

# Public Document Pack

# Blackpool Council

30 June 2023

To: Councillors Benson, N Brookes, Burdess, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, M Smith, Taylor and Williams

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **EXECUTIVE**

Monday, 10 July 2023 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

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

### **ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Head of Democratic Governance has marked with an asterisk (\*) those items where the Committee may need to consider whether the public should be excluded from the meeting as the items are likely to disclose exempt information.

The nature of the exempt information is shown in brackets after the item.

### **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 BLACKPOOL COAST PROTECTION SCHEMES - USE OF ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FRAMEWORK FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS AND DESIGNERS**

(Pages 1 - 6)

To consider a report on procurement options for the Blackpool Coastal Protection Schemes.

**3 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY** (Pages 7 - 38)

To consider and note the content of the Council's Procurement Strategy and associated action plan for the period 2023 - 2027.

Once approved this document will form part of the Executive Policy Framework.

**4 ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)** (Pages 39 - 86)

To present the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document for adoption and the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation Statement for approval and publication, the latter setting out all the representations received and the Council's proposed response

**5 FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE BLACKPOOL LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD** (Pages 87 - 92)

To consider the proposal for a managed exit from the current Pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) and develop a place based Safeguarding Partnership for Blackpool and seek Executive approval for work to progress through to delivery.

\* **6 BUSINESS LOANS FUND** (Pages 93 - 100)

To consider an application to the Council's Business Loan Fund.

This report and appendix is currently exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It is considered on balance that the public interest would not be served by publishing information at this stage as this information would undermine the Council's position in future negotiations and could risk the application not being able to proceed.

\* **7 BUSINESS LOANS FUND** (Pages 101 - 110)

To consider an application to the Council's Business Loan Fund.

This report and appendix is currently exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It is considered on balance that the public interest would not be served by publishing information at this stage as this information would undermine the Council's position in future negotiations and could risk the application not being able to proceed.

**Venue information:**

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

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager, Tel: (01253) 477157, e-mail [lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk)

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

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 July 2023

## BLACKPOOL COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEMES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Members will recall that Authority was provided at its meeting on the 5 September 2022 to use the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework for the selection of designers and contractors to deliver the Council’s Coast protection schemes. This report provides the background information to enable the Executive to approve the recommendation to continue to use the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework where appropriate, however also provide authority to use alternative approved frameworks due to the increased size and volume of the Council’s Coastal Protections Schemes. Use of these frameworks may now involve competitive tendering again ensuring the Council achieves value for money.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to the continued use of the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework where appropriate, and authority to use alternative coast protection framework contractors if required for the delivery of the Blackpool Coastal Protection Schemes between 2022 and 2027.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Coast Protection designers and Contracting organisations have been through a rigorous procurement process to be selected as Designers and Contractors for their Framework Contracts to deliver Coast Protection and flood risk management schemes.

The Head of Procurement approves the use of framework Designers and Contractors for Coast protection and flood risk management schemes as an appropriate delivery mechanism of Blackpool’s coast protection schemes.

The designers and contractors on the frameworks are specialist in the delivery of Coast Protection Schemes.

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

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

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

4.1 To commence a procurement exercise to have an Authority Framework that would be both costly and timely. It also would offer no guarantees of finding a contractor with the required specialist knowledge and experience of coast protection schemes.

To not proceed with the coast protection scheme putting 8,000 local residents at increased risk of flooding.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 Following the delivery of the outline business case in line with the Blackpool Coastal Strategy, Blackpool Council has been allocated £61m, which is significantly more than was originally profiled for the Coast Protection Schemes between Little Bispham and Bispham and Gynn Square to Cocker Square.

6.2 Blackpool Council has also now been awarded additional grant funding of £57m for coast protection works in the central area of Blackpool, the costs of this scheme was originally profiled at £12m in the Blackpool Coastal Strategy, therefore significantly increased.

6.3 In light of the scale and size of the coastal defence schemes to be delivered, it is appropriate for the Council to have flexibility in terms of the use of all appropriate delivery frameworks available in order to ensure value for money.

**6.4 Legislative Requirement**

6.5 The Council is a Coast Protection Authority (CPA) and under the Coast Protection Act 1949 which protects the coast against erosion and encroachment by the sea.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Blackpool Council has received grant funding of £61m to commence the Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protection Scheme and the Gynn Square to Cocker Square Coast Protection Scheme and grant funding of £57m to commence the Blackpool Central Area Beach Nourishment Scheme.

8.2 Blackpool Council and the Environment Agency who is funding the schemes are aware that material costs in particular for these schemes have potential for price increases due to inflation.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 All Contracts to be entered into would be subject to formal legal negotiations/formalities.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Risk registers will be completed for all Coast protection schemes. This will include lessons learnt from any previous Coast Protection Schemes.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 An Equality Impact Analysis will be prepared for all Coast Protection schemes

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

12.1 The Coast Protection schemes will undertake all sustainability, climate change impact an environmental considerations.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation on the Little Bispham to Bispham and Gynn Square to Cocker Square projects

and Blackpool Beach Nourishment scheme took place during the preparation of the Outline Business Case and will continue during both pre and post contract activities.

All future coast protection schemes will also be subject to similar consultation at critical stages of the scheme

A Project Board has been established which will be chaired by the Director of Community and Environment.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 8/2023

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:



**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 30 June 2023                      Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1

**19.0 Summary of Discussion:**

19.1

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1

**21.0 Date of Decision:**

21.1

**22.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

22.1

**23.0 Date Decision published:**

23.1

**24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

24.1

**25.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

25.1

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 July 2023

## PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider and note the content of the Council's Procurement Strategy and associated action plan for the period 2023 - 2027.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Procurement Strategy and associated action plan for the period until 31 December 2027.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure there is a clear and consistent procurement framework in place that aligns with the Council Plan. To acknowledge the role that procurement has to play in its contribution to delivering the Council's ambitions in an innovative and robust manner taking into account local, regional and national priorities and drivers.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 The Council could decide not adopt a Procurement Strategy but that would be at odds with National guidance.

## **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

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

## **6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Council's current Procurement Strategy 2019–2023 is coming to the end of its life.

The primary purpose of the strategy is to communicate clearly to all of the Council’s employees, partners, suppliers and stakeholders our vision for how procurement and commissioning of goods, works and services will be carried out and to articulate the role that procurement has in supporting the Council deliver its ambitions within the national, regional and local landscapes.

6.2 In order to build on previous achievements and set clear ambitions for improvement an action plan has been developed which has been informed by internal and external stakeholder engagement.

6.3 The national, regional and local contexts have been taken into consideration and the following themes aligned with the National Procurement Strategy form the basis upon which the action plan has been developed;

- Showing Leadership
- Behaving Commercially
- Achieving Community Benefits
- Enabling Action

6.4 Critical to the national context in the strategy will be the ‘post Brexit’ reform of procurement legislation which will be implemented early in the life of the strategy. Procurement at Blackpool Council will need to be responsive to the new legislation and this is reflected in a number of the actions within the strategy.

6.5 The importance of social value, facilitated through procurement, is highlighted within the strategy and the weighting of social value at 20% of the total award criteria of tenders will continue.

6.6 Progress relating to the delivery of the action plan will be reported to Corporate Leadership Team and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Procurement at least annually.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 3a - Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2027

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The delivery of value for money through commissioning and procurement activity is a key element of the Behaving Commercially theme in the strategy. The requirement to deliver social value and maximise best value from every pound spent by the Council is detailed in the Achieving Community Benefits theme and places Social Value at the heart of our commissioning and procurement practices.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 Public Sector procurement is heavily regulated and the importance of compliance with legislative requirements is integral to the delivery of the strategy. Reform to procurement legislation is a key theme running through the strategy.

**10.0 Risk Management considerations:**

10.1 The risk of having no high-level strategy in place will lead to a lack of a consistent framework across the Council which may result in an increased risk of challenge from the marketplace from unsuccessful bidders. A lack of appreciation of key themes and actions will result in being ill-prepared for future activity both at a national and local level, including reform to legislation.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The strategy and the procurement regulations require equality of treatment for all prospective suppliers and service providers.

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

12.1 Sustainable procurement is built into the Council's commissioning and procurement practices. Environmental considerations are one of the key themes considered in the Council's social value measures taking account of the promotion of sustainable

procurement, reduction of carbon emissions and safeguarding our natural environment.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 A number of consultation exercises have informed the development of the Procurement Strategy including;

- Self-assessment against the National Strategy themes
- Internal stakeholder questionnaire of internal users of Procurement
- External stakeholder questionnaire of suppliers

The outcome of each of the consultation exercises are appended within the strategy.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 9/2023

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 30 June 2023                      Date approved:

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19.1

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24.1

**25.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

25.1

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1



# Appendix 3a – Procurement Strategy 2023 – 2027

Blackpool Council

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## Foreword

*There is little doubt that the period covered by the previous procurement strategy represented some of the most turbulent, global times in living memory the impacts of which will be felt for many years to come. A global pandemic, mass lockdowns, economic turmoil supported by unprecedented packages of government support, conflict in Europe leading to increasing volatility in the energy sector, supply chain disruption and soaring inflation. All of this with the continuing pressure on public sector budget as well as the roll out and implementation of post Brexit procurement reforms make the period covered by this latest procurement strategy perhaps one of the most challenging commercial settings there has ever been.*

*We will however, not be deterred by the challenges that we face and we will do our utmost to continue to seek out the opportunities presented to us and continue to utilise procurement to facilitate successful delivery against our priorities as laid out in the Council Plan. It is our sincerest hope that there is clear sight within this Strategy of a drive for continuous improvement and assurances that the Council will not rest on its laurels in the knowledge that more can always be done.*

*The Council spends in excess of £200 million per annum on the commissioning and procurement of goods, works and services. This level of spend provides considerable opportunities to contribute to economic, social and environmental gains through well planned, robust commissioning and procurement activity. In addition, we will continue to strengthen and embed our approach to social value to ensure that third party providers contribute towards local jobs, the local economy and the local supply chain, meeting community needs and maximising best value from every pound spent by the Council.*

*The importance of this strategy and the contribution that procurement makes to the Council as the vehicle through which tax payers' money is used to deliver on our ambitious plans should not be underestimated.*

***“Well planned commissioning and procurement activity will continue to contribute to economic, social and environmental gains through the most challenging of times”***

***Councillor Ivan Taylor,  
Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Performance***

## Introduction

Blackpool Council delivers in the region of 150 services across a broad range of areas spending in excess of £200 million each year with third party providers in order to help deliver those services and support delivery of the Council’s ambitious capital programme. Achieving value for money from every pound spent is central to our work. The purpose of the Procurement Strategy is to communicate clearly to all employees, partners, suppliers and stakeholders the Council’s vision for how the procurement of goods, works and services will be carried out over the next four years with clear alignment to the Corporate Plan, its ambitions and the priorities set within it. This will determine the direction and focus of the Council’s efforts, ensuring that our ways of working are effectively aligned and that we are fully prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the internal and external landscapes, against a backdrop of economic and legislative change.

The National Procurement Strategy (NPS) for Local Government in England is clear that procurement is about much more than compliance and should be at the heart of our thinking. Given the current focus on net zero, local growth, sustainability and continued efficiency there is significant opportunity for procurement to influence, innovate and make significant contributions to the Council’s wider agenda and ensure that positive outcomes from procurement spend are maximised. With so much public money at stake we should not lose sight of the scope for ongoing, continuous improvement. Uncertainties surrounding the future of local government funding make it difficult for councils to plan too far ahead. In this context, delivery of council ambitions – including better outcomes from public services and regeneration of places requires resourcefulness and innovation.

The Procurement Strategy will ensure that the Council is able to respond effectively to the changes that it faces and that training, commercial expertise and best-practice standards are upheld, improved and extended. It will also ensure that the broad range of legislative requirements including those around transparency, sustainability and equality are fully embedded into our processes and that local and national priorities are fully considered. The strategy will provide a framework for the context within which we must work and will set out our challenges, plans and aspirations for the next 4 year period.

## Achievements since the last strategy

The Corporate Procurement Team made significant progress over the duration of the previous strategy across a range of areas. Documentation, communication and planning are more consistent across the Council and more departments are engaged, more contracts are being awarded and compliance is at a high level.

Council staff, arms-length organisations and external companies continue to draw on the team's expertise, knowledge and professional support to deliver increasingly complex projects. Legislation is embedded into our processes and the team has made good use of technology to improve insight, due diligence and auditability. The team continue to assess opportunities to further improve and to become more efficient and effective. The following achievements made during the last strategy period demonstrate a continued drive to seek out and implement more effective working practices.

### Results

- Over 900 Open Contracts (at April 2023)
- Significant project list – example projects:
  - Town Deal
  - Opportunity Area
  - Blackpool Enterprise Zone
  - Better Start
  - Central Business District Hotel
  - Museum Project
  - Corporate Banking
  - HR & Payroll System
  - Corporate Finance System

### Corporate Contracts List

- Travel and accommodation
- Supply of Personal Protective Equipment
- Provision of Staff Uniforms
- Provision of Office Stationery
- Provision of Office Paper

- Catering
- Electricity Supply

### Social Value

- Social Value robustly embedded into the procurement process
- Supplier Charter and Social Value Guide refreshed
- Social Value performance indicators an integral part of contracts
- Piloting of a Social Value monitoring and reporting system

### Team Capability

- Increased qualification levels within the team through the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS).
- Government Commercial College training

### Bidder Engagement

- Early supplier involvement through supplier engagement days has increased
- Meet the Buyer events attended

### **Service User Involvement**

- Opportunities for Blackpool residents and internal service users to design services and participate in decision making

### **Liaison with Senior Management**

- A key link is in place to deliver quarterly reporting to each Directorate.
- Quarterly briefing held with Portfolio Holder.

### **Technology**

- E-signing of contract documentation has been rolled out further to include Legal Services
- Improved use of Contract Register for forward planning and contract administration.
- Use of Company Watch to support financial due diligence

### **Collaborative Procurement**

- Frameworks utilised across a broad range of sectors
- Collaboration with 41 other Authorities in relation to the planned re-procurement of e-tendering software.
- Associate member of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), Procurement Hub, iNetwork and YPO
- Quarterly relationship meetings with Crown Commercial Services

### **Improving internal processes**

- Shared work planning and links to departmental management team meetings to plan workloads more effectively.
- Customer feedback forms sent on the conclusion of procurement activity to ensure continuous improvement.

- Use of Company Watch to support financial analysis and due diligence.
- Continued refinement of a suite of standardised documentation

## National, Regional and Local Context

### National

The national picture can be described as turbulent and rapidly changing. High inflation and the cost of living crisis, the impact of conflict between Russia and Ukraine on supply chain resilience, ongoing issues with post-covid economic recovery and climate change issues to name a few. All these issues are set against a backdrop of imminent reforms to Public Sector Procurement Legislation, anticipated in 2024, following the UK's departure from the European Union.

The National Procurement Policy Statement sets out a strategic priority of achieving a culture within public procurement that enables continuous improvement. To meet this national priority there is an acknowledgement that procurement teams will need capacity and capability. The Government Commercial Function will provide a suite of training in the run up to implementation of new procurement legislation.

National legislation such as Modern Slavery, the General Data Protection Regulation and IR35 have all come into force over the last strategy period and the need to proactively respond to change is set to continue. Challenges such as maintaining cyber security and net zero initiatives will require a rapid response from procurement teams.

### Regional

A variety of collaborative buying organisations have been formed over the past few years which has increased the Council's buying choices through enabling access to a larger number of frameworks and the benefits of the economies of scale associated with collaborative procurement. The benefits of these frameworks must be balanced against the specific needs

of Blackpool, for example use of local suppliers to boost employment in the town.

Links with AGMA and YPO continue to be strong, which provides a reliable source of advice, guidance and best practice across the region and ensures that Blackpool has a voice at the regional and national level through input into the LGA & NAG (Local Government Association; National Advisory Group).

There are likely to be changes at the regional level over the next four years, but how this will reshape the regional landscape is as yet unknown. The key aim for Blackpool will be to maintain useful links with regional partners and organisations and ensure that we are in a position to respond positively to change.

### Local

As a Contracting Authority the Council must have regard to national, strategic priorities for public procurement. Whilst there is considerable alignment with national priorities; creating new business, tackling the impact of climate change and increasing supplier resilience; sight cannot be lost of local priorities.

The pace of change in Blackpool is quickening as reflected in the Council Plan 2019-2024. A modern beach resort with big city facilities is emerging as are new flagship programmes to develop communities to be stronger and more resilient. The procurement team will meet the demand of these new, exciting projects and initiatives balancing risk, innovation, compliance, social value, budgetary pressures and value for money so that we can grow Blackpool's economy and strengthen our communities.

These ambitious plans demand qualified, experienced and knowledgeable staff who can adapt to the changing landscapes and be confident in the support to enable them to meet challenging deadlines, navigate funding and legal complexities, be innovative and adopt a holistic approach to sourcing the best value goods, works and services from the market.

### **Sustainable Procurement & Climate Change**

Blackpool Council is committed to sustainable procurement in a manner whereby it is embedded into the procurement process. The Council seeks to meet its needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis and which generates benefits to society and the local economy as well as to the organisation, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

Our procurement approach will endeavour to ensure appropriate and proportionate inclusion of relevant, bespoke requirements in the specification, evaluation and award criteria.

The Council has declared a climate emergency in Blackpool, which means urgent action must be taken to stop climate change. We are committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions and 100% clean energy use by 2030. The role of procurement in supporting delivery of our climate emergency actions should not be underestimated. We are planning on working with our third party suppliers to drive and measure our progress through the implementation of themed measures which will be delivered through the procurement process and onward contract management which will include a focus on environmental factors.

### **Social Value**

The Strategy looks to build on previous successes in the area of social value with an acceptance that there is more to be done. In order to make clear the importance the authority places on social value it carries a 20% weighting in all procurement opportunities unless there are exceptional circumstances; in essence it can make a difference to whether a bid will be successful or not.

A framework for maximising delivery of social value is now embedded into the procurement process and covers key themes of jobs; growth; environment and social benefit. These themes are set out in our procurement documents in order that our third party suppliers will contribute in a focussed way to creating a healthier place to live that benefits the local economy. We have aspirations to improve the level of training and understanding that our employees, our suppliers and our residents have of social value; what it means to them and why we regard it with such importance.

Through our social value framework and core measures we will ensure that what is needed on the ground is clearly articulated to our suppliers but we also recognise that suppliers can offer innovation and we will learn and benefit from their experiences of what has worked well elsewhere. To that end, in addition to setting out Blackpool's core social value measures we will invite innovation from the market place.

Procurement documentation asks bidders to articulate not only what social value they will offer to the town but also asks them 'how' they will deliver on their promises to ensure they are making genuine, deliverable offers. Once contracts commence delivery of social value will be monitored as part of core contract management activity.



Showcasing positive stories of activity delivered on the ground will raise the profile of the benefits of social value and ensure that there is clear transparency in the work we do to ensure there are clear local benefits visible for everyone to see. We can do more to increase understanding that local benefit can and will be achieved even where a primary supplier may be located out of the borough.

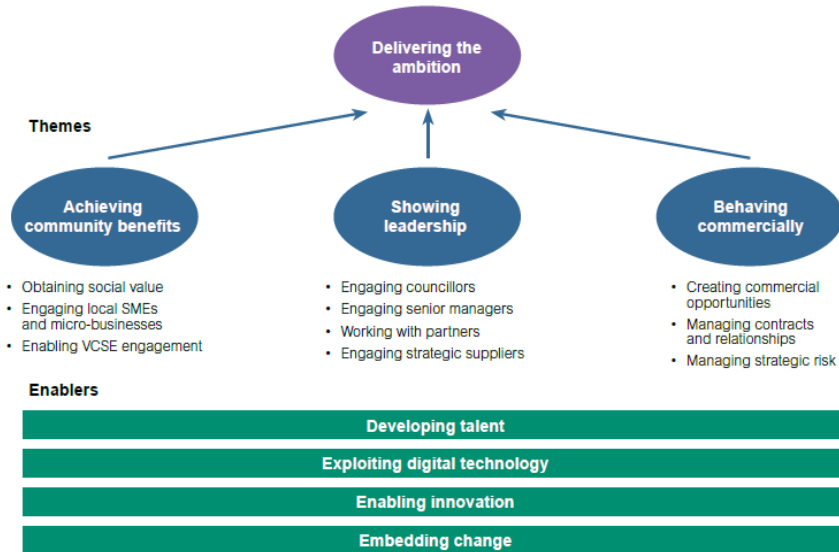
We place demands on our contractors that wherever possible they make use of local supply chains and we are seeing tens of millions of pounds being spent locally through our primary contractors. The social value return on investment is a key measure in quantifying what is being achieved and we can begin to see the difference that individual schemes are making to hundreds of local lives through job and training opportunities, improved employability, volunteering and community engagement.

Like contract management, social value is the responsibility of everyone and with this in mind an aspiration is held to develop a greater level and depth of expertise across the authority. Social value champions will be identified from key areas of the authority to ensure that the importance it offers and opportunities presented from social value are not lost. We will continue to ensure that social value contributes to making a difference to our town with its wide ranging and life changing impacts.

## Engagement

### National Procurement Strategy (NPS)

During the period of the previous strategy the Corporate Procurement Team undertook a self-assessment in line with The Local Government Association, using the National Procurement Strategy toolkit to identify a position against key themes and areas where improvement was desirable. That self-assessment has been revisited in order to review progress and highlight areas where further focus is required to deliver on aspirations and key strategy aims.



### Engagement - Corporate Procurement Team – Self-Assessment:

The Procurement Team revisited the self-assessment exercise undertaken in the previous procurement strategy from the National Procurement Strategy in order to identify the Council’s level of maturity in key areas of procurement. Current levels of maturity and areas where there are aspirations to improve were identified. The outcome of the self-assessment against each of themes is shown in *annex 1*.

#### Theme 1 - Showing Leadership

The four areas assessed under this theme were *Engaging Councillors*, *Engaging Senior Managers*, *Engaging Strategic Suppliers* and *Working with Partners*.

The self-assessment identified aspirations to improve in the following areas:

- Earlier engagement with the market for key opportunities
- Partner training and development
- Making use of data

#### Theme 2 - Behaving Commercially

The three areas in this theme were *Creating Commercial Opportunities*, *Managing Contracts and Relationships* and *Managing Strategic Risk*. Aspirations to improve were identified as:

- Engagement of suppliers
- Training and development across stakeholder groups

- Increased focus on planning opportunities and encouraging innovation

### Theme 3 - Achieving Community Benefits

The three areas in this theme were *Obtaining Social Value, Engagement with local SMEs and Micro Businesses* and *Enabling voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) engagement*. The areas for further improvement and moving towards our aspirations were identified as:

- Market engagement
- Collaboration with umbrella organisations
- Contract management
- Measuring delivered social value

### Enablers

The four enabler areas were *Developing Talent, Exploiting Digital Technology, Enabling Innovation* and *Embedding Change*. The team identified that further work was required to move towards our aspirations in the following areas:

- Embedding change in post-award stages of contracts
- Exploiting digital technology in the procurement process

## Engagement - Internal Stakeholders:

In order to assess and understand internal stakeholder perceptions of the Corporate Procurement Team and procurement as a wider Council concern in 2023, internal stakeholders were asked a series of questions based on a modified version of the self-assessment tool. The responses to individual questions are included at *annex 2*. A limited number of responses were received (9) which is less than the previous strategy however, the headline of responses are set out below. It should be noted that ongoing stakeholder engagement will take place during the life of this strategy.

The responses to the questions were generally very positive and although they suggest that there is room for improvement in some areas, overall there are no significant areas of concern.

The question relating to management of contracts showed some improvement in responses received since the last assessment. However, it should be noted that apart from a handful of corporate contracts, contract management sits within the services' own area following conclusion of the procurement process. Opportunity to support the development of contract management capability across the Council has been identified by the team.

Whilst there was perhaps little negativity from respondents there were areas of 'neutral' or 'don't know' as a response. In particular with respect to working with SMEs / VCSEs; Use of technology & innovation and responding to change. It may be that these were areas that particular respondents did not have any awareness of, which may suggest a requirement to review these areas to better promote the work that the

Council undertakes or it may be that these are areas requiring greater focus.

The final question asked stakeholders to give a view on what the strategy focus should be. Given the low number of responses it is difficult to pinpoint a definitive area of focus, however if we consider markets to be included as an external factor it could be said that focus should be placed on influences that are taking place external to the Council and have an impact upon it; this is understandable when we consider the current national context of high inflation and supply chain issues.

All respondents were in strong agreement that the team consisted of knowledgeable, professional staff which may be regarded as a result of investment in training and development.

Stakeholders' specific comments were exclusively positive and helpful in suggesting areas that may further improve how the Corporate Procurement Team operates.

*"My experienced of the procurement team have only ever been extremely positive. The team are highly knowledgeable in their field, are supportive and go the extra mile 'paperwork wise' often taking the load off the Council member requiring support."*

*"It may be worth considering opportunities for procurement officers to carry out some job shadowing within services that they support to give them more insight into these services, this will not be required for all areas but may be useful for service[s] which do not have straightforward service delivery requirements."*

*“The Procurement Officer who supported us was extremely helpful throughout the exercise and kept in regular contact with ourselves and potential suppliers.”*

### **Engagement - External Stakeholders:**

Over 100 suppliers with experience of participation in Council tenders (whether successful bidders or not) during the last 12 months were contacted with a request to complete an anonymous questionnaire based on a modified version of the self-assessment tool. 26 responses were received and collated to identify where suppliers saw our strengths and weaknesses. A summary of the responses received is included at *Annex 3*.

The responses show that in most respects suppliers consider the procurement work of Blackpool Council highly. Notable positive feedback can be seen across all areas, in particular working well with suppliers and Social Value.

There is some negativity from respondents around tender opportunities being attractive and deliverable and allowing for development of innovative solutions.

Responses showed a mix of positive and negative feedback around contract management which may be an indication of specific experiences, perceptions and expectations.

In order to address these areas work will continue to ensure guidance on the process is clear, engagement is appropriate and there is an ongoing commitment to work with stakeholders to ensure there is an understanding of their markets.

When asked for specific information in relation to the tender process itself there was definite improvement in the responses received in relation to the Corporate Procurement Team being responsive and helpful and the process being fair, open and transparent. Documentation and ease of following the process is still regarded by most as easy to follow.

### **Supplier Comments**

The final part of the supplier questionnaire gave suppliers the opportunity to comment on the procurement team. Suppliers gave a range of responses and made some suggestions for how to address the issues. Some of their comments are included below.

Some suppliers noted the benefits that could be driven out through the actual process:

*“I encourage all local authorities to engage in market testing before issuing tenders as technology and pricing changes very quickly.”*

Suppliers were keen to work closer with the Council:

*“The team at Blackpool Council seem great to work with, so learning where else we could add value to the wider Blackpool Council organisation would be good to know. More insights into how we could work more in partnership, add more value and deliver innovation as well as ongoing consistent work that benefits both parties.”*

The need to balance differing priorities and how these can be perceived as barriers can be taken from some feedback and potentially highlights areas for improvement:

*“There are suppliers in the wider Northwest area with the skill sets to deliver your projects. Tenders are based on being FY postcode limits companies to engage in the future.”*

*“The system is heavily weighted to support existing suppliers with no information on existing infrastructure shared with prospective suppliers. Therefore the sitting supplier will always look better on a tender as they have all the data for the show.”*

*“More detailed guidance on the Chest.”*

*“Better feedback following an unsuccessful bid”*

This provides an insight of the potential for further work to be done with the market and take a more outward approach in some areas.

## Stakeholder Engagement: Trends and Conclusions

There are many positive messages as well as areas of learning to take from stakeholder engagement. Feedback was, in the main encouraging and showed that the ethos of continuous improvement in procurement at Blackpool Council is generating positive results, however the self-assessment also shows that the procurement team still aspire to improve further.

### Engaging Suppliers

Traditionally public sector relationships with suppliers have been traditionally regarded as distant and arms-length in order to rigidly adhere to the principles of fairness, openness and transparency required by the procurement legislation. Some progress has been made in increasing engagement through bidder engagement days and attending supplier events to foster closer, engaged relationships with the market, and derive the benefits of better understanding of the marketplace, and the requirements and expectations between Councils and suppliers. It should be recognised that it is possible to balance the behaviours and cultures set out in the principles of public life (Nolan Principles) with a better direct relationship with the marketplace.

### Contract Management

Whilst it must be recognised that responsibility for contract management sits with service areas it is widely acknowledged that contract management is a risk area throughout the Council.

Although there is some improvement in the area of corporate tracking, planning and contract administration through an improved contract

register this has not addressed knowledge, practice and competence. This is an area which needs to be developed further to harness the value adding potential of well-managed contracts.

### Training

A period of significant change is on the horizon for public sector procurement. Procurement reform presents an opportunity to embrace marked change in practice and process. This change though will present significant challenges to both procurement practitioners, services and the marketplace in understanding new requirements.

Our ability to support local providers should never be under-estimated and the reforms present a new opportunity to refresh our approach and consider what more we could be doing.

It is not just suppliers who benefit from support. Our ability to keep internal stakeholders updated, not just on reforms but also on ever changing market conditions and how that impacts on their intended outcomes can be considered.

The introduction of new business critical systems presents further possibilities with the potential for access to improved levels of data and insight. There will be numerous opportunities for planning, auditing and governance of third party activity but these will be reliant on the support of a knowledgeable, well conversant team.

### Development of Social Value

Social value could be considered a success story during the last strategy period. There should be no denying though that we want to go further and do better. The Corporate Social Value Co-ordinator role is now embedded in the Procurement Team presenting an opportunity to take control of social value delivery through the procurement process.

We have implemented methods to identify social value messaging as part of pre-procurement activity, embed social value measures into the procurement process, roll out a monitoring and reporting regime and identify social value champions across the Council, and we will work to further strengthen these

This development work will aim to roll out the new Social Value framework and look to identify areas of need and match them to third party social value offers.



## Action Plan (2023 - 2027)

In order to build on the achievements from the previous strategy an action plan has been developed which is informed by the national picture, regional and local contexts as well as the stakeholder engagement exercises that have been undertaken and analysed as part of the preparation of this strategy.

This action plan will be used to focus strategic activity and developmental areas over the coming years and to ensure the team continues to support the Council in meeting its challenges and achieving its aims and over the next four years.

No	Theme	Action	Benefit / Barrier	Timeframe	Owner
Page 29	Showing Leadership	Strengthen pre-procurement activity to increase supplier engagement through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>greater supplier engagement and collaboration</li> <li>workshops and market sounding to drive explore more innovative solutions</li> <li>shared understanding of social value expectations/requirements</li> <li>sharing of pipeline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased levels of innovation.</li> <li>Improved opportunities to deliver value for money.</li> <li>More knowledgeable suppliers.</li> <li>Improved bid quality and competitiveness.</li> <li>Requirement for adequate time to undertake appropriate levels of engagement.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Head of Procurement
	Showing Leadership	Consolidate market approach through early agreement of an annual procurement work programme approved by Directorate Management Teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive approach to resourcing and planning.</li> <li>Adequate time to support the pre-procurement phases.</li> </ul>	Annually by May	Head of Procurement
3	Showing Leadership	Development of training and support for internal stakeholders to facilitate intelligent client commissioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level, routine procurement activity,</li> <li>Procurement Reforms,</li> <li>Reviewed and updated guidance</li> <li>Refreshed iPool courses</li> <li>Refreshed intranet and website</li> <li>Contract management high level framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent approach with full with audit trail.</li> <li>Supporting effective governance.</li> <li>Ensuring service requirements are understood within the context of the procurement process.</li> <li>Engagement of stakeholders.</li> </ul>	In line with Procurement Reforms – July 2024	Head of Procurement & Senior Procurement Officers
4	Behaving Commercially	Continuous improvement of performance reporting into quarterly Departmental Management Team Meetings (DMTs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key areas of spend highlighted to focus attention on the most strategic and high-risk spend areas.</li> </ul>	Quarterly for the strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team

No	Theme	Action	Benefit / Barrier	Timeframe	Owner
	& Showing Leadership		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased insight into financial performance of suppliers and markets.</li> </ul>		
5	Behaving commercially	Optimise procurement options including use of collaborative buying organisations and use of most effective procurement procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased purchasing power to create value for money, efficient use of procurement resource, increased opportunity for innovative approaches and outcomes.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
6	Behaving commercially	<p>Utilise data to effectively analyse information relating to corporate spending and categories of suppliers</p> <p>Review of the capabilities of the new Technology One finance system to determine impact on service provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New and developing functionality of finance system.</li> <li>Improved transparency, reduced duplication and accessible evidence for option appraisals and decision making.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
	Behaving commercially	Review a corporate framework for contract management and make accessible internally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of best practice from Government Contract Managers Pioneer Programme.</li> <li>Strengthened contract management to support realisation of the expected outcomes.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Senior Procurement Officers
8	Behaving commercially & Showing leadership	<p>Preparation for and implementation of changes as a result of Procurement Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole scale review and update of procurement standard control documents and associated practices.</li> <li>Roll-out of appropriate training</li> <li>Collaboration with partner organisations to benefit from shared best practice in the areas of process; people &amp; systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent and compliant approach within the Corporate Procurement Team.</li> <li>Compliance with procurement legislation reform.</li> <li>Incorporation of new directives and awareness of legislative change.</li> <li>Raised awareness and buy-in of best practice processes and available support throughout the Council.</li> </ul>	For Summer 2024	Head of Procurement

No	Theme	Action	Benefit / Barrier	Timeframe	Owner
9	Behaving commercially	Proactive management of risk through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened contract clauses</li> <li>Exit planning captured within the contract</li> <li>Effective handover of contracts at implementation</li> <li>Awareness of market factors and impact on supply chain and supplier failure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened, more robust contract clauses and schedules to support more effective mobilisation, operation and exit.</li> <li>Early awareness of market and supply chain issues.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
10	Behaving commercially	Continuous scanning of and reacting to the external landscape. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review guidance, practice and documentation.</li> <li>Comply with legislation and keep documentation, processes and guidelines compliant and up to date.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent approach and rapid response to change. Reduced risk of legal challenge and best practice processes applied at all times.</li> <li>Mitigate risks associated with external factors which can lead to increasing costs and / or volatile supply chains.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
11	Achieving Community Benefits	Develop a suite of support that is accessible and supports local providers in being successful in 'doing business with the Council'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise effective means of roll-out.</li> <li>Networking.</li> <li>Well considered website.</li> <li>Appropriate and accessible material.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
12	Achieving Community Benefits	Encourage use of smaller and local suppliers through measures such as appropriate lot strategies and supply chain networks. Increase pre-procurement engagement with smaller and local suppliers including access to work pipelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased levels of SME involvement and local supply chains.</li> <li>Skill-up smaller and local suppliers to engage with the procurement process.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
13	Achieving Community Benefits	Raise the profile and refine the approach to Social Value across the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish, measure and report Social Value KPIs into each contract</li> <li>Establish an over-arching social value framework for measurement and reporting</li> <li>Develop social value skills and knowledge throughout the stakeholder network, including suppliers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform the basis for future performance measurement.</li> <li>Creation of social value and embedding the ethos across supplier organisations.</li> <li>Increased accountability for social value at a functional level</li> <li>Promotion of social value standards and integrate into tendering process.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Head of Procurement & Social Value Co-ordinator

No	Theme	Action	Benefit / Barrier	Timeframe	Owner
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen relationships with suppliers to improve understanding of social value</li> </ul> <p>Develop skills and knowledge within the team to allow innovative thinking and practice to build social value outcomes into the procurement process.</p>			
14	Achieving Community Benefits	Match gaps in community support with opportunities for third party providers to deliver social value offers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More targeted, focused social value offering which address appropriate areas.</li> <li>Improve positive outcomes that providers contribute to.</li> <li>Requires internal stakeholder buy-in at all levels.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Social Value Co-ordinator
15	Achieving Community Benefits	Develop social value champions across the Council to support delivery and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures appropriate and relevant offers.</li> <li>Requires internal stakeholder buy-in at all levels.</li> </ul>	By July 2024	Social Value Co-ordinator
16	Enabling actions	Develop improved communication of changes throughout the team and across the Council through channels including hub messages, attendance at DMT and procurement bulletins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuously applied best practice and rapid response to change.</li> <li>Improves compliance and governance standards.</li> </ul>	Whole strategy period	Corporate Procurement Team
17	Enabling actions	Review the approach to sustainable procurement and develop appropriate guidance to facilitate good practice and support delivery of climate emergency actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective, well considered procurement that takes account of whole life costs.</li> <li>Improved, long term outcomes.</li> </ul>	By December 2024	Senior Procurement Officers
18	Enabling actions	Utilise the procurement process to drive third party providers to contribute to the Council's climate action plan and pathway to achieving net zero.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure effective contribution to net zero target.</li> <li>Appropriate weighting and competing priorities within procurement context.</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement.</li> </ul>	By December 2023	Head of Procurement

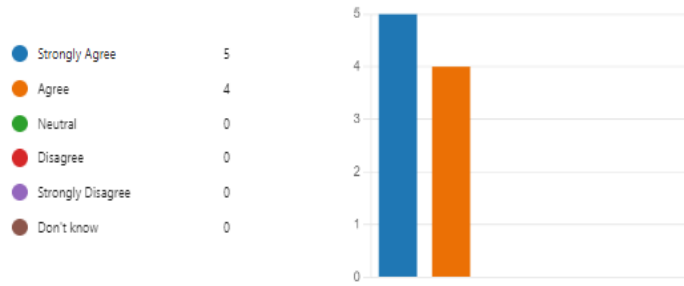


## Annex 2 – Engagement - Internal Stakeholders – Senior Managers

The charts below show the responses received to an internal stakeholder questionnaire assessing the Procurement Team’s approach

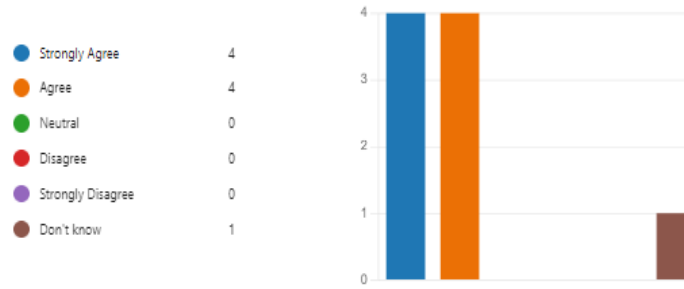
1. The Procurement Team understands your service area?

[More Details](#)



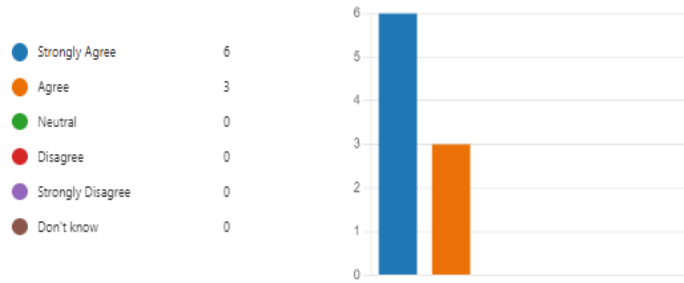
4. The Procurement Team behaves commercially e.g. creates opportunities

[More Details](#)



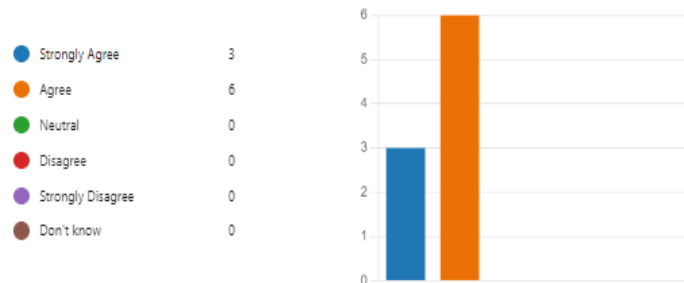
2. The Procurement Team works well with its suppliers

[More Details](#)



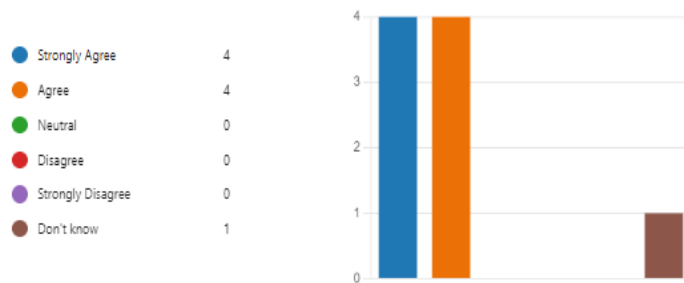
5. The Council manages contracts well

[More Details](#)



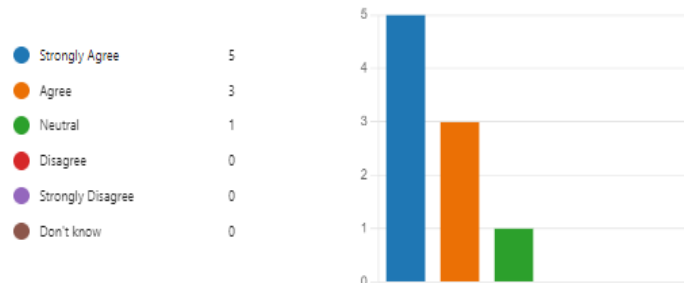
3. The Procurement Team works well with Cllrs and Senior Managers

[More Details](#)



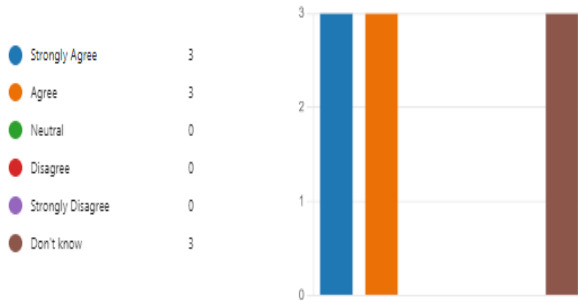
6. The Procurement Team manages risks well

[More Details](#)



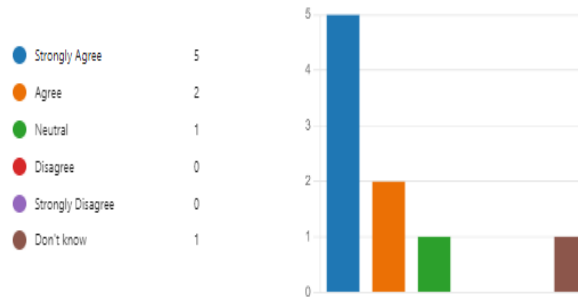
7. The Council works well with VCSE's / SME

[More Details](#)



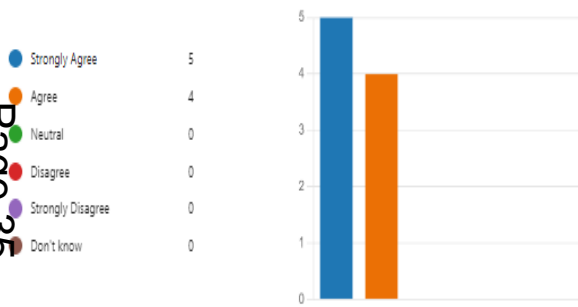
10. The Procurement Team uses technology well

[More Details](#)



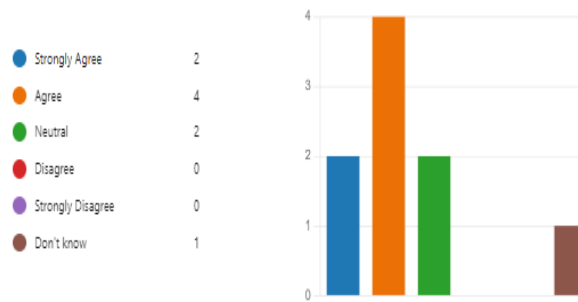
8. The importance of Social Value is made clear

[More Details](#)



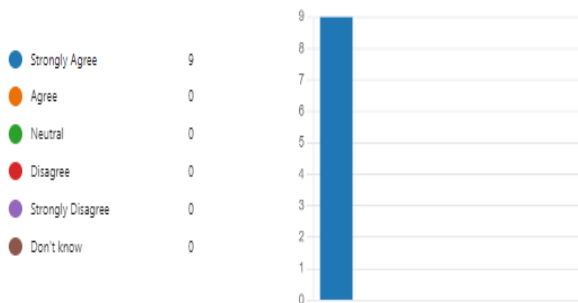
11. The tender process allows the development of innovative solutions

[More Details](#)



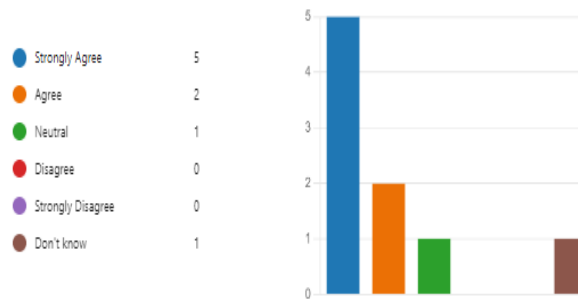
9. The Procurement Team has knowledgeable, professional staff

[More Details](#)



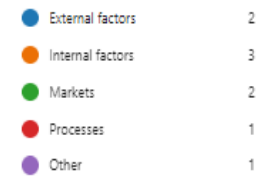
12. The Procurement Team responds well to change e.g, GDPR

[More Details](#)



13. What do you think the focus of our strategy should be?

[More Details](#)



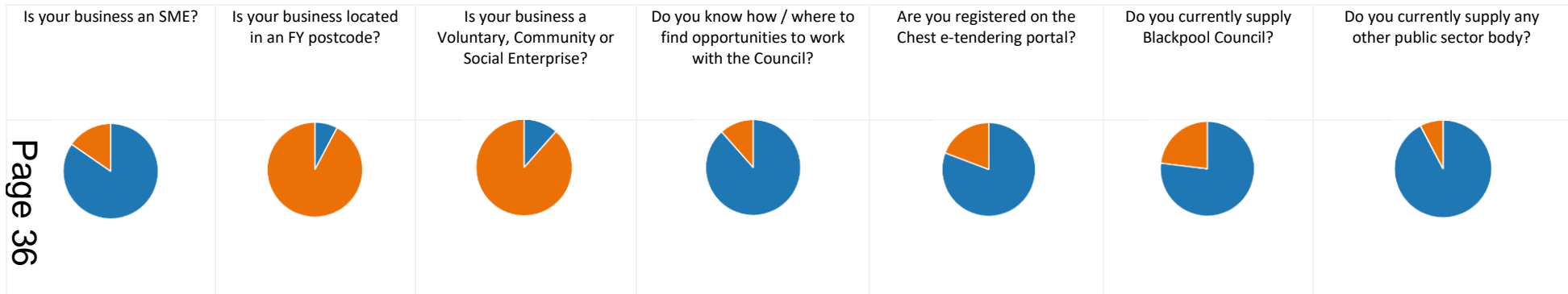
## Annex 3 – Engagement - External Stakeholder Questionnaire:

The charts below show the results of supplier engagement undertaken in order to understand the relationship and perceptions of suppliers and those organisations who bid for Council contracts.

### Supplier Profiles

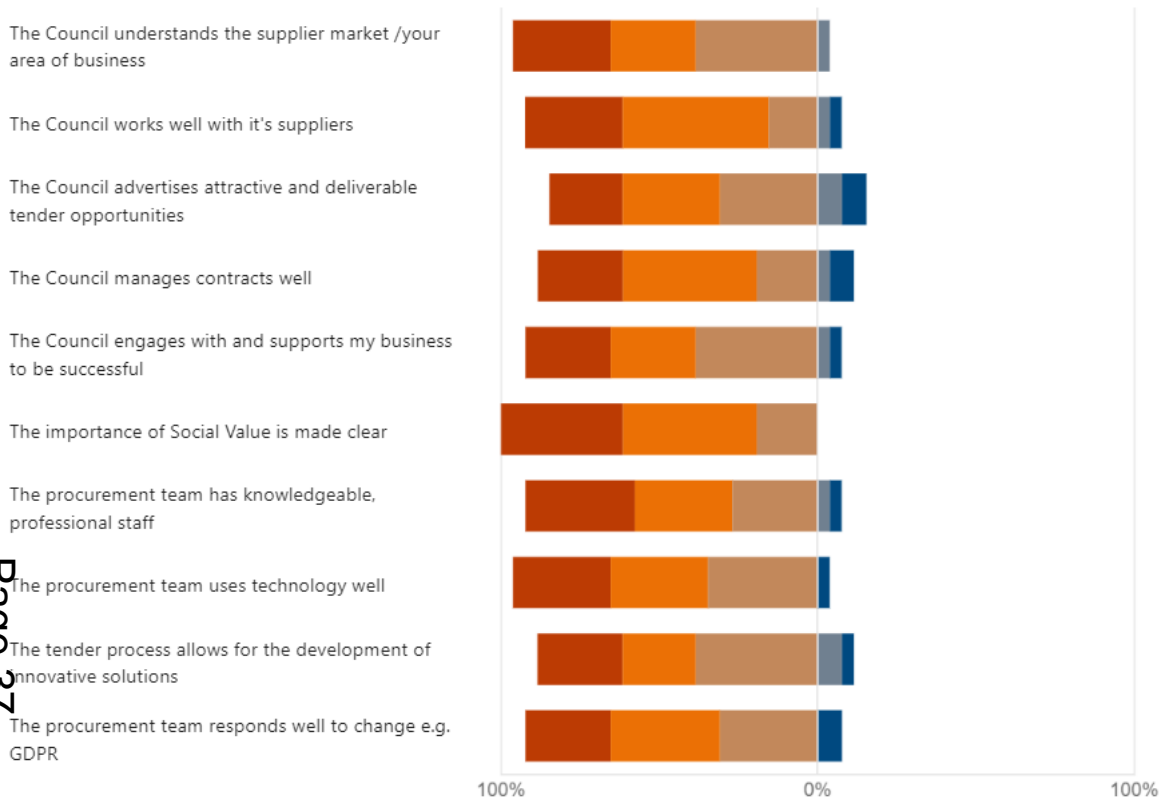
● Yes

● No

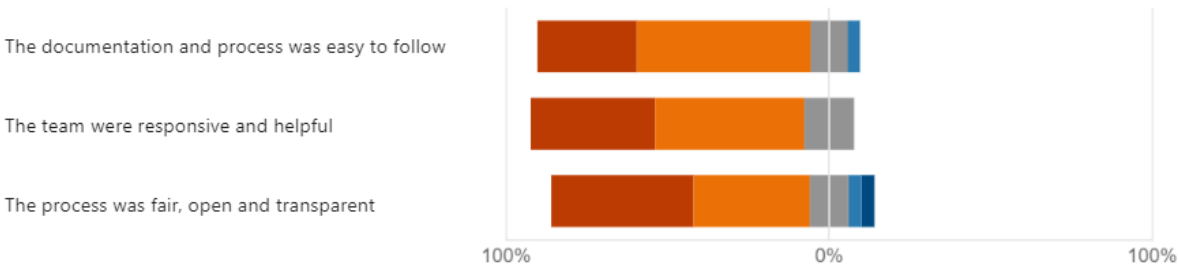




Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know



Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree



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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Jane Saleh, Head of Planning Strategy
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 July 2023

## **ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 This report presents the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document for adoption (Appendix 4a refers) and the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation Statement (Appendix 4b refers) for approval and publication, the latter setting out all the representations received and the Council’s proposed response.

Public consultation on the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document took place during February and March 2023 and seven responses were received.

The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document expands on planning policy in the Blackpool Local Plan and provides further guidance on the requirements for affordable housing in new housing developments in Blackpool, including conversions; and explains why affordable housing is required and how it should be delivered.

The Supplementary Planning Document has also been informed by the local plan evidence base documents as well as other relevant council policy and strategy in particular the [Blackpool local Plan Part 2 Viability Assessment \(July 2020\)](#) and the [Blackpool Housing Affordability Study 2019](#).

If adopted this Supplementary Planning Document will be a material consideration when assessing relevant planning applications.

**2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To approve and formally adopt the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document attached at Appendix 4a to this Executive report.
- 2.2 To approve and agree for publication the supporting Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Statement at Appendix 4b to this Executive report.
- 2.3 To authorise the Head of Planning Strategy to make any appropriate minor amendments to improve the presentation and finalise a published version of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (at Appendix 4a to this report).

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

- 3.1 To provide further detailed guidance to policy in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy to support Blackpool’s future regeneration and growth.
- 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. The Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared in line with the statutory requirements and regulations for Supplementary Planning Document preparation.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

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

## **6.0 Background:**

- 6.1 Many households in Blackpool lack the income required to enable them to afford a market home meeting their needs. There is therefore a pressing need for the provision of quality affordable housing and particularly affordable family housing across the borough. This is evidenced in the Blackpool Housing Affordability Study (2019) which provides the most current requirements for affordable housing in the Borough.
- 6.2 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (Policy CS14) requires all housing resulting in a net increase of three dwellings, outside of the inner area, to provide affordable housing on or off site; or that development makes a financial contribution towards affordable housing provision.
- 6.3 The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document provides further detail to Policy CS14 including the mechanisms used to deliver affordable housing from new housing developments. This will help ensure that new market housing makes a positive contribution to meeting affordable housing needs in the borough.
- 6.4 The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document provides the following information and guidance:
- The definition of what affordable housing comprises;
  - The need for affordable housing in Blackpool;
  - Relevant planning policy, guidance and information to the provision of affordable housing;
  - Affordable housing requirements including:
    - what we expect from on-site affordable provision;
    - when we will seek financial contributions;
    - the level of financial contributions and the proposed calculation to be applied;
  - Guidance on the Application Process including pre application discussions, submitting and application and viability.

6.5 In relation to what the Local Planning Authority would expect from on-site affordable housing provision (pages 15 to 16 refer) the key requirements of Policy CS14 and the Supplementary Planning Document in summary are:

- All developments of 15 homes or more outside of the inner area of the borough will typically be expected to provide affordable housing equating to 30% of the total on-site.
- Affordable housing must be made available for occupation on an affordable basis in perpetuity
- Affordable housing provision within a development should be indistinguishable from market housing
- 70% of new affordable housing provision should be let at Affordable Rent and 30% should be provided for Low Cost Home Ownership.
- The mix of unit types and house sizes should reflect housing mix of wider development, contribute to a balanced stock of affordable housing in the wider area and meet latest identified needs.
- The Supplementary Planning Document sets out when and how affordable housing can be provided on a linked site.

6.6 With respect to financial contributions these will be sought for:

- all new residential development comprising 3-14 dwellings outside the inner area;
- where affordable housing cannot be provided on site or a linked site; and
- market schemes for the provision of housing designed to meet specific needs.

6.7 The proposed level of financial contributions will be equivalent to 1% of the mean end market values of the unit mix in the development proposed. This level of provision has been demonstrated to be viable and appropriate in Blackpool by the viability assessment, which accompanies the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. The Supplementary Planning Document sets out the calculation to be applied - the Off-Site Contribution Calculator and examples of using the calculator for a variety of schemes (pages 18 to 20 refers).

**6.8 Draft Supplementary Planning Document Consultation**

A five-week consultation on the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was undertaken between 6 February and 13 March 2023 in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (September 2020). The details of the consultation are set out in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Statement (Appendix 4b refers).

6.9 Around 1200 organisations and individuals (including statutory bodies, key stakeholders and members of the public) were invited to make representations on the draft Supplementary Planning Document.

6.10 The Council received seven representations to the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document and these are detailed at Appendix 4b, Table 2 pages 5 and 6. None of these comments are considered by officers to warrant any changes to the content of the draft Supplementary Planning Document. One representation did suggest the need for more affordable houses for large families. The amount of type of affordable that Blackpool needs is set out in the Blackpool Housing Affordability Study 2019.

6.11 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List Appendices**

7.1 Appendix 4a: Draft Blackpool Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document  
Appendix 4b: Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Statement

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The preparation of the documents is being undertaken within existing budgetary provisions.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 Should the Council adopt the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, the document will be a material consideration when determining planning applications for both officers and members of the Planning Committee.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document provides further detail to the Core Strategy, which provides the statutory planning framework to enable and assist the delivery of Blackpool's affordable housing requirements. The Council needs to ensure that it has a planning framework that contributes towards the aims and objectives in the wider Council housing strategies as well as delivering the aims and objectives in the adopted Local Plan: Part 1 - Core Strategy.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 Local authorities need to have regard to the Public Sector Equalities Duty, as referred to in the Equality Act 2010, in respect of considering people with 'protected characteristics' in decision making. The Supplementary Planning Document raises no adverse equalities considerations. The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document will contribute to the Council priorities set out in the Council Plan. The Blackpool Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 (2012 to 2027) to which the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document relates have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. No adverse equality considerations arise.

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

12.1 Sustainability, climate change and the environment are key considerations that have to be taken into account in the preparation of the statutory Blackpool Local Plan 2012 to 2027 to which this Supplementary Planning Document relates.



**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and in accordance with the statutory requirements and regulations for Supplementary Planning Document preparation.

**14.0 Background papers:**

- Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016)
- Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 Viability Assessment 2020;
- Blackpool Housing Affordability Study 2019

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed:

Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1

**20.0 Date of Decision**

20.1

**21.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

21.1

**22.1 Date Decision published:**

22.1

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

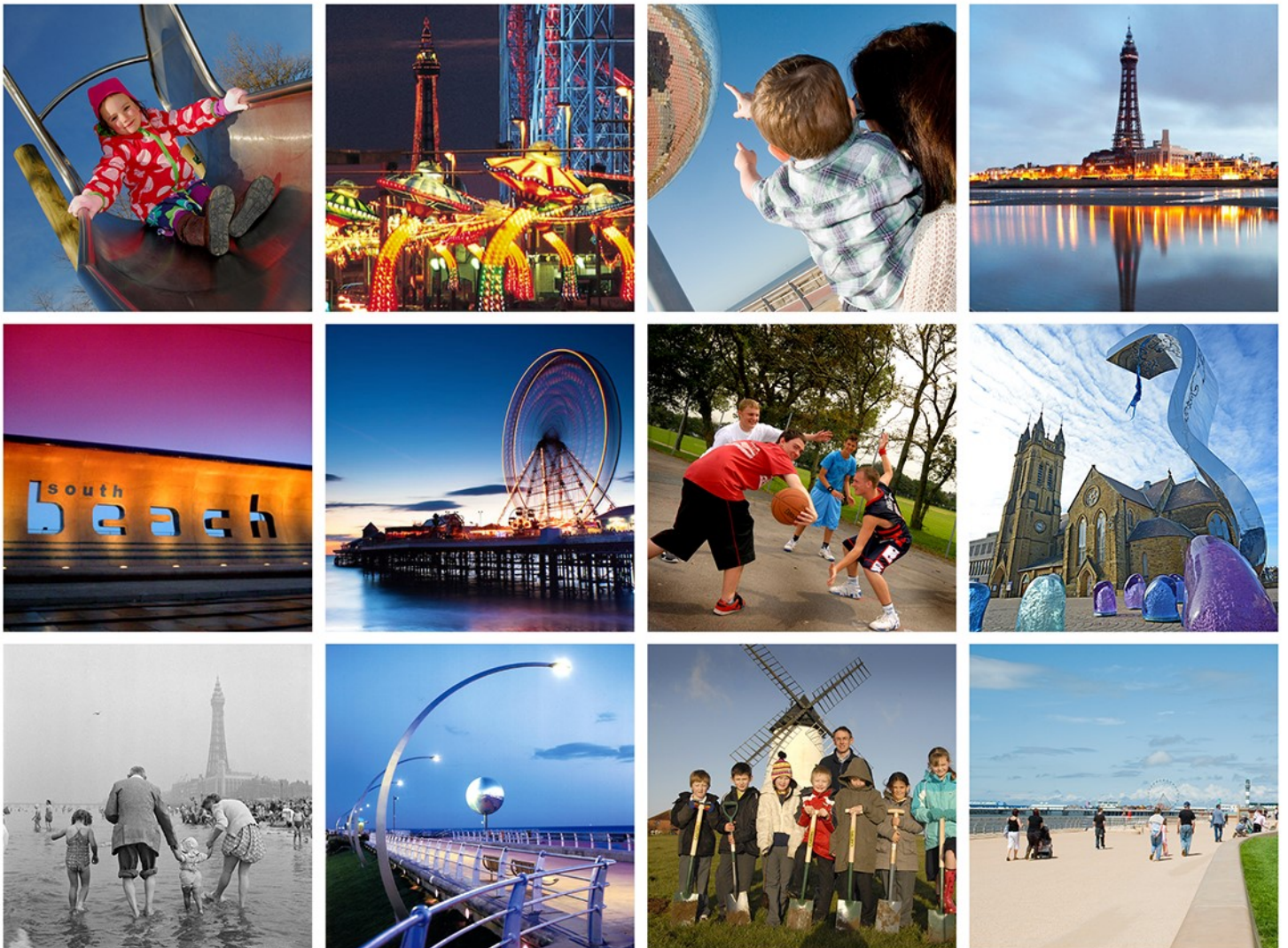
25.1

# Affordable Housing

## Supplementary Planning Document

### Adopted July 2023

Blackpool Council





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# 1 Purpose of the document

1.1 This draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is intended to:

- Expand on planning policy in the Blackpool Local Plan and provide further guidance on the requirements for affordable housing in new housing developments in Blackpool, including conversions;
- Explain why affordable housing is required and how it should be delivered.

1.2 This Draft SPD is subject to a six week consultation and the Council are inviting you to comment on any aspect of the document. Comments received will help to inform preparation of the SPD and will be published in a separate Consultation Report when the SPD is adopted.

1.3 Once adopted, this SPD will be a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications.

## Sustainability Appraisal

1.4 The sustainability impacts of affordable housing provision have been formally assessed in the context of higher-level planning documents. Specifically, Policy CS14 to which this SPD relates was subject to Sustainability Appraisal for the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027. As such, a separate sustainability appraisal for this SPD is not required.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.5 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was produced for the policies in the Core Strategy, including Policy CS14 to which this SPD relates. As such, a separate HRA is not required.

## Definition of affordable housing

1.6 The definition of affordable housing is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>1</sup>. It is defined as housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not

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<sup>1</sup> [Annex 2: Glossary - National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61233/Annex_2_-_Glossary_-_National_Planning_Policy_Framework_-_Guidance_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

- **Affordable housing for rent** – meets all of the following conditions:
  - the rent is set in accordance with the Government’s rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable);
  - the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and
  - it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).
  
- **Starter homes** – is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household’s eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.
  
- **Discounted market sales housing** – is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households. There is further national planning guidance that outlines the provision of First Homes as a form of this type of housing provision<sup>2</sup>.
  
- **Other affordable routes to home ownership** – is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market

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<sup>2</sup> [First Homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

## 2 The need for affordable housing in Blackpool

2.1 Despite relatively low house prices and rents in Blackpool, affordability is a serious issue across the Borough because of the prevalence of households with very low incomes. Many of these low income households do not have the ability to save for a deposit or may not be able to obtain a mortgage.

2.2 Blackpool's inner area is characterised by an over-supply of small flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) for rent, which despite being easily accessible to people on low incomes through benefits payments, are often poor quality, undesirable, and unsuitable for many households. As a result, there is significant need and demand for a choice of quality affordable housing across the Borough.

2.3 It is therefore a priority for the Council, through its planning policies and wider housing strategy, to ensure there is an adequate supply of good quality affordable homes across the Borough, providing a choice of size, type and tenure that is suitable for family occupation in particular, and to help create mixed, balanced and stable communities. This is also evidenced in the [Blackpool Housing Affordability Study \(2019\)](#) which provides the most current requirements for affordable housing in the Borough.



Above: Affordable housing at Queens Park, Blackpool

### **3 Relevant planning policy, guidance and information**

3.1 The following section sets out the planning policy context which is relevant to the provision of affordable housing.

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (published July 2021)**

3.2 Section 5 recognises that to support the Government’s objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay.

3.3 Paragraph 62 expects local authorities to identify the affordable housing needs in their area and develop appropriate planning policy to secure its provision.

3.4 Paragraph 63 states that where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site unless: a) off-site provision or an appropriate financial contribution in lieu can be robustly justified; and b) the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.

3.5 Paragraph 64 sets out that the provision of affordable housing should not be sought for residential developments that are not major developments. To support the re-use of brownfield land, where vacant buildings are being reused or redeveloped, any affordable housing contribution due should be reduced by a proportionate amount.

3.6 For major development for housing (i.e. all schemes of ten or more homes), paragraph 65 requires at least 10% of the total number of homes to be made available for affordable home ownership, unless this would exceed the level of affordable housing required in the area, or where such provision would exceed local requirements or prejudice the ability to meet the needs of specific groups. Additionally, exemptions should be made for Built-to-Rent homes; specialist accommodation; self-build schemes; and 100% affordable schemes, entry-level exception sites or rural exceptions sites.

#### **Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 (adopted January 2016)**

3.7 The Core Strategy was adopted in 2016 and is a key planning document which sets out where new development such as housing, employment, retail and leisure should be located to meet Blackpool’s future needs to 2027. The Strategy also identifies which areas

within Blackpool will be regenerated, protected or enhanced; and sets out key development principles, including design and affordable housing.

3.8 The vision in the Core Strategy includes the aspirations for Blackpool by 2027 to have *'.....created a more equal society with sustainable communities having fair access to quality jobs, housing, shopping, health, education, open space, sport and recreation. The housing stock has significantly improved with a range of new, high quality homes in attractive neighbourhoods attracting new residents who aspire to live by the sea. South Blackpool makes an important contribution to rebalancing the housing market and growing the Fylde Coast economy by providing improved choice in quality homes and jobs in sustainable locations to meet community needs and support regeneration.....'*

3.9 Four goals underpin the vision supported by a number of strategic objectives including of particular relevance to this proposal:

**Goal 2 - Strengthen community wellbeing to create sustainable communities and reduce inequalities in Blackpool's most deprived areas:**

**Objective 10** - Meet residents' needs for affordable housing to provide people with a choice of homes they can afford in places they want to live

3.10 **Policy CS14** sets out the requirements for affordable housing in Blackpool and states:

1. *All market and specialist housing developments, including conversions, creating a net increase of three dwellings or more will be required to provide affordable housing (either on-site or off-site) or make a financial contribution towards affordable housing provision. Developments within the defined inner area are exempt from this requirement.*
2. *Affordable housing should normally be provided as follows:*
  - a) *Where developments would comprise 15 dwellings or more, or on sites of 0.5 hectares or more, the requirement is 30% of the total number of dwellings created. On-site provision will be sought where possible. Off-site provision, or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value, will be considered instead of on-site provision where the site is unsuitable for affordable housing, or where this would be more effective in delivering affordable housing to support Blackpool's regeneration objectives;*
  - b) *Where developments are on sites less than 0.5 hectares and would comprise 3-14 dwellings, then a financial contribution towards off-site provision will be sought. This contribution level will be set out in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in accordance*

*with the most recent viability assessment and the latest government guidance;*

*c) Where the above requirements cannot be met in full as they would render a development unviable, and this has been robustly justified with the submission of a viability appraisal, then an alternative level of provision may be negotiated.*

3. *Where affordable housing units are being provided for in a development, they will be expected to deliver a mix of homes that meet current housing needs, of similar size and quality to equivalent market housing. The tenure mix will depend on the location of the site although the general requirement will be for a mix of social rented and intermediate housing for sale or for rent. Further guidance on dwelling size, type, design and tenure mix will be provided in the Affordable Housing SPD.*

4. *The Affordable Housing SPD will also provide guidance on the approach to:*

*a) Phasing*

*b) Ensuring Affordability*

*c) Calculating financial contributions*

3.11 The NPPF, in paragraph 64, states that affordable housing should not be sought from developments of nine units or fewer. This contrasts with Policy CS14 of the Core Strategy, adopted prior to this revision to the NPPF, which seeks a financial contribution from housing developments for 3-14 dwellings. The national policy requirement does not reflect the fact that Blackpool is overwhelmingly urban in nature with a compact built which results in a significant amount of new housing development being delivered on small sites. Since the start of the plan period at 2012-13, approximately 45% of gross housing completions from new builds and conversions have been on sites of 10 dwellings or less; with a further 5% being on sites of 11-15 dwellings meaning that approximately half of all the housing completions in the borough have been on sites below the 15 dwelling threshold.

3.12 Although the NPPF is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and has been published more recently than the Core Strategy, the Core Strategy nevertheless forms the basis of the statutory Development Plan for the Blackpool area, in accordance with Section 38 (6) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and is therefore the primary consideration in the assessment of a planning proposal.

3.13 The evidence base to the Core Strategy makes it clear that, in order to meet the Borough's identified affordable housing needs, contributions towards provision must be sought as part of smaller developments. The requirements of Policy CS14 have been

subject to rigorous viability testing<sup>3</sup>. The Government's intention to remove affordable housing obligations from smaller schemes, as now set out in the NPPF, was known at the time the Core Strategy was tested through Examination in Public. Nevertheless, the Inspector considering the matter judged Policy CS14 to be justified and soundly based. The overall Core Strategy was found to be sound. As such and notwithstanding any apparent conflict with national guidance, Policy CS14 of the Core Strategy forms part of the Development Plan and carries full weight. It is the starting point against which affordable housing requirements will be assessed.

### Housing Requirement Technical Paper 2014

3.14 The Housing Requirement Technical Paper (June 2014)<sup>4</sup> informed the Council's adopted planning policies in the Core Strategy relating to housing delivery.

3.15 This technical paper took account of the Fylde Coast Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) published in February 2014 and updated later in 2014. It reviews the borough's objectively assessed housing need in terms of numbers, but also considers tenures, sizes and types, including affordable housing taking into account economic and demographic trends and projections.

3.16 With regard to affordable housing, the technical paper confirms a net annual Affordable Housing Need of 264 dwellings per annum based on the Housing Needs Assessment in the SHMA 2014. It is acknowledged that this target is unrealistic to deliver fully based on historic delivery rates. However, this does highlight the pressing need for affordable housing in the town. The document notes that, due to generally low house prices and restricted mortgage eligibility for many households, shared ownership options may not be viable for many providers. As such, social rented housing is likely to dominate affordable housing provision. Although the SHMA identifies a need for one-bedroom properties in Blackpool, the technical paper supports the need for family-sized affordable homes to balance the high-concentration of one-bedroom units within the town.

### Housing Strategy 2018 to 2023: Making Blackpool Better

3.17 The Council's Housing Strategy<sup>5</sup> has four priorities: new housing supply, improving the private rented sector, stabilising lives and increasing delivery capacity. The adoption of an Affordable Housing SPD is identified as one the outputs under the priority of new housing supply. The other priorities for housing delivery include working with developers

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/Blackpool-LPVA-FINAL-JULY-2020-FOR-PUBLICATION.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [EB003 Housing Requirement Technical Paper \(blackpool.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Housing Strategy 2018 \(blackpool.gov.uk\)](#)

to deliver more high quality housing, working with housing associations and developers to deliver more affordable housing, maximising delivery of new build council housing for market rent and maximising the delivery of new units developed from existing buildings through My Blackpool Home.

3.18 The evidence presented in the housing strategy shows that Blackpool's private rented sector is relatively more expensive than in other towns across Lancashire. This is despite house prices in Blackpool being significantly lower than in surrounding areas and reflects low wages and rents inflated by housing benefit. The strategy notes the challenges in delivery of better housing through the development of new homes because of the lack of developable land. In Blackpool there are a number of key vulnerable groups linked to housing provision: rough sleepers and the homeless, young children affected by transience, vulnerable young people, people in properties with poor heating and insulation; and people with long term support needs.

### Housing Affordability Study 2019

3.19 The Blackpool Affordability Study 2019<sup>6</sup> updates the SHMA 2014 confirming current requirements for affordable housing in Blackpool and provides evidence for the size and tenure of dwellings required as well as considering wider issues around affordability in Blackpool. The study adheres to the requirements of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018 current at the time of the Study) and the associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

3.20 The evidence contained in the study builds on that contained within the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 by providing more details on the affordable housing need as part of the overall need for 4,200 dwellings as well as more practical issues around the affordability of housing costs in Blackpool.

3.21 The study estimates that from the base year of the study - 2018 to the end of the plan period 2027 there is an affordable housing need for 210 dwellings per year, this is a decrease in need of 62 dwellings compared to that identified in the 2014 SHMA.<sup>7</sup>

### Blackpool Council Plan (2019-2024)

3.22 The Council Plan has two overarching aims: The economy: Maximise growth and opportunity across Blackpool and Communities: Creating stronger communities and

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<sup>6</sup> [Affordability Study 2019](#)

<sup>7</sup> [EB005--SHMA-Addendum \(blackpool.gov.uk\)](#) page 44

increasing resilience. Within this is the Council's aim to deliver hundreds more affordable homes and to enable further housing delivery through pro-active assistance to developers.

### Blackpool's Climate Emergency Action Plan

3.23 The Action Plan sets out a package of measures to help make the Council net zero by 2030 and to work towards achieving the same across the whole town. The actions around housing include building new council housing to the highest efficiency and pollution standards, raising standards of existing council housing and to raise the issue of energy efficiency standards in new housing with the Government. The Action Plan highlights that 16.3% of households, which is in excess of the national average, are fuel poverty which presents further challenges in the context of a low wage economy.

### Housing Topic Paper (2021)

3.24 The Housing Topic Paper<sup>8</sup> was published in January 2021 to support the submission of the Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. The Topic paper sets out the Council's housing delivery position since the Local Plan base date and the Council's housing supply position.

3.25 In terms of delivery of housing, the majority of houses delivered since the beginning of the plan period are on windfall sites, with the vast majority of these on small sites. Between 2012 and 2019, 852 of the 1,307 housing completions were on small sites. There is evidence to suggest this will continue and there is a windfall allowance of 100 homes per annum. Nine of the 29 Local Plan housing allocations are sites less than 15 dwellings, with four being marginally higher at 15-16 dwellings. Only three allocations are in excess of 100 dwellings which demonstrates the challenges of using Developer Contributions from housing sites.

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<sup>8</sup> [Housing-Topic-Paper-Final-accessible \(blackpool.gov.uk\)](https://blackpool.gov.uk/housing-topic-paper-final-accessible)



## 4 Affordable Housing Requirements

### What we will expect from on-site affordable housing provision

#### General requirements

- Where provision for affordable housing is to be made on-site, this should equate to 30% of the total number of dwellings created. For example, if 80 new homes were proposed, 24 of them would have to be made available on an affordable basis. Where 30% of the total does not equal a whole number, this will be rounded to the nearest whole number.
- Affordable housing must be made available for occupation on an affordable basis in perpetuity. An affordability statement must be submitted as part of any planning application for 15 dwellings or more explaining how this would be achieved. Compliance will be secured through condition.
- Affordable housing provision should be delivered at the same time as market housing and where delivery is to be phased, the affordable housing should be delivered in parallel with the market housing;
- Affordable housing provision within a development should be indistinguishable from market housing in terms of design, materials, parking provision and landscaping;
- Affordable housing provision should be integrated well into the development. This is necessary to avoid over-concentration in any one area, aid effective integration between market and affordable housing, and prevent the affordable housing provision from being easily distinguished from the market accommodation.
- Development within the defined inner area, as identified on the Local Plan Policies Map, is exempt from the requirement to provide an affordable housing contribution.

#### On-site affordable housing tenure mix

- 70% of new affordable housing provision should be let at Affordable Rent and 30% should be provided for Low Cost Home Ownership. This is the starting point for developers to plan the affordable housing provision within each development. The appropriate tenure mix for a particular site will also depend upon the needs in the surrounding area and the existing supply of affordable housing for rent and sale in the locality.

- The tenure mix also needs to take account of the mix of unit types in the development. For example, if the development is wholly of a unit type that is not in high demand for affordable rented housing, such as large flats, the tenure mix of the affordable homes may vary from the baseline to give more emphasis to affordable home ownership.
- All affordable housing tenures will be considered provided an appropriate overall balance is maintained between affordable rented homes (Affordable Rent and social rent) and affordable home ownership (Rent to Buy, Starter Homes, Discounted Market Sale, Shared Ownership, and Shared Equity).

### **On-site affordable housing unit type mix**

- The mix of unit types (detached, semi-detached, terraces, apartments) and house sizes (bedroom numbers) provided as affordable housing should:
  - Reflect the housing mix of the wider development;
  - contribute towards a balanced stock of affordable housing in the wider area;
  - meet the latest identified needs for affordable housing provision in Blackpool. The greatest need is currently for family houses providing two or three bedrooms.

### **Off-site provision on a linked site**

- An affordable housing requirement can be provided on another site - the 'linked site'. This could happen where the market housing site is unsuitable to deliver the type of affordable housing needed in that area due to size or configuration ; or where provision on a linked site would be more effective way to support regeneration and help rebalance the housing stock;
- The application for the linked site must be made concurrently with the application for the market housing site. The amount of affordable housing proposed on the linked site must be equivalent to 30% of the total amount of housing proposed when the market housing site and the affordable housing site are considered together. This requirement can be calculated as  $\frac{3}{7}$ <sup>ths</sup> of the total number of market houses proposed.

## When will we seek financial contributions?

4.1 Financial contributions will be sought from all developments in the following instances:

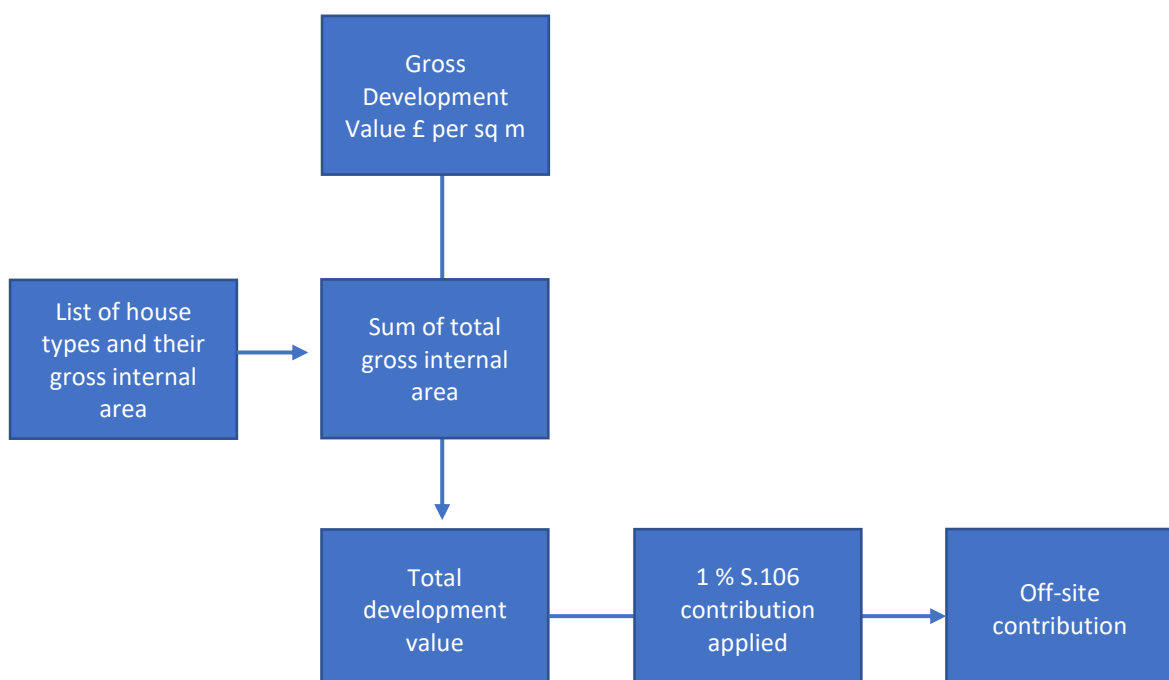
- Outside of the defined Inner Area where 3-14 dwellings are proposed.
- In circumstances outside of the defined Inner Area where 15 or more dwellings are proposed and affordable housing cannot be provided on site or linked site, as set out in paragraph 5.5; and
- Market schemes for the provision of housing designed to meet the specific needs of older people, people who are disabled, or anyone else with specialised housing needs.

## Level of financial contributions

### Proposals for 3-14 dwellings or sites of less than 0.5ha

4.2 Financial contributions will be sought equivalent to 1% of the mean end market values of the unit mix in the development proposed. This level of provision has been demonstrated to be viable and appropriate in Blackpool by the viability assessment which accompanies the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. The market value of a dwelling will be determined in accordance with the calculation below, undertaken by the applicant based on the open market value of the development. This will then be checked by the Council.

### Calculation to be applied:



4.3 Table 1 below sets out an example of the calculation to be applied. This uses an example figure of £2,000 per square metre for gross development value. This figure should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority prior to the financial calculation being carried out.

**Table 1: Example reference - market values to be used for the calculation of the financial contribution for affordable housing from schemes of 3-14 units (Blackpool in 2019 is £2,000/m<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to £186/ft<sup>2</sup>)**

Off-site Contribution Calculator							
Gross Development Value (£ per Sq m)		£2,000		Section 106 % contribution		1%	
House Type (e.g. 3 bedroom house)	Floorspace	Number of this unit	Total floorspace	Total Value			
2 bed apartment	61	3	183	£366,000			
2 bed house	79	2	158	£316,000			
3 bed house	93	3	279	£558,000			
4 bed house	97	2	194	£388,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>£1,628,000</b>			
				Section 106 Contribution provided		£16,280	

**Proposals for 15+ dwellings or sites of 0.5ha or more**

4.4 On-site provision will be sought where possible but off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value will be accepted where the site is unsuitable for affordable housing or where this would be a more effective option to deliver affordable housing to support Blackpool’s regeneration objectives. Examples of such circumstances would include:

- Market housing schemes in areas that are already dominated by social housing;
- Where the form of market housing proposed doesn’t fit with the affordable housing that is required
- Proposals where the level of on-site affordable housing would be so limited as to either preclude effective integration of affordable homes around the site or would not be attractive to a registered provider on management grounds (evidence of this would be required).

4.5 Where provision is made by way of a financial contribution, this will be equivalent to the average costs of on-site provision. The financial contribution will be calculated in accordance with Table 2 below for 30% of each unit type delivered in the scheme. The mean market value to be used in the calculation should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority prior to the financial calculation being carried out.

**Table 2: Worked example of off-site financial contributions for schemes of 15 or more units (Mean market value for new developments in Blackpool in 2019 was assessed at £2,000/m<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to £186/ft<sup>2</sup> )**

Accommodation proposed	Mean market value (£) @ £2,000/m <sup>2</sup>	Value payable by an RP for Affordable Rent units / Discount from market value	Value payable by an RP for Shared Ownership units, including average 40% equity sales receipts / Discount from market value	Cost of provision (based on 70% AR/30% SO)* to be reflected in off-site contribution
One-bed apartment @ 50m <sup>2</sup>	100,000	71,000 / 29,000	76,000 / 24,000	27,500
Two-bed apartment @ 70m <sup>2</sup>	140,000	95,000 / 45,000	106,000 / 34,000	42,000
Two-bed house @ 79m <sup>2</sup>	158,000	100,000 / 58,000	120,000 / 38,000	52,000
Three-bed apartment @ 86m <sup>2</sup>	172,000	105,000 / 67,000	131,000 / 41,000	59,000
Three-bed house @ 93m <sup>2</sup>	186,000	110,000 / 76,000	141,000 / 45,000	67,000
Four-bed house @ 106m <sup>2</sup>	212,000	135,000 / 77,000	161,000 / 61,000	72,000

\*AR = Affordable rent, SO = Shared ownership

## Examples

- **Example 1** - A scheme of 76 new houses is proposed outside of the defined Inner Area. The Council's affordable housing policy applies and so provision must be made at 30%. This equates to 22.8 units which is rounded up to a requirement for 23 affordable dwellings.

- Example 2 - A scheme of 64 new homes is proposed outside of the defined Inner Area. The Council's affordable housing policy applies but the applicant does not want to provide affordable housing on site. The applicant owns other land and the development of a 100% affordable housing scheme on this site would be an effective means of delivering affordable housing and supporting the Council's regeneration objectives. This is accepted as a solution. The level of provision on the 100% affordable site must equate to 30% of the total amount of housing provided on the affordable housing site and the market housing site combined, i.e.  $(3/7) \times 64 = 27$  units.
- Example 3 - A scheme of 25 new homes is proposed outside of the defined inner area. The Council's affordable housing policy applies but the site is in an area dominated by existing social housing. A financial contribution in this case towards delivery of affordable housing within the Defined Inner Area would be a better way for the Council to achieve its affordable housing provision and regeneration objectives. This is accepted as a solution. The scheme proposes 12 two-bed houses and 13 three-bed houses. A contribution equivalent to the costs of making 30% of the homes available for affordable housing is required, so the contributions in Table 2 are applied to 30% of each unit type in the scheme. The contribution calculated using Table 2 is £448,500 ( $30\% \times 12 \times £52,000 = £187,200$ ) + ( $30\% \times 13 \times £67,000 = £261,300$ ).
- Example 4 - A scheme of 10 flats is proposed outside of the defined inner area. In accordance with the Council's policy a financial contribution is required. The scheme proposes three two-bed flats, two three-bed flats, three three-bed houses and two four-bed houses and the figures in Table 1 are applied. A contribution equivalent to 1% of the gross development value of £1,628,000 would be £16,820.

## 5 Application Process

### Pre-Application Discussions

5.1 Due to the diverse range of potential housing sites and the variations in housing need across the Borough, no two sites will have the same affordable housing requirements. Consequently, developers are strongly advised to approach the Council prior to submitting formal proposals for residential developments. This will allow the specific circumstances of every site to be taken into account at an early stage and may avoid abortive work and expense. Developers are advised that a charging structure applies to pre-application discussions.

5.2 To give developers more confidence in preparing proposals and the Council more confidence in assessing proposals, it is recommended that applicants work with an Affordable Housing Provider who has detailed knowledge and experience of Blackpool. A list of our main partners and their contact details can be obtained from the Council's Housing Strategy Team:

[housing.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:housing.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk)

### Submitting a Planning Application

5.3 The Council will expect all applications for housing developments which would be subject to an affordable housing requirement to be accompanied by an Affordable Housing Statement. This statement should set out the level of affordable housing or the financial contributions proposed, and explain how the developer proposes delivery. Where appropriate, either a draft Section 106 Agreement or a suggested Heads of Terms should be included to ensure transparency and enable a fully informed assessment of the scheme.

5.4 Where on-site affordable housing is proposed, the Council will expect to see this provision fully worked up as part of the submitted scheme. The Council will not be prepared to agree details of on-site affordable housing provision through condition where comparable details of proposed market housing, such as appearance or internal layout, have already been submitted as part of the application.

5.5 Where a developer proposes a level of affordable housing provision which is not in line with the requirements of this document, full and open viability appraisals and financial statements should be submitted.

## Viability

5.6 The requirements of this document have been viability tested and found to be reasonable. They are based on Policy CS14 of the Council's Core Strategy which has also been viability tested and accepted as appropriate through an Examination in Public. As such, compliance should not compromise the financial viability of a development project. However, it is recognised that exceptional circumstances can arise and that unforeseeable constraints and issues can present themselves during the development process.

5.7 Any proposal to deviate from the Council's published affordable housing requirements on financial viability grounds must be robustly evidenced through a viability assessment which includes open-book accounting and a detailed development appraisal. All financially sensitive information will be kept confidential. Where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated, developers will be expected to provide as much affordable housing or financial contribution as can be achieved without compromising the viability of the scheme. There is a separate fee payable, in addition to the standard planning fee, for applications requiring a viability assessment. The fee is to cover the LPA's costs in appointing an independent professional to evaluate the assessment submitted. Price will be on application on a case by case basis.



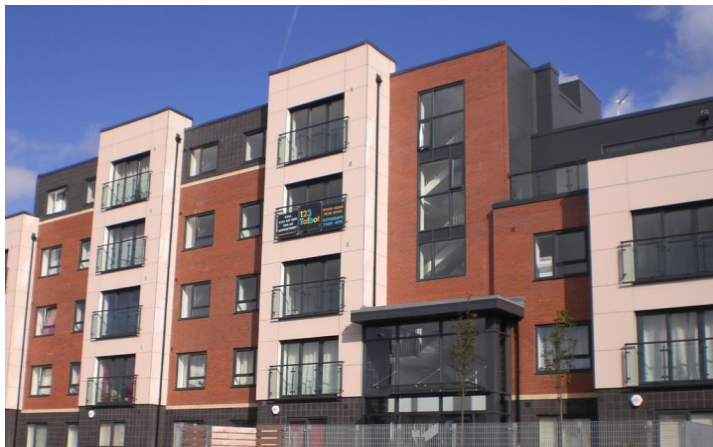
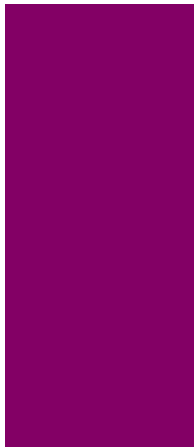


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# Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

## Consultation Statement

March 2023



## Contents

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement relates to the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.2 The Council carried out a five-week comprehensive consultation on the Draft Affordable Housing SPD between 6<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- 1.3 The Draft of the Affordable Housing SPD was made available in accordance with the Regulations and the Council's adopted [Statement of Community Involvement \(September 2020\)](#).
- 1.4 Blackpool Council provided the opportunity for any organisations/individuals (including statutory bodies, key stakeholders and members of the public) to submit representations on the Consultation Draft by:
- Publishing the Draft Affordable Housing SPD and comments form on the Council's website ([www.blackpool.gov.uk/affordablehousing](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/affordablehousing))
  - Making the Draft SPD and Comments Form available at the Council's Customer First Centre
  - Notifying through letters and emails around 1200 bodies, groups and individuals who had registered onto the Council's consultation database (this includes specific and general consultation bodies as set out in the Regulations)
  - Sending a tailored email to all Affordable Housing Providers active in the area.
  - Publishing social media posts on Facebook and Twitter throughout the consultation period

- 1.5 Appendices A and B provide evidence of the consultation undertaken for the Affordable Housing SPD Consultation draft, including a list of statutory and general consultees notified, copies of the consultation materials and the Affordable Housing SPD webpage.

## 2 Overview of the Consultation Responses

- 2.1 The Council received 7 responses to the Draft Affordable Housing SPD (refer Table 1).

**Table 1: List of Respondents**

1	National Highways
2	Natural England
3	Coal Authority
4	L Clarke
5	Historic England
6	Environment Agency
7	Homes England

- 2.2 Table 2 below lists those individuals/organisations that submitted responses to the consultation and provides the detail of their representations together with the Council's response.
- 2.3 With reference to the comments detailed in Table 2 below no specific comments were raised in relation to the Affordable Housing SPD that warranted any amendments to the document. One representation did suggest the need for more affordable houses for large families. The amount and type of affordable housing that Blackpool needs is set out in the Blackpool Housing Affordability Study 2019. This evidence will be updated as we continue to work on the new Local Plan.

**Table 2 - Representations received during consultation February – March 2023**

No.	Name/Company	Type / Paragraph number /section	Comments	Blackpool Council Response
001	National Highways	General Comment	National Highways has no comments to make on the Draft Affordable Housing SPD for Blackpool.	Comments Noted.
002	Natural England	General Comment	Whilst we welcome this opportunity to give our views, the topic of the Supplementary Planning Document does not appear to relate to our interests to any significant extent. We therefore do not wish to comment.	Comments Noted.
003	Coal Authority	General Comment	<p>The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.</p> <p>As Blackpool Council lies outside the defined coalfield, the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make on this SPD.</p>	Comments Noted.
004	L Clarke	General Comment	Needs to be more affordable houses for large families.	Comments noted. The amount and type of affordable housing that Blackpool needs is set out in the <a href="#">Blackpool Housing Affordability Study 2019</a> . This evidence will be updated as we continue to work on the new Local Plan.
005	Historic England	General Comment	We have no comments to make on the SPD.	Comments noted.

No.	Name/Company	Type / Paragraph number /section	Comments	Blackpool Council Response
006	Environment Agency	General Comment	We have reviewed the SPD document, insofar as it relates to our remit, and on this occasion, we have no comments.	Comments noted.
007	Homes England	General Comment	Homes England does not wish to make any representations on the above consultation. We will however continue to engage with you as appropriate.	Comments noted.



## Appendix A: Consultation Material

Figure 1: Social Media Posts

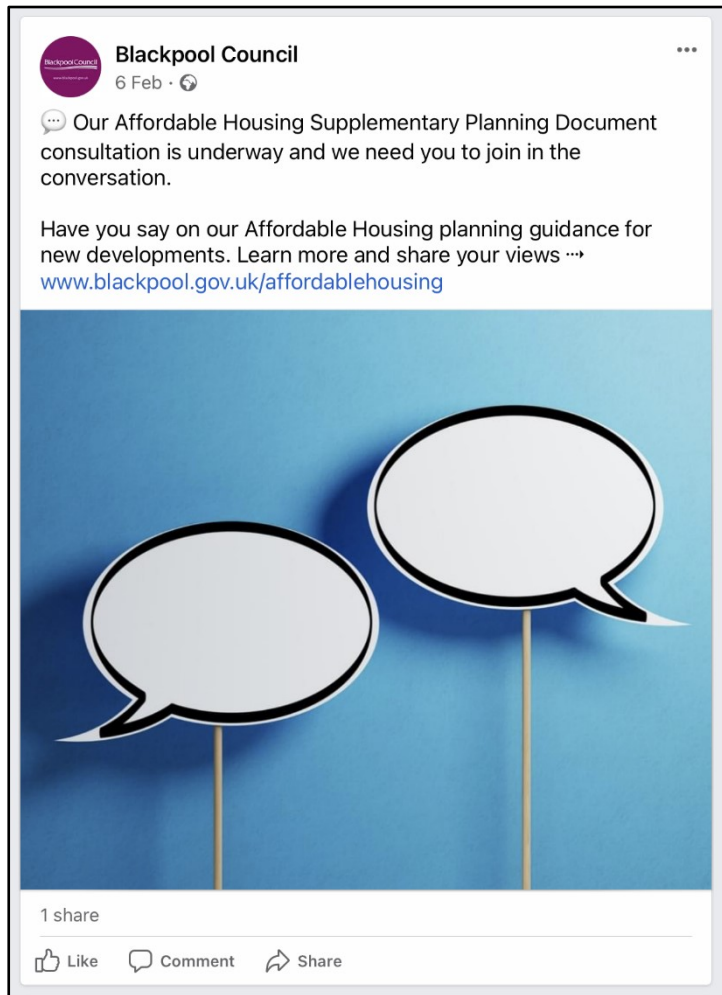
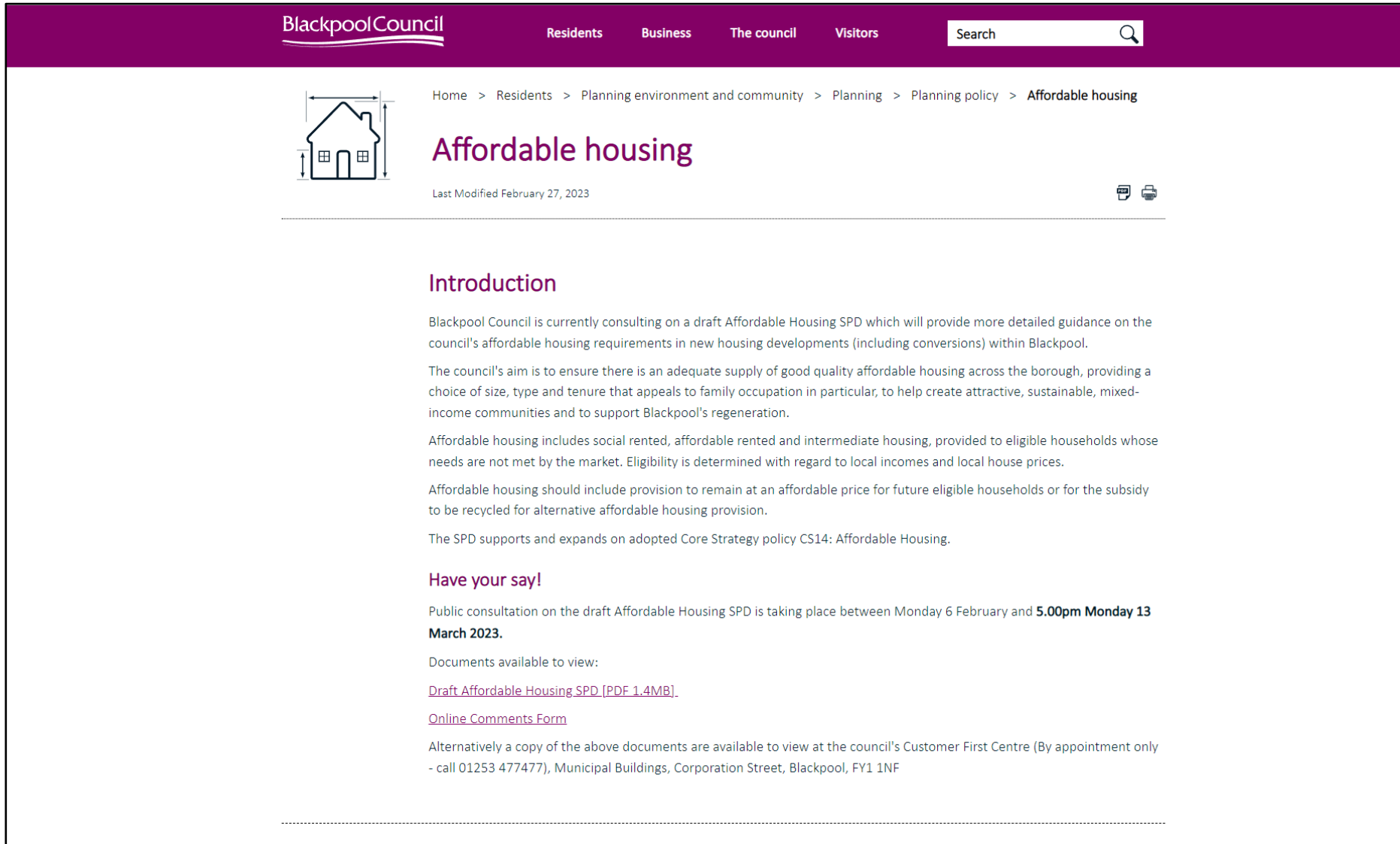


Figure 2: Webpage




The screenshot shows the Blackpool Council website page for Affordable Housing. The header is purple with the council logo and navigation links: Residents, Business, The council, and Visitors. A search bar is on the right. The breadcrumb trail is: Home > Residents > Planning environment and community > Planning > Planning policy > Affordable housing. The page title is 'Affordable housing' with a house icon and dimensions. It was last modified on February 27, 2023. The main content includes an 'Introduction' section with three paragraphs, a 'Have your say!' section with a public consultation period from Monday 6 February to 5.00pm Monday 13 March 2023, and links to documents and an online comments form. A footer note mentions alternative document viewing at the council's Customer First Centre.

Blackpool Council

Residents Business The council Visitors Search

Home > Residents > Planning environment and community > Planning > Planning policy > Affordable housing

 Affordable housing

Last Modified February 27, 2023

---

### Introduction

Blackpool Council is currently consulting on a draft Affordable Housing SPD which will provide more detailed guidance on the council's affordable housing requirements in new housing developments (including conversions) within Blackpool.

The council's aim is to ensure there is an adequate supply of good quality affordable housing across the borough, providing a choice of size, type and tenure that appeals to family occupation in particular, to help create attractive, sustainable, mixed-income communities and to support Blackpool's regeneration.

Affordable housing includes social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.

Affordable housing should include provision to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

The SPD supports and expands on adopted Core Strategy policy CS14: Affordable Housing.

### Have your say!

Public consultation on the draft Affordable Housing SPD is taking place between Monday 6 February and **5.00pm Monday 13 March 2023.**

Documents available to view:

[Draft Affordable Housing SPD \[PDF 1.4MB\]](#)

[Online Comments Form](#)


Alternatively a copy of the above documents are available to view at the council's Customer First Centre (By appointment only - call 01253 477477), Municipal Buildings, Corporation Street, Blackpool, FY1 1NF

Figure 3: Electronic Comments Form

Accessibility | Sitemap | Contact us | A to Z | News | Keep updated | listen

BlackpoolCouncil Residents Business The council Visitors Search

Home > Residents > Planning environment and community > Affordable housing SPD response form



## Affordable housing SPD response form

Last Modified: February 06, 2023

---

### Personal details

Title

Name \*  
First name  Last name

Organisation (where relevant)

Address  
Address Line 1   
Address Line 2

City

County

Postcode

Country

Email


Telephone

[Next Page](#)

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## Affordable housing SPD response form

Last Modified: February 06, 2023

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### Agent's details

if applicable

Title

Name  
First name  Last name

Organisation

Address  
Address Line 1   
Address Line 2

City

County

Postcode


Country

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## Affordable housing SPD response form

Last Modified February 06, 2023


Do you have any comments to make on the affordable housing SPD? \*

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Home > Residents > Planning environment and community > Affordable housing SPD response form



## Affordable housing SPD response form

Last Modified February 06, 2023

### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The data controller for any such personal data you may give us Blackpool Council. The council's data protection officer can be contacted at [data.protection.officer@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:data.protection.officer@blackpool.gov.uk). We will be processing such personal data in the following ways, depending on the data you provide to us:

Your personal data will be kept on file by us for the duration of the affordable housing SPD preparation and used to provide further updates in relation to consultations on the local plan, SPDs and other planning policy documents

We will not pass your details on to any third party.

You may request to be removed from our lists at any time by emailing [planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk) or writing to the Planning Strategy Team, Blackpool Council, PO Box 17, Corporation Street, Blackpool, FY1 1LZ stating you wish to be removed from the 'Local Plan Consultation Database'

I understand that all comments submitted will be made available for public inspection and will be identifiable to my name and organisation (if applicable).\*

Yes

Please return your completed response form by **5.00pm on Monday 13 March 2023.**

Name

First name


Last name

Date

[Previous Page](#)

Figure 4: Hard Copy Comments Form

Draft Affordable Housing SPD  
Comments Form – Feb 23



## Draft Affordable Housing Blackpool SPD – Consultation Comments Form

**Deadline for submitting comments:  
5pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Please submit your comments form in one of the following ways:

- by email to: [planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk)
- by post to: Planning Strategy, Blackpool Council, PO Box 17, Corporation Street, Blackpool FY1 1LZ

**\*\*Please note that your name/organisation and representation/s will be made publicly available**

### Contact Information

You must provide a contact name and address.

	Person/Organisation	Agent (if applicable)
Title		
First Name		
Last Name		
Job Title		
Organisation		
Address		
Postcode		
Telephone		
Email		

**Declaration**

I understand that all comments submitted will be made available for public inspection and will be identifiable to my name and organisation (if applicable).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1

Draft Affordable Housing SPD  
Comments Form – Feb 23

**General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**  
The data controller for any such personal data you may give us Blackpool Council. The Council's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at [dataprotectionofficer@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@blackpool.gov.uk). We will be processing such personal data in the following ways, depending on the data you provide to us:

- Your personal data will be kept on file by us for the duration of the Affordable Housing SPD preparation and used to provide further updates in relation to consultations on the Local Plan, SPDs and other planning policy documents
- We will not pass your details on to any third party
- You may request to be removed from our lists at any time by emailing [planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning.strategy@blackpool.gov.uk) or writing to the Planning Strategy Team, Blackpool Council, PO Box 17, Corporation Street, Blackpool, FY1 1LZ stating you wish to be removed from the 'Local Plan Consultation Database'

**1. Do you have any comments to make on the Affordable Housing SPD? (Please state paragraph number where applicable)**

Continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary

2

Figure 5: Email sent to consultees

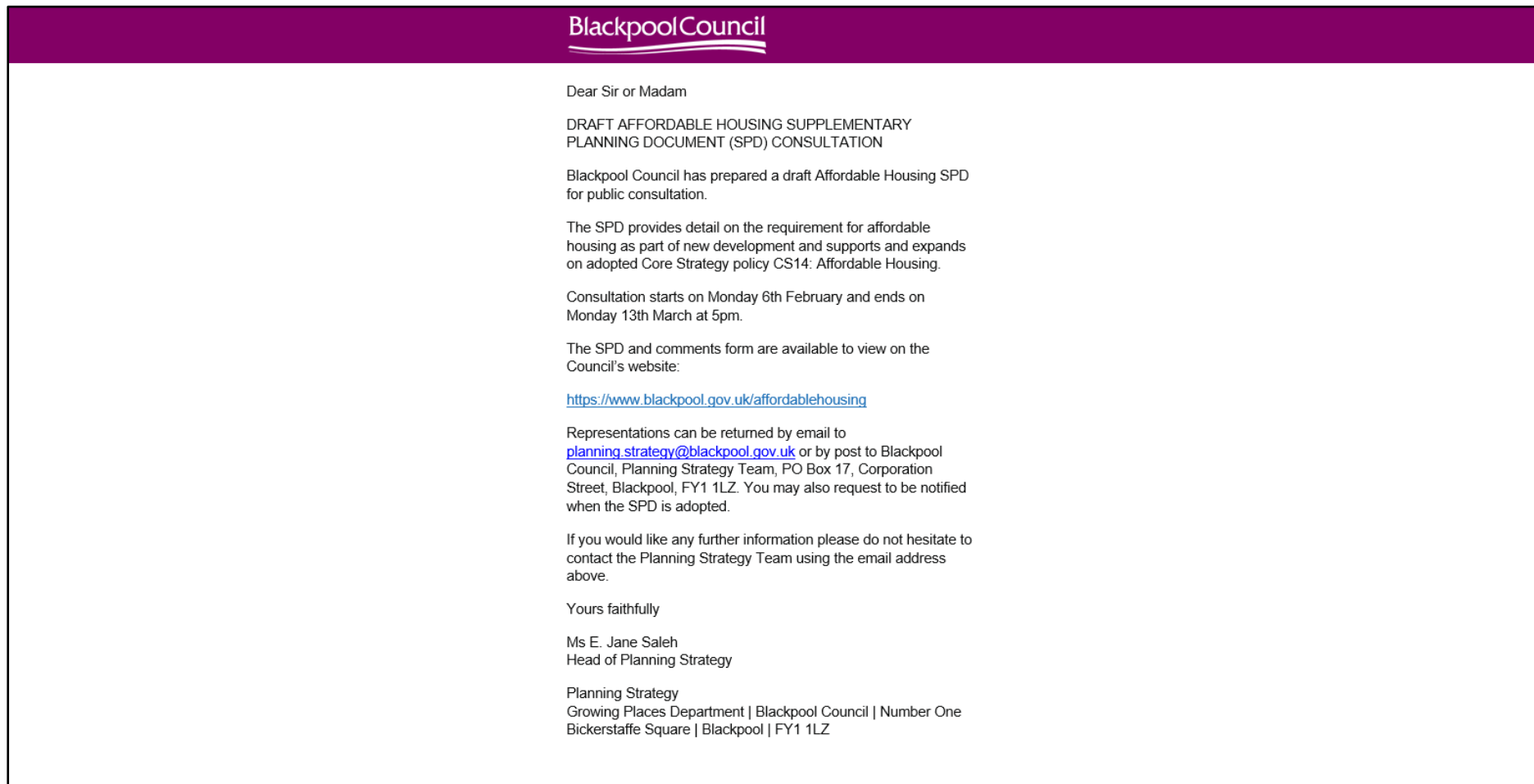
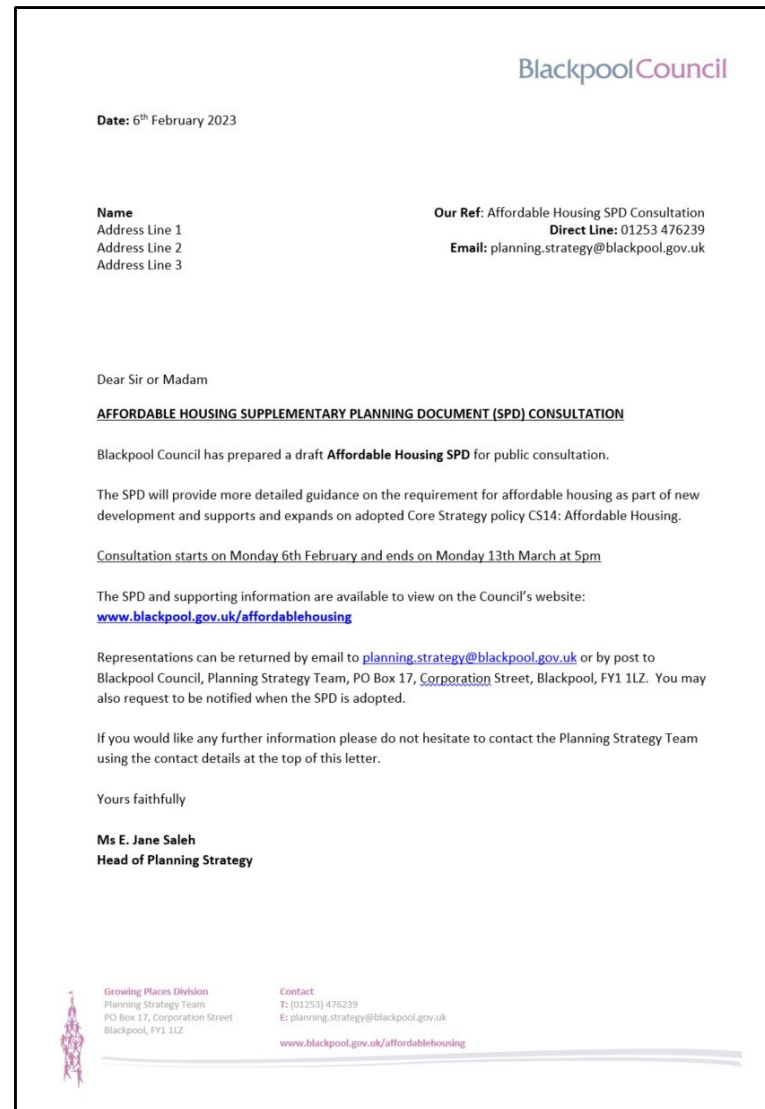


Figure 6: Letter sent to consultees without an email address



## Appendix B: Specific (Statutory) and General Consultees notified

Specific / Statutory Consultees	
Homes England	National Grid Land & Development
Lancashire County Council	Coal Authority
Fylde Borough Council	Environment Agency
Wyre Borough Council	Historic England
Preston City Council	Natural England
St Anne's Parish Council	Highways England
Westby with Plumpton Parish Council	Network Rail
Staining Parish Council	
NHS England	Marine Management Organisation
British Gas Properties	Orange
Electricity North West	O2
United Utilities	BT Group Plc, Regional Manager North West
Hutchinson 3G UK Limited (Three)	Mono Consultants Limited
Mobile Operators Association	T-Mobile
	Vodafone

General / Non-Statutory Consultees	
<b>Elected Representatives</b>	<b>Youth Groups, Schools, Colleges</b>
Blackpool North MP	Blackpool Young People's Council & Blackpool Voice
Blackpool South MP	Blackpool & Fylde College
European MPs	Blackpool Sixth Form College
Blackpool Councillors	Blackpool Scouts Service Team
<b>Bodies representing Disabled People</b>	Revoe Community Primary School
Fylde & Wyre Society for the Blind	
Motor Neurone Equalities Forum	<b>Local Businesses / Business Groups</b>



Leonard Cheshire North West Region	Business Link Lancashire
Princess Alexandra Home for the Blind	Federation of Small Businesses
Blackpool Society for Mentally Handicapped	Lancashire Economic Partnership
Blackpool Fylde & Wyre Mind	Blackpool Self-Catering Association
Deaf Society	StayBlackpool
Fibromyalgia Support Group	Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board
RNIB	Blackpool Fylde & Wyre Trades Union Council
	North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
<b>Voluntary Bodies</b>	
Council for Voluntary Service	CL Edwards & Sons Ltd
Barnardos Blackpool Project	Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators Assoc.
Blackpool SURF	Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)
Community Futures	Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
Blackpool Friends of Kingscote Park	Tesco
Blackpool & Fylde Rail Users' Association	Blackpool BID
Friends of the Grand	Town Centre Manager
	Advice Link
<b>Public Transport Operators</b>	
Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	Blackpool Major Retailers Consortium
First North Western	Citizens Advice Bureau
Northern Rail	Blackpool Airport
Virgin Trains (North West Region)	RealTimeUK North
	King Street Dental Surgery
<b>Conservation, Preservation &amp; Amenity</b>	
Civic Trust Regeneration Unit	Blackpool & Fylde Friends of the Earth
CPRE Lancashire Branch	Fylde Coast Bridleways Assoc.
Council for the Protection of Rural England	Fylde Coast Cycling Action Group
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Ramblers Association
RSPB	RSPB
National Playing Fields Association	Sport England

Sustainability North West (SNW)	Bourne Leisure
Theatres Trust	Blackpool Football Club
The Woodland Trust	Job Centre Plus Blackpool
Conservation Officer Lancashire Wildlife Trust	Blackpool Airport
Fylde Bird Club	Evening Gazette
Blackpool Environmental Action Team (BEAT)	
Blackpool & Fylde Conservation Volunteers	Martin Yates Independent Living Services
Blackpool Civic Trust	Blackpool Pleasure Beach
<b>Different Religious Groups</b>	Carers UK
Faith Forum	Beneast Training Ltd
Blackpool Congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses	Progress Recruitment
	Royal Mail Group Plc
<b>Other</b>	Department For Constitutional Affairs
Lancashire Constabulary	Public Sector Manager Ubiquis
	Relate Lancashire
	Blackpool Combined Association
	Blackpool Connexions
	Morrison Supermarkets PLC
	Noble Organisation
	Warburtons Fylde Ltd

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 July 2023

## **FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE BLACKPOOL LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To consider the proposal for a managed exit from the current Pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) and develop a place based Safeguarding Partnership for Blackpool and seek Executive approval for work to progress through to delivery.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To approve in principle for the Pan-Lancashire Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) to return its governance and structure to a Blackpool placed based Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership, superseding the decision of the Executive from 25 February 2019 (Decision EX19/2019 refers).
- 2.2 To agree that the existing Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) arrangement continues to exist to analyse the Pan-Lancashire data regarding 0-18 yr. old deaths.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Director of Children Services on behalf of the Council to:
- work with senior representatives from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lancashire Constabulary as the 3 Strategic Leading organisations to sign off the final terms of reference and memberships on behalf of the Council and note that these will also be approved at the first meeting of the Blackpool Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Governance bodies.
  - deal with any resourcing implications arising from the review.

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

3.1 An evaluation effectiveness review has been undertaken regarding the current pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) arrangements, to drive forward improvement and this review has recommended a return to a local place based approach.

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

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

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

4.1 To continue with the existing arrangements which are no longer considered appropriate.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 On the 25 February 2019 the Executive considered a report on the replacement of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to comply with the new area children's safeguarding arrangements (EX19/2019 refers). That Decision Notice included the following decisions:

1. To approve in principle the revised arrangements for the Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board to replace the Blackpool Local Safeguarding Children's Board in line with the Statement of Principles outlined in the report.
2. To note that the current Serious Case Review arrangements will be replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
3. To note that the existing Child Death Overview Panel will continue to exist in the form outlined in paragraph 5.2 of the Executive report.
4. To delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Partnerships to sign off the final terms of reference and memberships on behalf of the Council and note that these will also be approved at the first meeting of the bodies and by the Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Pan Lancashire Children’s Safeguarding Arrangements have been in place and operational since 2019, with a Joint Business Unit in place to service this structure. This Joint Business Unit has been jointly funded and hosted by Lancashire County Council. At the time these safeguarding governance arrangements were put in place, the impending pandemic was not anticipated and the resulting change to the nature of safeguarding issues for children and families in our community.

- 6.2 As a result of this changing landscape, an evaluation effectiveness review has been undertaken regarding Pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) arrangements agreed in February 2019. The review was to drive forward improvement and this review has recommended a return to a local place based approach. The unanimous view of the three Director of Children Services (Blackpool, Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen), the strategic partnerships Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lancashire Constabulary is that returning to place based arrangements will ensure that are local based strategic priorities focus on the needs of our community local need, vulnerability and risk.
- 6.3 Having placed based safeguarding arrangements offers the opportunity to bring the Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) with the Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB) and Blackpool BSafe Community Safety Board, so the Blackpool placed based partnership leadership team and workforce ensure Blackpool’s children young people, vulnerable adults and communities are supported at the earliest stage and effectively safeguarded from experiencing harm.
- 6.4 The proposed new arrangements will involve the Commissioning of an Independent Scrutineer (within delegated budget), to hold partnership leadership to provide evidence based assurance of the quality of their practice safeguarding children and how they have implemented multi agency audits and case review learning.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The new proposal for returning to place-based arrangements are within the current budget envelope.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 In considering this action full observation has been given to the Statutory framework:-  
“Working Together to safeguard Children” which contains legislation relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The revised governance arrangements will also ensure that changes made by the revised “Working Together to Safeguard Children” are implemented by Blackpool Partnership agencies, this Statutory Guidance is currently subsequent to national consultation until 6 September 2023. [Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Risk

There is a risk to child protection and safeguarding if the change to these arrangements is not made effectively. Key steps in this report seek to minimize that risk.

10.2 Human Resources:

There may be TUPE implications, and these will be considered when the staffing structure to support these arrangements across all three local authorities is finalised. Work with human resources support teams across all three local authorities will take place.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The Council does not believe that there will be any adverse impact of these proposal and will monitor the implementation to ensure there is no adverse impact of these proposals.

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

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 There has been extensive consultation and collaboration between all partners involved within the current arrangements and agreements reached in relation to this decision. This included the three Local Authorities along with partners from health. On the 19 June 2023 a workshop with all partners was held to finalise views on the proposed structures. A formal consultation will commence during the summer in relation to the staff within the current Business Unit.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed:

Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1

**19.0 Summary of Discussion:**

19.1

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1

**21.0 Date of Decision:**

21.1

**22.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

22.1

**23.0 Date Decision published:**

23.1

**24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

24.1

**25.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

25.1

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1