Consultants Annual Report</b> - details of the individual procurement process used for each. (ST Annual )</li> <li>5. <b>Housing and Homelessness Annual Report</b> (VP 6 monthly)</li> </ol>
24th January 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Levelling Up, verbal general update</b> – (AC or AL every meeting)</li> <li>2. <b>Levelling Up, Housing - (VP 6 monthly)</b></li> <li>3. <b>Growth and Prosperity Programme Update</b> - To include Multiversity update (NG 6 monthly)</li> </ol>

## \*Standard Items

Levelling Up, verbal general update (AC or AL every meeting)

Levelling Up Housing (VP every 6 months) (rotate with G and P / Tourism)

Growth and Prosperity Programme Update (NG 6 monthly) (rotate with Tourism / Housing)

Annual Complaints Report (annual item Sept)

Tourism Update (PW every 6 months) (rotate with Housing / G and P)

**Future Work:**

<b>Scrutiny Review Work</b>	
<b>April / May 2025</b>	<b>Shared Prosperity Fund</b> - Deep Dive– Evaluation report on lessons learnt etc
<b>TBC</b>	<b>Oral Health Strategy</b> – Alan Shaw

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**MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**Updates in **RED**

.	DATE OF REC.	RECOMMENDATION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG Rating
1	21 June 2023	The Committee requested data relating to vacant premises	January 2024	Carl Carrington / Nicola Rigby	Item deferred to early 2024 meeting Now falls within Levelling-Up	On Agenda
2	04 October 2023	The Committee agreed to receive a verbal report with regards to general Levelling-Up information	Ongoing	Alan Cavill and Antony Lockley	Levelling-Up (general projects) Verbal update at each meeting	Ongoing
3	04 October 2023	The Committee agreed to receive an update upon the Damp and Mould Figures in Blackpool	March or May 2024	Vikki Piper	To be discussed with VP and establish the most appropriate time to receive this information	Not yet due
4	04 October 2023	Growth and Prosperity Programme Update – To include Multiversity update	March 2024	Nick Gerrard	Multiversity / Enterprise zone – overview report	Ongoing
5	8 November 2023	To request that the next tourism performance report include additional information regarding the true value and impact of providing the free events in Blackpool and how this would be measured.	May 2024	Philip Welsh	To comprise part of the next scheduled report.	Ongoing
6	8 November 2023	To receive an updated version of the Engagement of Consultants Annual report with the procurement details following the meeting.	Oct / Nov 24	Steve Thompson	Annual Item (approx. Oct / Nov)	Ongoing

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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:**

**Levelling-Up Scrutiny Committee Strategy Review  
Draft Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-2027 Informal Meeting  
Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 6.00 pm, Via Teams**

**ATTENDEES**

(Cllr) Matthew Thomas                      (Cllr) Sarah Smith                      (Cllr) Pam Brookes  
(Cllr) Jo Farrell

Judith Mills, Consultant In Public Health (Health Improvement and Adult Public Health),  
Kerry Burrow, Public Health Practitioner (Alcohol and Tobacco), Public Health

**DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**DRAFT BLACKPOOL ALCOHOL PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY 2024-2027**

Judith Mills, Consultant in Public Health (Health Improvement and Adult Public Health) and Kerry Burrow, Public Health Practitioner (Alcohol and Tobacco) gave a detailed presentation on the Draft Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-2027.

Judith Mills advised that the new strategy document had been in the very early stages of development, therefore feedback was essential to ensure the strategy would be relevant to Blackpool.

She advised that nationally, budgets for alcohol services over the last 10 years had been cut, and that the previous national strategy had not been developed since 2012. In addition, historically the drug and alcohol services had been collated together with the two services now separated.

The impact of Covid had increased drinking levels in Blackpool, which had continued after the pandemic ended. In addition, a reduction in the number of people accessing treatment services had also been evident.

Blackpool had been awarded grant funding which was specifically aimed at targeting Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services.

The main vision for Blackpool would be to reduce alcohol-related deaths and the harmful impact of alcohol. Partnership working with the criminal justice system, NHS and other partner agencies was required to be successful.

Kerry Burrow clarified that an alcohol specific death was defined as 'A death where alcohol had been listed as the primary cause'.

Members were reassured that the figures for alcohol related deaths for Blackpool and visitors were recorded separately.

Judith Mills provided Members with key successes achieved through the last strategy and also the challenges and opportunities ahead. These included:

- The launch of the Lighthouse Alcohol Service.

- Successful blocking of new applications (off-License premises) in the cumulative impact area.
- Being advocates for Minimum Unit Pricing.

Members discussed early intervention and details of what offer had been available to schools. Judith confirmed that the aim had been to ensure all schools had the best resources available across the board. In addition, a pilot had commenced with joint working with the Council's Children's Services to provide group work support targeted for young people in schools.

The Strategy document highlighted 8 Priority areas:

- Overcome the legislative barriers that block population level change in relation to harmful alcohol consumption
- Better inform children, young people and parents about the potential harm of alcohol use in childhood
- Ensure we intervene early to reduce alcohol harm in children and young people
- Stop stigma to improve access to services when people need it and to maintain recovery
- Improve the options and take up by people facing challenges in their use of alcohol for treatment, recovery and aftercare
- Effectively address co-occurring mental health and alcohol issues
- Reduce repeat admissions for hospital and prison
- Reduce the impact of alcohol on families and the outcomes for children

Judith Mills and Kerry Burrow highlighted that for the strategy to work, co-production and partnership working would be key. Mental Health Services would be working with the Alcohol Service to co-treat patients.

In addition, the Criminal Justice Service would support and be able to make the appropriate referrals to treatment services.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members thanked the team for their presentation and their commitment to improving alcohol prevention and harm reduction in Blackpool.

Whilst Members appreciated the document had been at the very early stages a number of recommendations were provided in the following areas:

1. With regards to the early intervention and support offer to schools, Members suggested that they felt School age children and young people would benefit from a face to face 1 hour session in an assembly setting.
2. Priority 2 - Members requested that marketing of the information available to parents be presented using different forms of social media platforms to enable the information to reach a wider audience.
3. Priority 5 – Members echoed the need to train staff to offer advice and motivate people to reach out and get the most appropriate treatment for their needs.



4. To explore 'Wet Area' where street drinkers can gather safely, reducing antisocial behaviour, as part of the town centre re-development. Members requested that they be provided with evidence, case studies and comparable data from other local authorities that already provided a 'Wet Area'. Members requested that all Levelling-Up Committee Members be involved with future consultation on any potential proposals for a 'Wet Area'
5. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – Members requested that a dashboard be developed to monitor progress.
6. Members asked for the Governance section to be simplified, to include a summary for each organisation, what their responsibilities were and who could make decisions.

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