

# Public Document Pack

# Blackpool Council

1 September 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, 11 September 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 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 3 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 - 2026/27

(Pages 1 - 66)

To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 3 months to 30 June 2023. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27.

**3 ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY** (Pages 67 - 104)

The report seeks approval for an updated version of the Adult Social Care charging policy

**4 BLACKPOOL TOWER STRUCTURAL STEEL REPLACEMENT AND REPAINTING** (Pages 105 - 116)

To progress the continued renewal and repainting of the Blackpool Tower steel structure including the completion of all due diligence associated with the project and to complete the project funding package.

**\* 5 TOWN CENTRE INVESTMENT** (Pages 117 - 146)

This report and Appendices are 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 scheme 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)

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11 September 2023

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 3 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 – 2026/27**

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

1.1 To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 3 months to 30 June 2023. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27.

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

2.1 To note the report.

2.2 To require the respective directors, Chief Executive and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically the social care services.

2.3 To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of Council services.

2.4 To continue to lobby central government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Department for Health and Social Care and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the burdens and demands presenting as a result of exceptional inflationary pressures and demographic demands upon statutory services.

2.5 To continue to work towards target working balances of £6m by 31 March 2024 rising to £8m by 31 March 2025.

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

3.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council’s Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

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:

None.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

**6.0 Background Information**

**6.1 Introduction and Context**

Over the 13-year period 2011/12 – 2023/24 cumulative Revenue Budget savings amounting to £218.0m have been required to be made by Blackpool Council in order to balance its Revenue Budget each year. This is greater than the Council’s current annual Net Requirement Budget of £176.2m and even more starkly the compound effect over the same period amounts to nearly £1.6bn of resource that has been removed from the Blackpool economy. This reflects one of the highest reductions per head of population across local authorities in England and in an environment of growing demand upon services as befalling an authority with such recognised pockets of significant deprivation.

The principles of the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategies 2016/17-21/22 and 2021/22-26/27 have been used to successfully keep pace with and deliver budget savings plans year after year. However, in tandem the soaring demand for child protection services and adult social care provision plus the rising costs of providing such care are still creating a burden that current levels of local taxation and Government funding struggle to meet. In addition, the financial consequences of Covid have been material (£3.16m in 2020/21 and £2.59m in 2021/22 both net of Government grants) with little prospect now of any further Government financial support.

The last 13 years have seen unprecedented volatility within local government finance: 9 years of successive central government funding cuts between 2011/12 – 2019/20 were followed by the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union, 2 years of a global pandemic with legacy consequences and a war within the European continent whilst a promised Fair Funding Review has now been delayed by a decade. Indeed the most favourable social care grants currently receivable are based on a relative needs formula of 2013 which themselves are based on 2001 census data. This has all conspired to produce a perfect storm of labour and supply shortages, pay demands, excessive inflation, continually rising interest rates in the Bank of England’s attempt to stem the pressure and a central government funding system that is decades out of synchronisation. During this period the Council has strived to i) deliver its annual budget in line with statutory requirements; ii) maintain its reserves and balances at stable and appropriate levels that reflect the risk environment; iii) consistently fund and deliver the ambitions of successive administrations; and iv) deliver for the people of Blackpool. However, here in the present, sector experts and economic commentators cannot agree how and when these key drivers of the economy will land, which makes medium-term financial planning and financial management extremely challenging.

When the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 was approved by Council on 22 February 2023, realistic service budgets had been agreed and set, an achievable budget savings plan was in place, reasonable levels of working balances and earmarked reserves were available and the medium-term outlook was as favourable as it had been for some time with additional Government support for social care funding having been announced. However, within weeks local government employers had made a pay offer at nearly three times that provided within the Budget, non-pay inflation remained stubbornly high with June CPI at 7.9% and RPI at 10.7% though welcome reductions being seen in electricity and gas costs, the more costlier social care cases experiencing growing demand, the base rate increasing (and for the 14th consecutive time in August) and inevitable consequential pressures emerging from some of the Council’s capital schemes.

- 6.2 This report sets out the summary revenue budget position for the Council and its individual directorates for the first 3 months of 2023/24, ie. the period to 30th June 2023, together with an outlook for the remainder of the year. The report is complemented with an assessment of performance to date of balances and reserves, income collection, the Council’s latest Capital Programme and statements relating to Cash Flow Summary and Balance Sheet Summary. It also incorporates the impact of the Council’s wholly-owned companies for which the Council is parent company and underwriter.

Separate reports have been prepared for each of the Council’s core areas of responsibility:

- Appendix 2b - Chief Executive
- Appendix 2c - Governance and Partnership Services
- Appendix 2d - Ward Budgets
- Appendix 2e - Resources
- Appendix 2f - Communications and Regeneration
- Appendix 2g - Strategic Leisure Assets
- Appendix 2h - Growth and Prosperity
- Appendix 2i - Community and Environmental Services
- Appendix 2j - Adult Services
- Appendix 2k - Children's Services
- Appendix 2l - Public Health
- Appendix 2m - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit
- Appendix 2n - Housing Revenue Account
- Appendix 2o - Wholly-owned Companies

These incorporate summary financial statements which continue to be prepared on a full accruals basis and focus on the forecast revenue outturns for 2023/24. There is an accompanying narrative to explain any areas of significant variance from budget and to highlight any areas of potential pressure along with action plans agreed with service managers to address them.

The combined effect of the directorates' financial performances is aggregated in a summary financial statement at Appendix 2a which mirrors the Council's Revenue Budget Book. This summary allows proactive month-on-month monitoring of the Council's forecast working balances to be undertaken to ensure appropriate and prudent levels are maintained.

### 6.3 **Budget Performance**

At its meeting on 8 November 2021 the Executive approved the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy for 2021/22 to 2026/27. As part of the Strategy it was agreed that due to the current level of financial risk and volatility the roll forward of service budget under and overspends is suspended in order that finances can be managed more strategically at corporate level. The exception to this related to any underspend in respect of the scheme commitments on Ward Budgets, however because 2023/24 is an election year there will be no carry-forward in accordance with an earlier overriding Executive decision.

The full-year forecast position at this stage of 2023/24 shows a deterioration in the Council's financial standing when compared with the estimated draft unaudited position as at the close of 2022/23 which showed working balances of £2,459k. Working balances are expected to fall to a surplus of **£1,049k** by the end of 2023/24 after taking account of the budgeted transfer of £4,335k to working balances. Plans

are being developed to address the in-year pressures identified in this report with fortnightly meetings held between the Chief Executive, Director of Resources and respective directors of the more pressured services.

The Council’s Revenue Budget for 2023/24 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. It is deemed appropriate to maintain this target level of £6m for working balances for the medium term and to continue to work towards target working balances of £6m by 31 March 2024 rising to £8m by 31 March 2025.

The impacts of directorates’ revenue budget performance and progress in achieving planned savings fall upon the Council’s working balances. The main areas accounting for the month 3 forecast overspend of **£5,745k** for 2023/24 are summarised below:-

Directorate	Service	Forecast Variance £000
Children’s Services	<p>An overspend of £5,469k is forecast. The full-year impact of the Children’s Social Care pressures as at M7 2022/23 has been rightsized as part of the Corporate Medium Term-Financial Plan, equating to an additional budget of £5,221k allocated in 2023/24. However, Children’s Social Care Placements is forecasting an overspend against this increased budget of £4,700k, mainly due new-to-care placements being higher than those exiting care and the additional support required following the breakdown of high-cost placements. The actual number of residential placements as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 is 84 with this forecast to reduce to 69 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, whereas the plan suggested there would be 71 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June reducing to 60 by the end of March 2024. There was also an additional savings target of £1,924k, of which only £1,155k is anticipated to be met this financial year, leaving a further budget gap of £769k.</p> <p>However, the number of Children in Care continues to reduce and currently sits at 540 children. This brings Blackpool from a rate of 218 per 0-17 10,000 population to 194. The ambition is to bring ourselves in line with comparator Local Authorities over the next couple of years and we are confident that this ambition will realised. Officers have seen this reduction as a result of reduced entry into care, and increased numbers exiting our care system. Within the cohort of Children Looked</p>	5,469

	<p>After, the Council has had a higher than national average of children in residential placements. Residential settings, for most children, are not the optimum placement and these children do not usually have the same degree of positive outcomes as children in foster placements, or family placements for example. Residential placements are costly, with unit costs rising year on year by 14.1%. We have seen movement in the numbers of residential placements, from 84 to 76 as a result of a focussed, ongoing piece of work led by our newly recruited Head of Service for Supporting our Children. We have reviewed a number of care plans and as a result children have been moved from residential settings to settings that better meet their needs, always ensuring their safety and individual needs are at the forefront when planning.</p> <p>The service has additionally seen a reduction in agency social work staff during the last 12-18 months. In 2021/2022 the service had rates of up to 40% agency staff in some teams. A refreshed Workforce Strategy, overseen by a Workforce Board, chaired monthly by the Director of Childrens Services, has seen a reduction of agency staff to under 15% across the social care teams. The national average is now 17% and regionally the rate is much higher. The last set of regional data put Blackpool at the lowest for agency rates. Officers continue to monitor this closely in a challenging and competitive market.</p>	
Adult Services	<p>An overspend of £2,702k is forecast. Adult Commissioning Placements is forecasting an overspend of £2,845k. There are savings shortfalls of £1,012k from the proposal in which the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were expected to provide additional income of £1.6m into the Better Care Fund (BCF) and a further shortfall on Winter Pressures funding of £337K. There is a pressure of £1,175k in Supported Living due to additional packages of care along with £475k of pressures due to additional packages of short-term care linked to hospital discharge. An increased number of complex case packages have also created a pressure of £123k. £400k pressures relates to Out of Area Residential and Nursing Placements fee uplifts being significantly greater than forecast but are being offset by £225k in savings due to fewer bed nights.</p>	2,702

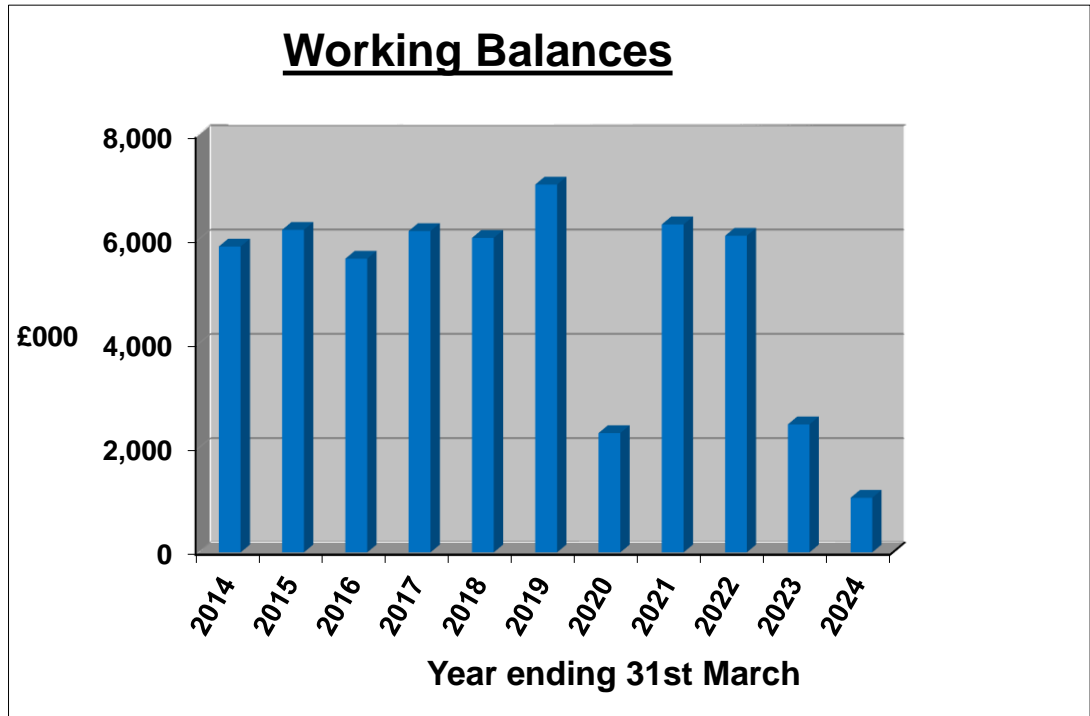


	There is a £70k pressure on Homecare whereby the current commissioned hours exceeds budget. Direct payment pressures of £80k are resulting from a forecasted reduction in claw-backs based on year-to-date actuals. There is £602k in the forecast relating to the recently announced Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund which is being used to offset the residential/nursing top ups and Out of Area fee rates.	
Community and Environmental Services	An overspend of £500k is forecast. Children's Transport Services is reporting an overspend of £500k due to a combination of increased demand pressures and historic savings targets which have not been able to be achieved. Waste Services are reporting a break-even position. There are forecast pressures within Street Cleansing and within Public Conveniences, where an inflationary uplift has been applied to the contract. Trade Waste income, however, is forecasting an increase against budget that will offset these pressures. There are pressures in other services of the Directorate but these are expected to be covered by other savings and income generation.	500
Communications and Regeneration	A break-even position is forecast. There are risks around income generation in Tourism and Communications as a result of the cost of living crisis and increased costs in relation to the Illuminations extension that will be quantified later in the year.	Nil
Strategic Leisure Assets	Strategic Leisure Assets is forecasting a break-even position. In accordance with the original decision for this programme by the Executive on 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2011 any under or overspend on Strategic Leisure Assets will be transferred to an Earmarked Reserve. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,690k. In 2023/24 a transfer of £1,420k has been made to Contributions to Reserves reducing this deficit balance to £9,270k. This transfer is in line with the budget. The Leisure Assets medium-term financial plan currently expects the service to break-even cumulatively by 2034/35.	Nil
Growth and Prosperity	An underspend of £3,600k is forecast. This is due to the expectation of proceeds raised from the current work programme exceeding costs including prudential	Nil

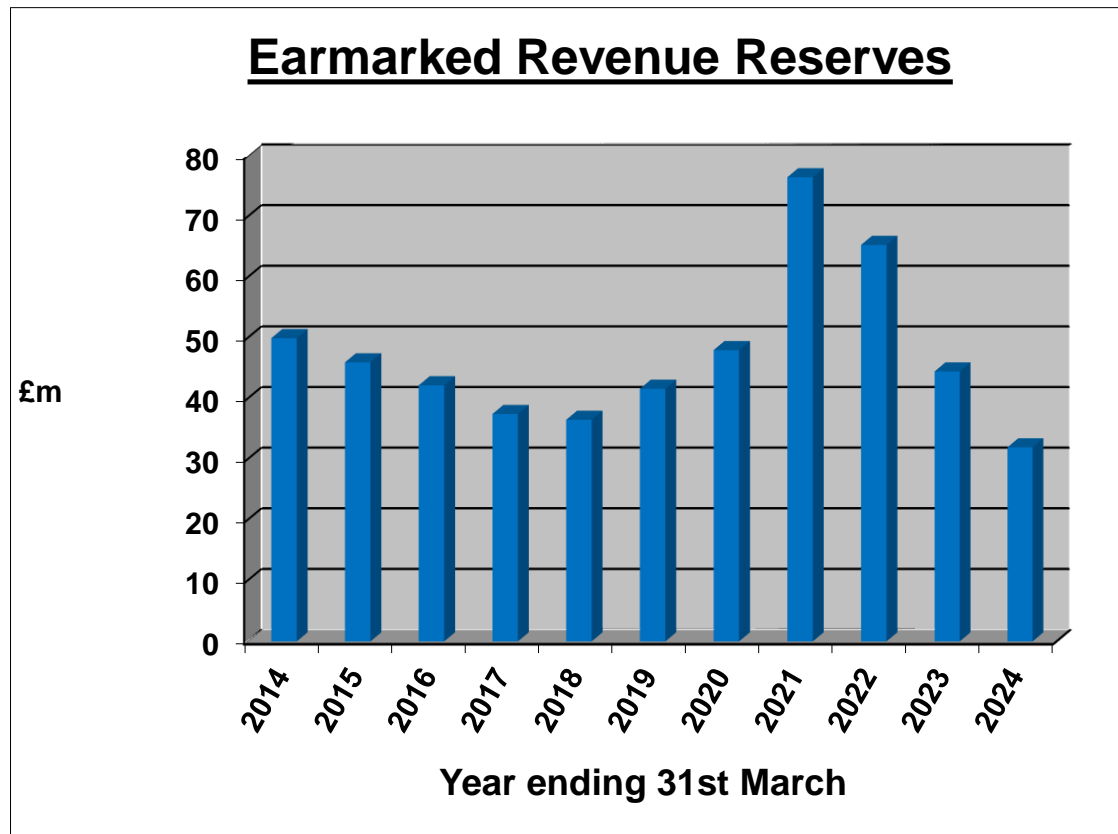
	<p>borrowing. The Executive at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 agreed to the approach to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-23/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for re-investment. This surplus will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,125k and it is therefore expected that the balance at the end of 2023/24 will be £6,525k.</p>	
Public Health	<p>A break-even position is forecast. The Public Health Directorate is forecasting spending the full grant of £19,858,394 in the financial year to March 2024.</p>	Nil
Governance and Partnership Services	<p>An underspend is forecast due to a release of reserves that are now deemed as no longer required.</p>	(22)
Chief Executive	<p>An underspend is forecast due to a release of reserves that are now deemed as no longer required.</p>	(200)
Resources	<p>An underspend of £161k is forecast. Savings of £186k across the Directorate relate to staff vacancies, additional income from increased rents, new leases, HMRC, other income generation opportunities and the receipt of New Burdens funding for the Covid-19 business support grant post-assurance work.</p>	(161)
Contingencies and Reserves	<p>The original Contingencies Cash Limited Budget was £7,722k. Movements out of Contingencies since the beginning of the financial year have been reflected in services' Cash Limited Budgets. Services will be experiencing both pay and non-pay pressures during the year. The cost of the pending pay award (based on the initial pay offer which has been rejected) is estimated at £4,829k compared to the provision in Contingencies for a 2% pay award of £1,686k resulting in an initial pressure of £3,143k. However, energy is currently forecast to cost £5,542k compared to the provision in Contingences of £8,699k resulting in a saving of £3,157k. Adult Services have updated the Adults Reserve forecast and this is</p>	(1,006)

	reflected in the Reserve tables below. This has also improved the Contingencies position by £1,000k. The overall net impact is therefore an underspend of £1,006k.	
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	An underspend of £1,337k is forecast. Treasury Management is forecasting an underspend of £1,329k, which includes £2,184k of prudential recharges to services and means that the £150k savings target will be met in 2023/24. The underspend is primarily due to delays in the construction of some of the authority's larger projects leading to reduced actual charges being incurred. Offset against this is the £992k relating to higher interest rates on temporary borrowing with interest rates predicated to increase further over the duration of the financial year. These increases are likely to have a negative impact on the current position of the service. The Council is currently using 50:50 temporary and long-term borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure and this gearing is under continual review by the Treasury Management Panel. The Business Loans Fund has a savings target of £154k and is forecasting a surplus of £151k as new business loans have been awarded recently. Following a review of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which was approved by the Executive on 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021, a saving of £5,158k has been released in 2023/24. All other services within the Budgets Outside the Cash Limit are forecasting no in-year pressures in 2023/24. Although Parking Services is currently forecasting a break-even position, this will eventually depend on the weather during the holiday season, the impact of cost of living pressures and the availability of parking due to regenerational projects within the town.	(1,337)
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,745</b>

The graph below shows the stark impact on the level of Council working balances in year together with the last 10 years' year-end balances for comparison:



Whilst the Council maintains working balances to address any in-year volatilities, it also maintains a number of Earmarked Revenue Reserves (ERR) for such longer-term commitments as future Private Finance Initiative payments, uncertainties within the Localised Business Rate system and self-insured risks and insurance excesses. In order to present a complete picture of the Council's financial standing an equivalent graph to that of working balances, including a projection to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, is shown below:



Provisional Available Earmarked Reserves    £m

Provisional Balance at 1st April 2023	44.511
Less: Savings target	(9.946)
Add: Contributions to Reserves on Council Tax summary	2.136
Add: Growth and Prosperity Reserve	3.600
Less: Savings targets in services to be transferred from reserves	(0.440)
Less: Balance on contributions to/from reserves budget	(3.156)
Less: Estimated other movements in 2023/24	<u>(4.697)</u>
Forecast Available Earmarked Revenue Reserves as at 31st March 2024	<u>32.008</u>

## 6.4 Budget Savings

Appendix 2p comprises a summary schedule showing the progress made by directorates in achieving their revenue budget savings targets for 2023/24 which total £23,395k. As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 60% of the 2023/24 recurrent savings target has been delivered. The full-year forecast predicts that 88% will be achieved by the year-end.

## 6.5 Collection Rates

### Council Tax

Being the most deprived local authority in England per the Office for National Statistics, collection of Council Tax is a challenge but 2022/23 saw an improvement in collection rate to 5<sup>th</sup> lowest and this progress has continued with the amount collected for Council Tax (excluding Police and Fire precepts) being £17.7m and the collection rate **25.5%** at the end of month 3. This compares to £16.4m and 25.2% at the same point in 2022/23. The amount collected has risen by 1.3m, which is mainly due to increases in both the Council Tax rate and base.

In the light of the reductions in discount and the introduction of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme the target collection rate is still 97.5% over a 4-year collection period as approved on 31 January 2023 as part of the setting of the Council Tax Base for 2023/24.

### Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. It is approved annually to ensure that a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is in place by the start of the following financial year thereby avoiding the financial risks associated with the Government imposing a default scheme. The current 2023/24 Scheme was approved by the Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 to ensure that Council Tax support is available to the working aged and pensioners based upon a means test.

At the end of month 3 the amount collected (excluding Police and Fire precepts) in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax for those who have to pay CTRS either for the first time or in addition to a proportion of their Council Tax was £0.69m and the collection rate was **19.8%**. This compares to £0.76m and 17.9% at the same point in 2022/23.

The likely impact for 2023/24 is that the underlying rate of collection of Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be under similar pressure to 2022/23 due to accumulated arrears, limits on the amount that can be recovered from Attachment of Benefits and the impact of the cost of living crisis on disposable household income.

## Business Rates

Prior to 1 April 2013 Business Rate income was collected by billing authorities on behalf of central government and then redistributed among all local authorities and police authorities as part of Formula Grant. Since then the income relating to Blackpool is shared between central government (50%), the Council (49%) and the Fire Authority (1%) other than for an intermittent period when Blackpool Council participated in a Lancashire-wide pooling arrangement.

During 2022/23 Blackpool's collection rate rose significantly from 21<sup>st</sup> lowest in England to 32<sup>nd</sup> lowest and this progress has continued with the amount collected for Business Rates being £10.7m and the collection rate **28.0%** at the end of month 3. This compares to £11.6m and 26.9% at the same point in 2022/23. 2022/23 excludes the s31 Extended Retail/Nurseries, etc. relief provided by central government which reduced to 50% in 2022/23. This will have a slight impact on future collection rates.

From April 2014 Business Ratepayers have been entitled to elect to pay by 12 monthly installments instead of over 10 months which has allowed businesses more time to pay.

In the 3 months to the end of June 2023- 147 business rate summonses were issued.

## Capital Monitoring Performance

- 6.6 All active capital schemes have been included within Appendix 2q. The purpose is to present the overall position of capital spend. The schemes are shown individually where total scheme budget is greater than £500k and grouped as "other schemes" otherwise. As in previous financial years, the emphasis regarding capital monitoring will be on scheme variance rather than in-year progress since many schemes cross financial years such as the major housing developments. Therefore, some degree of flexibility for the management of slippage is necessary in order to balance the overall capital programme each year to the funding allocations available.

The report includes the capital programme as approved by the Executive on 6th February 2023. The month 3 report includes this data for comparative purposes. Future reports may show further changes in the Capital Programme, representing schemes that were approved after submission of the 2023/24 capital programme.

The economic climate remains challenging. High inflation, rising interest rates, supply chain issues (particularly in relation to steel) and a lack of labour are leading to increased costs, primarily on capital schemes that are likely to span a number of years. An ongoing review of capital schemes is therefore being undertaken to establish any schemes where approved budgets may become insufficient and potential overspendings identified. Therefore, in tandem an asset disposal plan is

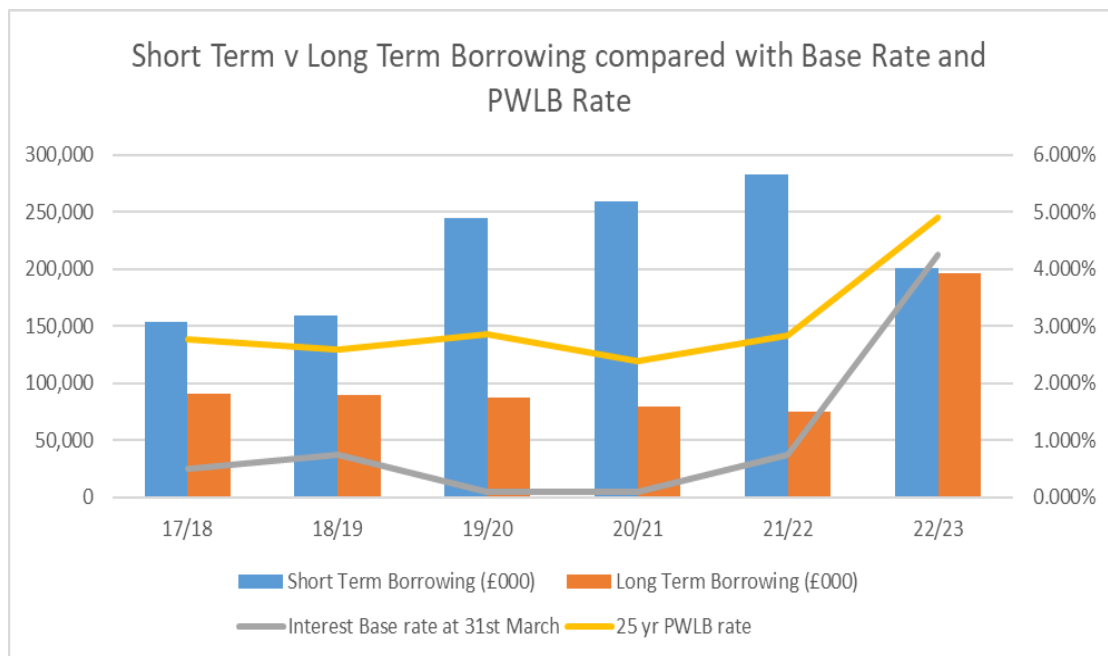
being developed to generate capital receipts that may be applied to offset any such pressures. In some cases where appropriate, legal challenge / adjudication will be considered to redress the position. Where uncertainties of outcomes (adverse or favourable) still exist, scheme forecast variances are shown as break-even but highlighted as amber.

### 6.7 Summary Cash Flow Statement

As part of the reporting format for this financial year a summary cash flow statement is included at Appendix 2r. This provides a comparison of the actual cash receipts and payments compared to forecast for 2023/24.

During the first 3 months of the year the Council’s net cashflow has resulted in fluctuations in short-term net investment/borrowing balances due to the receipt of up-front grant income in this financial year. The Council fixed £125m of temporary loans in August 2022 at around 3.0%, which resulted in an increase in investment balances and over the next few months short-term borrowing will be repaid using the fixed-term borrowing taken.

The graph below demonstrate the changes in the profile of the Council’s borrowings over the last 6 years. It shows that Council borrowing has increased from less than £250m at the end of 2017/18 to nearly £400m at the end of 2022/23. The profile of this borrowing has also changed as we now have a 50:50 split between long-term and short-term borrowing as interest rates have rapidly risen with uncertainties on where they will land and with consequences of increased borrowing costs.





## 6.8 **Summary Balance Sheet**

In order to provide a complete picture of the Council's financial performance Appendix 2s provides a snapshot of the General Fund balance sheet as at the end of month 3. The key areas of focus are any significant movements in debtors, cash and cash equivalents, bank overdraft and creditors as these impact upon the Council's performance in the critical areas of debt recovery, treasury management and Public Sector Payment Policy.

The balance sheet has been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/IASs). Each year an accounting adjustment under IAS 19 is made for the value of the pension fund at year-end. In 2022/23, for the first time, this produced a pension asset rather than a pension liability. It is currently under review by the Council's external auditor, Deloitte, as to whether or not the Council can show the full amount of this pension asset. Therefore, the figure is subject to change but does not affect the level of usable reserves available to the Council.

Due to a consultation regarding the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets the 2020/21 and 2021/22 accounts have not yet been completely signed off by the Council's external auditor. The audits are ongoing and as soon as these are completed the 2022/23 balance sheet will be amended, therefore the figures should be treated as draft and subject to change.

Over the 3-month period there has been an increase in Property, Plant and Equipment of £17.5m due to capital expenditure which is in line with the Council's approved capital programme for 2023/24. Cash and cash equivalents have decreased by £6.3m and short-term borrowing has decreased by £25.9m due to the timing of capital and revenue grants.

## 6.9 **Medium-Term Financial Plan Update and Earmarked Reserves Forecast**

The 6-year Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy (MTFSS) covering 2021/22 – 2026/27 was approved by the Executive on 8th November 2021 and whilst the principles still stand the current economic climate has had a significant impact on the supporting Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Officers are meeting fortnightly to review and continuously update the Medium-Term Financial Plan and it is intended that an updated plan will be reported to the Corporate Leadership Team on 5 September 2023.

The detail of the updated position will then be reported to a future Executive as part of the financial monitoring, but a latest indication of future Budget gaps based on current information is given below:

Medium Term Financial Plan v1.4		
2024/25	Budget Gap	2026/27
£m	2025/26	£m
	£m	
<b>22.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>

As part of this budget planning process which consolidates the individual MTFPs of the Children’s, Adult and Growth and Prosperity services, a detailed exercise has also been undertaken on their consequences upon Earmarked Revenue Reserves to check the validity of amounts held and a forecast of when funds will be drawn down over the same period as the latest MTFSS. A summary table is shown below

Reserves Summary						
Directorate	Draft 31/02/22	Est Balance 31/03/23	Est Balance 31/03/24	Est Balance 31/03/25	Est Balance 31/03/26	Est Balance 31/03/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Total</b>	<b>(65.4)</b>	<b>(44.5)</b>	<b>(32.0)</b>	<b>(28.2)</b>	<b>(29.6)</b>	<b>(32.0)</b>

In addition to General Fund Earmarked Revenue Reserves the Council Holds a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserve to manage the Schools, High Needs and Early Years Blocks of grant. Under a Statutory Override to 2025/26 this reserve is maintained separately from the Council’s portfolio of revenue reserves as many local authorities are in significant deficit and their consolidation could tip their overall financial standing into deficit. In Blackpool’s case the DSG Reserve stood at a deficit of £2,784k as at 31/03/23 but with the support of the Department for Education’s Safety Valve Programme this reserve is planned to return to surplus in 2024/25.

A further reserve to note is the Council’s Housing Revenue Account, a ringfenced account for the management and maintenance of the Council’s housing stock. As at 31/03/23 this reserve was at a level of £1,720k and ahead of its minimum agreed level of £1m.

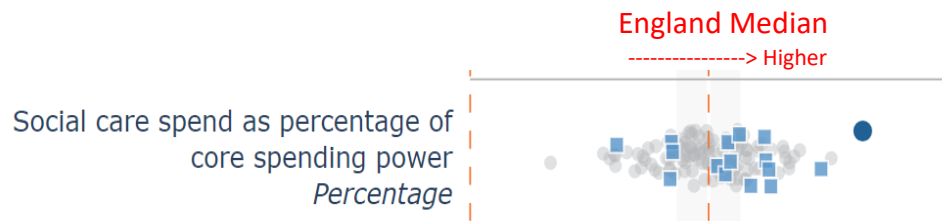
## 6.10 Central Government Monitoring and Oversight

Local government finance is clearly in a fragile and precarious position. There are at least 23 local authorities who have been outed in the media recently for challenges with their financial standing and there are many others who are known to be struggling. External oversight exists via periodic Local Government Association peer reviews and CIPFA financial healthchecks but local public audit has been unable to keep up the pace with 504 external audits outstanding in England between 2015/16-21/22 at the last count. On top of this central government does require 29 financial monitoring returns from local authorities each year.

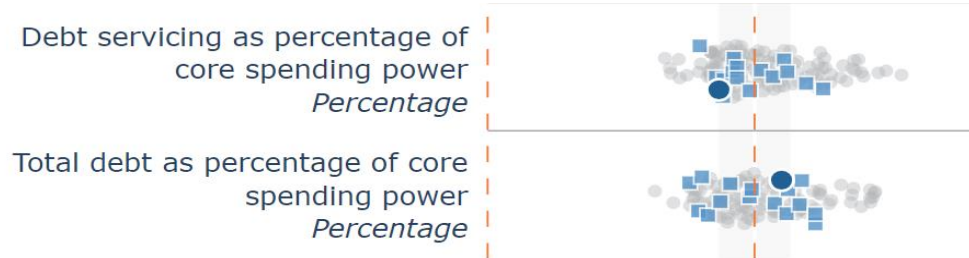
As a result of this perilous climate the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities launched the Office for Local Government (Oflog) in July this year, whose purpose is to increase transparency, foster accountability and use data to further improve performance and help identify problems at an earlier stage. Using most recent financial data from the 2021/22 Revenue Outturn (RO) returns, Oflog has published benchmarking data for local authorities against others and particularly nearest neighbours. These can be found within the following link:

[Local Authority Data Explorer - DLUHC Data Dashboards](#)

As an example of what is available and relevant, the following dashboard shows Blackpool's social care spend as a percentage of its core spending power which unsurprisingly is in the highest quartile as would be expected for a local authority with such deprivation and demand. The blue circle is Blackpool, blue squares are Blackpool's statistical neighbours and the grey circles are all other local authorities:



Again, unsurprisingly the level of debt reflecting the magnitude of the generational programme of capital investment is above the median though not significantly, whilst the debt financing is below the median illustrating effective treasury management:



Officers will endeavour to employ this tool in future monthly financial monitoring reports.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

### 6.11

The Council's Revenue Budget for 2023/24 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. However, given the current economic climate it is recommended that work continues towards target working balances of £6m by 31st March 2024 rising to £8m by 31st March 2025. Earmarked revenue reserves at the start of the financial year stood at £44.5m, though with known in-year commitments against this the balance will fall to an estimated £32.4m by the end of the year. This should still be sufficient to underwrite the current year's financial risks with a financial plan in place for the Council's wholly-owned companies (ref. Appendix 2o).

If the 2023/24 forecast position became the actual outturn, then in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules within its Constitution the forecast revenue outturn 2023/24 within this report contravenes both of the two specific conditions that excess spending does not:

1. exceed 1% (= £5m) of the authority's total gross revenue expenditure; or
2. have the effect of reducing the authority's Working Balances below 50% of their normal target level (= £3m).

However, these are still unprecedented times for the whole of the local government sector and in the context of relatively healthy levels of Earmarked Revenue Reserves and with 9 months of the financial year still remaining officers are working continuously to improve the position - revised service and financial plans are being developed including the review of technical accounting treatments, a continuing policy of freezing non-essential spend, a robust approach at weekly Resourcing Panel

meetings to only allow the filling of critical vacant posts and the prospective redesignation of earmarked reserves should they need to be used.

6.12 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 2a - Revenue Summary  
Appendix 2b - Chief Executive  
Appendix 2c - Governance and Partnership Services  
Appendices 2d - Ward Budgets  
Appendix 2e - Resources  
Appendix 2f - Communications and Regeneration  
Appendix 2g - Strategic Leisure Assets  
Appendix 2h - Growth and Prosperity  
Appendix 2i - Community and Environmental Services  
Appendix 2j - Adult Services  
Appendix 2k - Children's Services  
Appendix 2l - Public Health  
Appendix 2m - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit  
Appendix 2n - Housing Revenue Account  
Appendix 2o - Wholly-owned companies  
Appendix 2p - Budget Savings performance  
Appendix 2q - Capital Monitoring  
Appendix 2r - Cash Flow Summary  
Appendix 2s - General Fund Balance Sheet Summary

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 As outlined in this report and appendices.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Impact of financial performance against approved Revenue budgets and upon Council reserves and balances.

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

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as a part of the budget-setting process and remains relevant.

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

12.1 None directly from this report.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**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? N/A

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 present:**

25.1

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1



## Blackpool Council

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL							
FORECAST GENERAL FUND POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024							
SUMMARY							
APP.	GENERAL FUND NET REQUIREMENTS	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
		ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	2023/24 PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
2(a)	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,537	294	1,043	1,337	(200)	-
2(b)	GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES	1,985	(187)	2,150	1,963	(22)	-
2(b/c)	WARD BUDGETS	269	(75)	344	269	-	-
2(d)	RESOURCES	2,419	(6,259)	8,517	2,258	(161)	-
2(e)	COMMUNICATIONS AND REGENERATION	4,085	2,038	2,047	4,085	-	-
2(f)	STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS	2,625	484	2,141	2,625	-	-
	STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS - TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	-	-	-	-	-	-
2(g)	GROWTH & PROSPERITY	(5,879)	1,971	(11,450)	(9,479)	(3,600)	-
	GROWTH & PROSPERITY - TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	-	-	3,600	3,600	3,600	-
2(h)	COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	53,157	4,995	48,662	53,657	500	-
2(i)	ADULT SERVICES	63,968	15,841	50,829	66,670	2,702	-
2(j)	CHILDREN'S SERVICES	68,316	9,533	64,252	73,785	5,469	-
2(k)	PUBLIC HEALTH	3	(12,084)	12,087	3	-	-
2(l)	BUDGETS OUTSIDE THE CASH LIMIT	13,862	(445)	12,970	12,525	(1,337)	-
	CAPITAL CHARGES	(30,008)	(7,502)	(22,506)	(30,008)	-	-
	<b>NET COST OF SERVICES:</b>	<b>176,339</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>174,686</b>	<b>183,290</b>	<b>6,951</b>	-
	CONTRIBUTIONS:						
	- TO / (FROM) RESERVES	(13,102)	(8,526)	(4,576)	(13,102)	-	-
	- 2022/23 SERVICE OVER/(UNDERSPENDS)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	- REVENUE CONSEQUENCES OF CAPITAL OUTLAY	500	-	500	500	-	-
	CONTINGENCIES	7,689	-	6,483	6,483	(1,206)	-
	LEVIES	457	74	383	457	-	-
	<b>CONTRIBUTIONS, etc.</b>	<b>(4,456)</b>	<b>(8,452)</b>	<b>2,790</b>	<b>(5,662)</b>	<b>(1,206)</b>	-
	<b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE TO BE MET FROM PUBLIC FUNDS</b>	<b>171,883</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>177,476</b>	<b>177,628</b>	<b>5,745</b>	-
	ADDED TO/(TAKEN FROM) BALANCES	4,335	-	(1,410)	(1,410)	(5,745)	-
	<b>NET REQUIREMENT AFTER WORKING BALANCES</b>	<b>176,218</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>176,066</b>	<b>176,218</b>	<b>-</b>	-
<b>GENERAL BALANCES AS AT 1st APRIL 2023 PER UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23</b>							<b>2,459</b>
Budgeted In-year (reduction in) / addition to General Fund Working Balances							4,335
							<b>6,794</b>
Forecast In-year (reduction in) / addition to General Fund Working Balances							(5,745)
<b>ESTIMATED UNEARMARKED WORKING BALANCES AS AT 31st MARCH 2024</b>							<b>1,049</b>

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## Blackpool Council - Chief Executive

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE						
NET EXPENDITURE						
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	620	229	391	620	-	-
HUMAN RESOURCES, ORGANISATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	(7)	(1,168)	1,161	(7)	-	-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOTAL	613	(939)	1,552	613	-	-
CORPORATE DELIVERY UNIT	(9)	(1,825)	1,616	(209)	(200)	-
HOUSING	933	3,058	(2,125)	933	-	-
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE	924	1,233	(509)	724	(200)	-
TOTALS	1,537	294	1,043	1,337	(200)	-

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within the Chief Executive's Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year.

#### Chief Executive

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Human Resources, Organisation and Workforce Development

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Corporate Delivery Unit

This service is currently forecasting a £200k underspend due to the release of a reserve now deemed as no longer required.

#### Housing

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Budget Holder – Mr N Jack, Chief Executive

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## Blackpool Council – Governance and Partnership Services

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
<b>GOVERNANCE &amp; PARTNERSHIP SERVICES</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	2,358	1,116	1,242	2,358	-	-
CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES	(59)	(1,379)	1,320	(59)	-	-
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE	78	(226)	282	56	(22)	-
LIFE EVENTS & CUSTOMER CARE	(392)	302	(694)	(392)	-	-
<b>GOVERNANCE &amp; PARTNERSHIP SERVICES</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>(187)</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>-</b>
WARDS	269	(75)	344	269	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,254</b>	<b>(262)</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within Governance and Partnership Services against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the head of service.

#### Democratic Governance Service

The Democratic Governance Service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Corporate Legal Services

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

#### Information Governance

This service is forecasting an underspend of £22k this is due to a release of reserves that are now deemed as no longer required.

#### Life Events and Customer Care

This service is forecasting a break- even position.

**Ward Budgets**

Ward budgets are expected to break-even in 2023/24.

**Budget Holder - Mr M Towers, Director of Governance and Partnership Services.**

**Blackpool Council**  
**Ward Budgets**  
**2023/24**  
**Month 3**

## Wards

Ward	Councillors	Total No. of Requisitions Submitted	No. of Requisitions Approved	No. Awaiting Approval	Total No. of Requisitions Completed	Total 2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Budget Committed to Approved Schemes	Remaining 2023-24 Budget
Anchorsholme Ward 61008/61030	Cllr. Galley Cllr. Cooper	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Bispham Ward 61009/61031	Cllr. Warne Cllr. Wilshaw	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Bloomfield Ward 61010/61032	Cllr. Fenlon Cllr. Hobson	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Brunswick Ward 61011/61033	Cllr. Marshall Cllr. Thomas	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Claremont Ward 61012/61034	Cllr. Taylor Cllr. L Williams	2 2	2 2	0 0	2 2	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£2,554.43 £2,554.43	£4,445.57 £4,445.57
Clifton Ward 61013/61035	Cllr. Burdess Cllr. Humphreys	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Greenlands Ward 61014/61036	Cllr. Flanagan Cllr. Jones	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Hawes Side Ward 61015/61037	Cllr. N Brookes Cllr. Critchley	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Highfield Ward 61016/61038	Cllr. Hunter Cllr. B Mitchell	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Ingthorpe Ward 61017/61039	Cllr. Bamborough MBE Cllr. Farrell	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Layton Ward 61018/61040	Cllr. Benson Cllr. Boughton	1 0	1 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£247.24 £0.00	£6,752.76 £7,000.00
Marston Ward 61019/61041	Cllr. S Brookes Cllr. S Smith	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Norbreck Ward 61020/61043	Cllr. Ellison Cllr. Sloman	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Park Ward 61021/61044	Cllr. Campbell Cllr. Hoyle	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Squires Gate Ward 61022/61045	Cllr. C Mitchell MBE Cllr. Walsh	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Stanley Ward 61023/61046	Cllr. Baker Cllr. Roberts	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Talbot Ward 61024/61046	Cllr. Hugo Cllr. M Smith	1 0	1 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£100.00 £0.00	£6,900.00 £7,000.00
Tyldesley Ward 61025/61047	Cllr. Roe Cllr. Webb	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Victoria Ward 61026/61048	Cllr. Jackson Cllr. P Brookes	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Warbreck Ward 61027/61049	Cllr. D Scott Cllr. Mrs M Scott	2 2	2 2	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£1,100.00 £1,100.00	£5,900.00 £5,900.00
Waterloo Ward 61028/61050	Cllr. Cartmell Cllr. D Mitchell MBE	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00

<b>Ward Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>£294,000.00</b>	<b>£7,656.10</b>	<b>£286,343.90</b>
<b>Unallocated Budget</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>(£25,000.00)</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>(£25,000.00)</b>
<b>Income Budget</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Area Ward Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>£269,000.00</b>	<b>£7,656.10</b>	<b>£261,343.90</b>

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## Blackpool Council - Resources

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
<b>RESOURCES</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
PROCUREMENT & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	(8)	(515)	459	(56)	(48)	-
BENEFITS	(1,615)	866	(2,481)	(1,615)	-	-
REVENUES SERVICES	1,765	1,346	419	1,765	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	18	(545)	588	43	25	-
ICT SERVICES	(9)	(1,971)	1,962	(9)	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	23	(856)	846	(10)	(33)	-
RISK SERVICES	(4)	(574)	559	(15)	(11)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,250	(3,899)	6,060	2,161	(89)	-
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	(1)	(111)	105	(6)	(5)	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>(6,259)</b>	<b>8,517</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>(161)</b>	-

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within Resources against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

#### Procurement and Exchequer Services

Procurement and Exchequer Services are forecasting an underspend of £48k. This position has been achieved as a result of measures to deliver savings through dis-establishment of posts and increased income opportunities.

#### Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a break-even position. The cumulative Housing Benefit new claims processing outturn figure for June was 17 days. The cumulative processing time to-date for new claims for Housing Benefit, new claims for Council Tax Reduction and changes in circumstances notifications was 8 days.

#### Revenue Services

Revenue Services are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £2.64m.

**Customer First**

Customer First is forecasting an overspend of £25k against a gross budget of £1.19m. This is due to an unachieved savings target but the position is expected to improve through the year.

**ICT Services**

ICT is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £5.95m. This budget is currently under pressure from inflation increases in software licences and the hardware supply chain. The budget is currently being balanced from additional income generation and some staff turnover.

**Accountancy**

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £33k due to staff turnover and additional income from HMRC.

**Risk Services**

Risk Services are forecasting an underspend of £11k against a gross budget of £1.07m. This is due to a number of factors including staff vacancies, additional income opportunities and also through receipt of new burden funding for the Covid-19 business support grant post assurance work.

**Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)**

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £89k against a gross budget of £14.28m, savings arising from staff vacancies across the service.

**Equality and Diversity**

Equality and Diversity are forecasting an underspend of £5k.

**Summary of the revenue forecast**

After 3 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £161k underspend. The Directorate continues to operate on the basis of not filling staff vacancies other than in exceptional circumstances.

**Budget Holder - Mr S Thompson, Director of Resources**

## Blackpool Council – Communications and Regeneration

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
COMMUNICATIONS & REGENERATION						
NET EXPENDITURE						
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES	244	1,059	(815)	244	-	-
PLANNING	488	33	455	488	-	-
TOURISM AND COMMUNICATIONS	3,353	946	2,407	3,353	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,085</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>4,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service area within the Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

#### Economic Development and Cultural Services

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Planning

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Tourism and Communications

This service is forecasting a break-even position. However, there are risks around income generation in the Directorate as a result of the cost of living crisis and increased costs in relation to the Illuminations extension that will be quantified later in the year.

**Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration**

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## Blackpool Council – Strategic Leisure Assets

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS						
NET EXPENDITURE						
STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS	2,625	484	2,141	2,625	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for the Service against its respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the head of service.

#### Key Issues

In month 3, Strategic Leisure Assets are reporting a break-even position.

In accordance with the original decision for this programme by the Executive on 7th February 2011, any under or overspend on Strategic Leisure Assets will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,690k. In 2023/24, a transfer of £1,420k has been made to Contributions to Reserves reducing this deficit balance to £9,270k. This transfer is in line with the budget.

The latest Leisure Assets medium-term financial plan currently expects the service to break-even, in-year, in 2025/26.

**Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration**

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## Blackpool Council – Growth and Prosperity

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
GROWTH & PROSPERITY						
NET EXPENDITURE						
GROWTH & PROSPERITY	(5,879)	1,971	(11,450)	(9,479)	(3,600)	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>(5,879)</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>(11,450)</b>	<b>(9,479)</b>	<b>(3,600)</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for the Service against its respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the head of service.

#### Key Issues

As at month 3, the service is forecasting surplus of £3,600k. This is due to the expectation of proceeds raised from the current work programme exceeding costs including prudential borrowing.

The Executive, at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, agreed to the approach to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-2023/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for their re-investment. It is therefore assumed that this surplus will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,125k. It is therefore expected that the balance at the end of 2023/24 will be £6,525k.

**Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration**

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## Blackpool Council – Community and Environmental Services

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
<b>COMMUNITY &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
BUSINESS SERVICES	(1,002)	130	(1,132)	(1,002)	-	-
LEISURE AND CATERING	5,523	3,603	1,920	5,523	-	-
PUBLIC PROTECTION	1,340	980	360	1,340	-	-
HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES	18,001	(1,482)	19,483	18,001	-	-
STREET CLEANSING AND WASTE	19,987	(913)	20,900	19,987	-	-
COASTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS	6,501	1,597	4,904	6,501	-	-
INTEGRATED TRANSPORT	2,807	1,080	2,227	3,307	500	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>53,157</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>48,662</b>	<b>53,657</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service area within the Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn overspend of £500k is based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

#### Business Services

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

#### Leisure and Catering

Leisure and Catering is currently forecasting a break-even position. Leisure income is in line with budget and there are savings within staffing, due to vacancies. Catering is facing a pressure due to the increased cost of provisions, but this is expected to be covered by other savings within the service.

#### Public Protection

The service is currently forecasting a break-even position. There are pressures within Licencing, where the income forecast is currently under budget. However, there have been savings identified within other areas of Public Protection to mitigate this.

#### Highways and Traffic Management Services

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

**Street Cleansing and Waste**

Waste Services are reporting a break-even position. There are forecast pressures within Street Cleansing and within Public Conveniences, where an inflationary uplift has been applied to the contract. Trade Waste income, however, is forecasting an increase against budget to off-set these pressures.

**Coastal and Environmental Partnerships**

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

**Integrated Transport**

This service is currently forecasting an overspend of £500k. Childrens Transport Services is reporting an overspend of £500k, due to a combination of increased demand pressures and historic savings targets which have not been able to be achieved.

**Conclusion – Community and Environmental Services financial position**

At the end of June 2023, the Community and Environmental Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £500k. The major pressure is within Integrated Transport where the Childrens Transport Service is forecasting a pressure of £500k. There are other pressures within Directorate, but these are expected to be covered through other means.

**Budget Holder - Mr J Blackledge, Director for Community and Environmental Services**

## Blackpool Council - Adult Services

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
ADULT SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	9,362	3,458	5,737	9,195	(167)	-
CARE & SUPPORT	4,535	1,648	2,911	4,559	24	-
ADULT COMMISSIONING PLACEMENTS	49,995	10,754	42,086	52,840	2,845	-
ADULT SAFEGUARDING	76	(19)	95	76	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>63,968</b>	<b>15,841</b>	<b>50,829</b>	<b>66,670</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Adult Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

#### Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care is forecasting an underspend of £167k at month 3 due to a high volume of vacant positions.

#### Adult Commissioning Placements (Social Care Packages)

The Adult Commissioning Placements budget is forecasting an overspend of £2,845k. There are savings shortfalls of £1,012k from the proposal in which the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were expected to provide additional income of £1.6m into the Better Care Fund (BCF) and a further shortfall on Winter Pressures funding of £337K. There is a pressure of £1,175k in Supported Living due to additional packages of care along with £475k of pressures due to additional packages of short-term care linked to hospital discharge. An increased number of complex case packages have also created a pressure of £123k. £400k pressures relates to Out of Area Residential and Nursing Placements fee uplifts being significantly greater than forecast but are being offset by £225k in savings due to fewer bed nights. There is a £70k pressure on Homecare whereby the current commissioned hours exceeds budget. Direct payment pressures of £80k are resulting from a forecasted reduction in claw-backs based on year-to-date actuals. There is £602k in the forecast relating to the recently announced Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund which is being used to offset the residential/nursing top ups and Out of Area fee rates.

#### Care and Support

Care and Support is forecasting an overspend of £24k at month 3 due to Nibbles Café income shortfalls and provisions expenditure pressures.

### **Adults Safeguarding**

Adults safeguarding is forecasting a break-even position at month 3.

### **Summary of the Adult Services financial position**

As at the end of June 2023 the Adult Services Directorate is forecasting an overall overspend of £3,304k for the financial year to March 2024 on a net budget of £64m.

### **Budget Holder – K Smith, Director of Adult Services**

## Blackpool Council – Children’s Services

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - ISB	82,692	5,657	77,035	82,692	-	-
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - NON DELEGATED	281	113	168	281	-	-
EDUCATION	32,379	2,033	30,346	32,379	-	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	182	46	136	182	-	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	9,373	2,673	6,700	9,373	-	-
DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT	(125,594)	(16,171)	(109,423)	(125,594)	-	-
CARRY FORWARD OF DSG UNDER/(OVER) SPEND	687	-	687	687	-	-
<b>TOTAL DSG FUNDED SERVICES</b>	-	<b>(5,649)</b>	<b>5,649</b>	-	-	-
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPRECIATION	1,748	-	1,748	1,748	-	-
EDUCATION	1,900	1,357	543	1,900	-	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	6,146	(619)	6,765	6,146	-	-
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	57,560	14,113	48,147	62,260	4,700	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	1,109	331	1,547	1,878	769	-
LOCAL SERVICES SUPPORT GRANT	19	-	19	19	-	-
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT	(166)	-	(166)	(166)	-	-
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SERVICES</b>	<b>68,316</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>58,603</b>	<b>73,785</b>	<b>5,469</b>	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>68,316</b>	<b>9,533</b>	<b>64,252</b>	<b>73,785</b>	<b>5,469</b>	-

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Children’s Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each Head of Service.

#### Children’s Social Care

The full-year impact of the Children’s Social Care pressures as at M7 2022/23 has been rightsized as part of the Corporate Medium Term-Financial Plan, equating to an additional budget of £5,221k allocated in 2023/24. However, Children’s Social Care Placements is forecasting an overspend against this increased budget of £4,700k, mainly due new-to-care placements being higher than those exiting care and the additional support required following the breakdown of high-cost placements. The actual number of residential placements as at 30th June 2023 is 84 with this forecast to reduce to 69 by 31st March 2024, whereas the plan suggested there would be 71 as at 30th June reducing to 60 by the end of March 2024.

However, the number of Children in Care continues to reduce and currently sits at 540 children. This brings Blackpool from a rate of 218 per 0-17 10,000 population to 194. Our ambition is to bring ourselves in line with our comparator Local Authorities over the next couple of years and we are

confident that this ambition will be realised. We have seen this reduction as a result of reduced entry into care, and increased numbers exiting our care system. Within the cohort of Children Looked After, we have had a higher than national average of children in residential placements. Residential settings, for most children, are not the optimum placement and these children do not usually have the same degree of positive outcomes as children in foster placements, or family placements for example. Residential placements are costly, with unit costs rising year on year by 14.1%. We have seen movement in the numbers of residential placements, from 84 to 76 as a result of a focussed, ongoing piece of work led by our newly recruited Head of Service for Supporting our Children. Officers have reviewed a number of care plans and as a result children have been moved from residential settings to settings that better meet their needs, always ensuring their safety and individual needs are at the forefront when planning.

The service has additionally seen a reduction in agency social work staff during the last 12-18 months. In 2021/2022 we had rates of up to 40% agency staff in some teams. A refreshed Workforce Strategy, overseen by a Workforce Board, chaired monthly by the Director of Children's Services, has seen a reduction of agency staff to under 15% across the social care teams. The national average is now 17% and regionally the rate is much higher. The last set of regional data put Blackpool at the lowest for agency rates. We continue to monitor this closely in a challenging and competitive market.

### **Dedicated Schools Grant Funded Services**

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the funding stream that supports the Schools Budget, which includes amounts that are devolved through the Individual School Budget (ISB), together with centrally-retained pupil-related services as listed in the revenue summary. Any under or overspend against services funded by the DSG will be carried forward to 2024/25 and, in the case of overspends, become the first call on the grant in that year.

### **Business Support and Resources**

Business Support and Resources is forecasting an overspend of £769k. There was an additional Children's Services savings target of £1,924k, of which, only £1,158k is anticipated to be met this financial year, leaving a budget gap of £766k.

### **Summary of the Children's Services financial position**

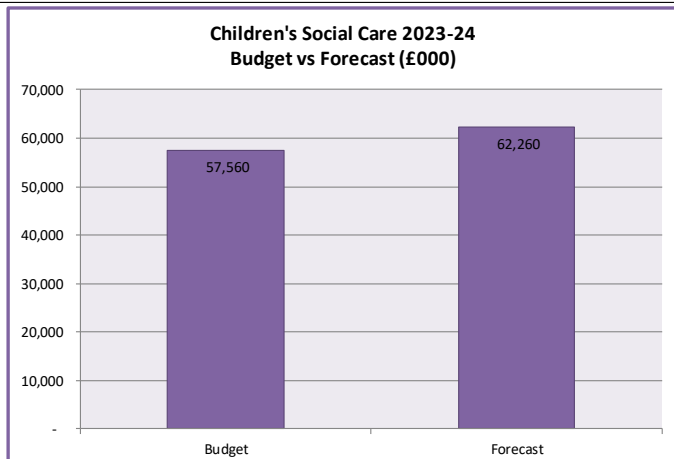
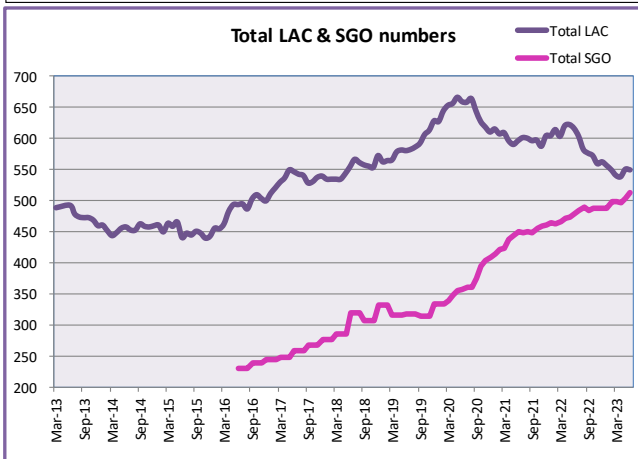
As at the end of June 2023 the Children's Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £5,469k for the financial year to March 2024.

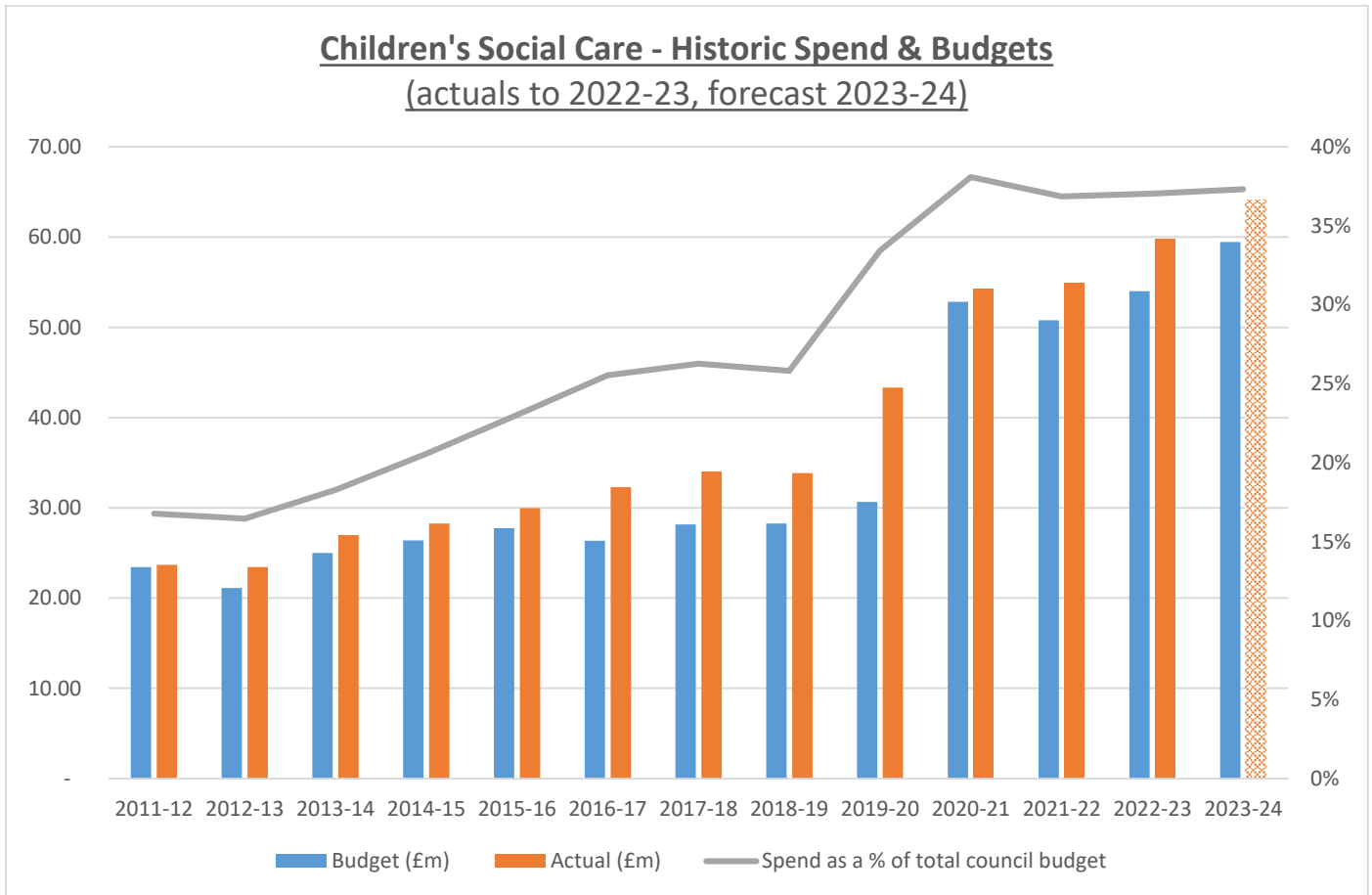
### **Budget Holder – Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services**

Children's Social Care Trends

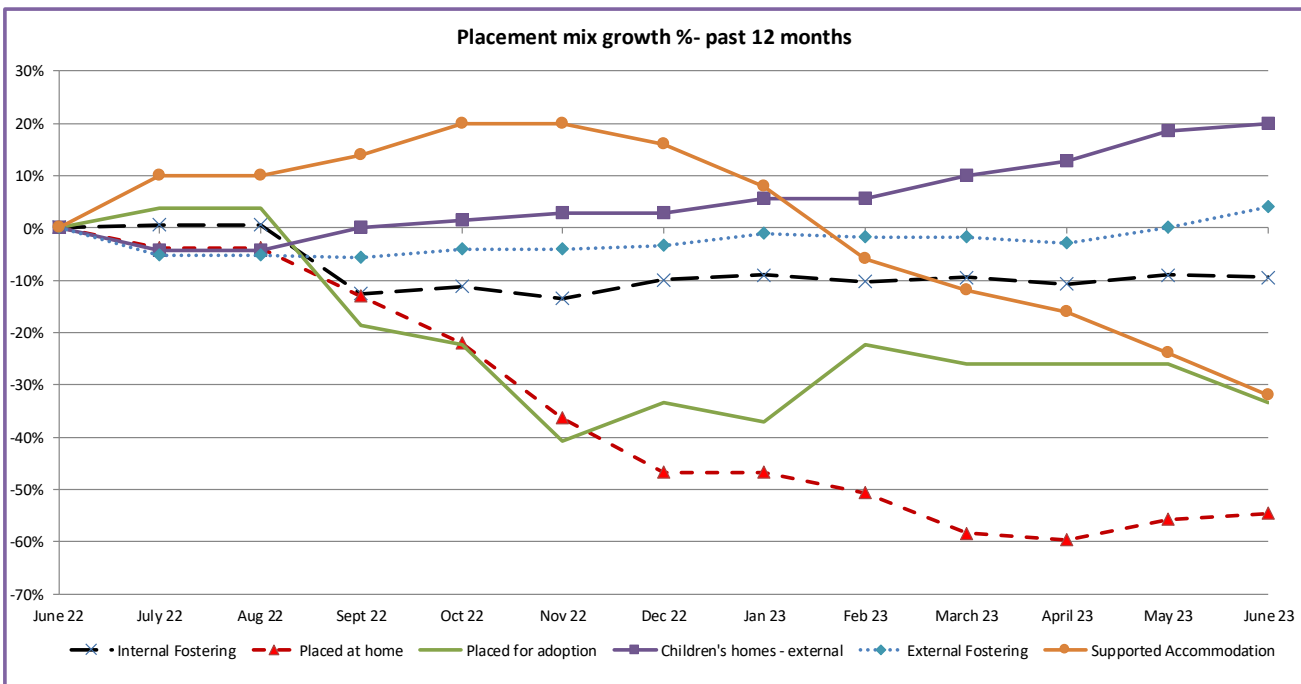
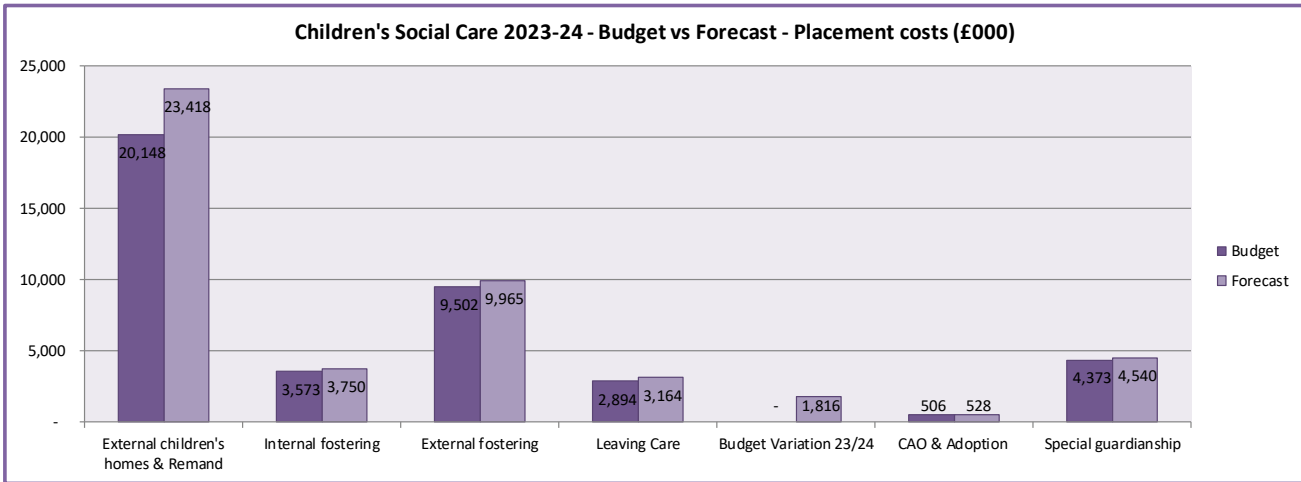
Date	External Placements Projection						Internal Fostering			Supported Accommodation			LAC number	SGO	
	Residential			Fostering inc M&B			Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	No.	Number	£ per placement
	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement									
Jun-13	41	8%	111,596	72	15%	36,202	263	53%	11,887	16	3%	no data	492		no data
Sep-13	33	7%	111,523	66	14%	35,667	272	58%	11,908	17	4%	no data	472		no data
Dec-13	30	7%	117,073	69	15%	36,560	260	57%	11,828	17	4%	no data	459		no data
Mar-14	27	6%	118,473	64	14%	34,058	248	56%	11,757	15	3%	no data	443		no data
Jun-14	25	5%	102,561	74	16%	35,928	250	55%	12,833	18	4%	no data	457		no data
Sep-14	21	5%	121,210	75	16%	37,655	237	51%	12,570	27	6%	no data	462		no data
Dec-14	18	4%	124,281	70	15%	38,760	243	53%	12,474	23	5%	no data	459		no data
Mar-15	23	5%	128,868	73	16%	40,155	244	53%	12,374	19	4%	no data	463		no data
Jun-15	25	6%	147,777	74	17%	40,625	219	50%	12,541	20	5%	no data	440		no data
Sep-15	25	6%	142,934	73	16%	40,040	225	50%	12,549	16	4%	no data	450		no data
Dec-15	27	6%	145,196	70	16%	41,243	217	49%	12,428	17	4%	no data	442		no data
Mar-16	29	6%	146,120	69	15%	42,215	257	56%	12,453	22	5%	no data	462		no data
Jun-16	34	7%	157,136	77	16%	42,145	259	53%	12,630	28	6%	38,608	493	230	5,472
Sep-16	32	6%	169,996	84	17%	42,750	254	51%	12,688	27	5%	41,376	502	240	5,582
Dec-16	36	7%	175,954	89	18%	43,038	258	52%	12,857	28	6%	41,037	499	245	5,562
Mar-17	44	8%	179,669	103	19%	43,502	269	51%	12,872	26	5%	42,416	529	249	5,555
Jun-17	49	9%	151,450	100	18%	40,933	272	50%	13,227	26	5%	60,946	546	258	5,576
Sep-17	35	7%	161,487	95	18%	40,991	270	51%	13,213	36	7%	57,928	528	267	5,383
Dec-17	43	8%	162,623	103	19%	41,277	272	50%	13,169	36	7%	58,358	539	277	5,281
Mar-18	44	8%	165,935	98	18%	41,099	273	51%	13,116	30	6%	55,728	534	286	5,109
Jun-18	45	8%	164,794	97	18%	40,083	297	54%	13,403	24	4%	48,006	554	320	5,512
Sep-18	45	8%	159,388	97	17%	40,425	302	54%	13,441	28	5%	46,073	557	308	5,294
Dec-18	47	8%	169,287	99	17%	40,227	305	53%	13,430	33	6%	46,167	572	332	5,175
Mar-19	53	9%	177,477	94	17%	39,536	306	54%	13,289	23	4%	45,845	565	317	5,238
Jun-19	53	9%	172,929	107	18%	42,426	305	53%	13,014	26	4%	68,367	580	318	5,988
Sep-19	58	10%	180,014	116	20%	43,981	294	50%	12,649	32	5%	56,148	592	315	5,693
Dec-19	62	10%	184,396	145	23%	45,812	300	48%	12,854	31	5%	60,289	628	334	5,670
Mar-20	65	10%	183,892	167	26%	45,201	292	45%	13,166	33	5%	61,076	653	339	5,624
Jun-20	69	10%	207,288	175	27%	47,565	284	43%	12,877	32	5%	92,575	659	357	5,882
Sep-20	75	12%	211,328	173	27%	47,125	277	43%	12,979	30	5%	97,225	644	376	6,056
Dec-20	72	12%	209,062	178	29%	47,361	248	41%	14,343	32	5%	105,274	610	410	6,551
Mar-21	72	12%	209,953	189	31%	47,883	230	38%	14,234	25	4%	107,561	609	424	6,685
Jun-21	68	11%	225,246	200	34%	45,809	213	36%	16,619	26	4%	78,324	596	450	7,650
Sep-21	64	11%	229,272	194	33%	47,303	221	37%	17,059	39	7%	70,834	596	448	7,752
Dec-21	66	11%	238,266	186	31%	47,535	219	36%	17,064	40	7%	68,328	604	461	7,884
Mar-22	70	12%	247,935	184	30%	47,718	214	35%	17,348	47	8%	68,576	608	467	8,076
Jun-22	69	11%	251,588	174	28%	50,006	221	36%	17,030	50	8%	74,397	616	479	8,093
Sep-22	70	12%	255,469	164	28%	48,674	193	34%	16,646	57	10%	72,203	576	484	8,186
Dec-22	72	13%	264,844	168	30%	52,295	199	35%	16,770	58	10%	69,007	562	487	8,175
Mar-23	77	14%	267,333	171	32%	52,073	200	37%	16,785	44	8%	67,462	540	499	8,205
Apr-23	79	15%	277,464	169	31%	57,959	197	37%	18,853	42	8%	79,291	538	497	8,841
May-23	83	15%	283,061	174	32%	56,809	201	37%	18,793	38	7%	77,678	550	504	8,869
Jun-23	84	15%	287,055	181	33%	56,473	200	36%	19,532	34	6%	75,503	549	513	8,873

**Note:**  
The variance between the current total number of Looked After Children (549) and the total internal fostering and external placement numbers (499) is children with care orders, adoption placements etc. They are still classed as LAC but do not incur any commissioned costs. SGO = Special Guardianship Order.









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## Blackpool Council – Public Health

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE & CORPORATE SUPPORT	1,353	7,374	(6,021)	1,353	-	-
NHS HEALTH CHECKS - MANDATED	100	63	37	100	-	-
CHILDREN (5-19) - PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMES	617	209	408	617	-	-
CHILDREN'S 0-5 SERVICES	2,520	902	1,618	2,520	-	-
TOBACCO CONTROL	374	158	216	374	-	-
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING	15	-	15	15	-	-
SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES - MANDATED	1,845	604	1,241	1,845	-	-
SUBSTANCE MISUSE (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)	2,744	901	1,843	2,744	-	-
HARM REDUCTION (SEXUAL HEALTH, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)	773	184	589	773	-	-
HEALTHY WEIGHT/WEIGHT MANAGEMENT	267	(37)	304	267	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	9,253	(17,477)	26,730	9,253	-	-
GRANT	(19,858)	(4,965)	(14,893)	(19,858)	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(12,084)</b>	<b>12,087</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual scheme against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the service leads.

#### Public Health Grant

The Public Health Grant is a central government grant which is ring-fenced.

The grant conditions require quarterly financial reporting of spend against a prescribed set of headings and spend of the grant must link explicitly to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Public Health Outcomes Framework and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Public Health Directorate are forecasting an overall spend of the full grant, £19,858,394, for the financial year to March 2024.

#### Payment by Results (PbR)/ Activity-based Commissioning

A number of Public Health schemes' payments are linked to activity. The aim of Payment by Results (PbR) is to provide a transparent, rules-based system for payment. It rewards outputs, outcomes and supports patient choice and diversity. Payment will be linked to activity. This does, however, raise a number of challenges when determining accurate budgetary spend/forecast spend.

**Summary of the Public Health Directorate financial position**

As at the end of June 2023, the Public Health Directorate are forecasting a break-even position for the financial year to March 2024.

**Budget Holder – Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health**

## Blackpool Council – Budgets Outside the Cash Limit

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD  £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
<b>BUDGETS OUTSIDE THE CASH LIMIT</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
TREASURY MANAGEMENT	13,254	(607)	12,532	11,925	(1,329)	-
PARKING SERVICES	(5,387)	(725)	(4,662)	(5,387)	-	-
CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTIONS	135	83	52	135	-	-
HOUSING BENEFITS	1,851	470	1,381	1,851	-	-
COUNCIL TAX & NNDR COST OF COLLECTION	1,894	480	1,414	1,894	-	-
SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES	(929)	15	(944)	(929)	-	-
LAND CHARGES	(50)	(10)	(40)	(50)	-	-
CONCESSIONARY FARES	4,065	95	3,970	4,065	-	-
EMPLOYERS PREVIOUS YEARS' PENSION LIABILITY	(957)	(240)	(717)	(957)	-	-
NEW HOMES BONUS	(14)	(6)	(16)	(22)	(8)	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,862</b>	<b>(445)</b>	<b>12,970</b>	<b>12,525</b>	<b>(1,337)</b>	-

### Commentary on the key issues:

#### Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service categorised as falling 'outside the cash limit' and thereby exempt from the cash limited budget regime. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and savings in the remainder of the financial year, which have been agreed by each designated budget manager.

#### Treasury Management

Treasury Management is forecasting an underspend of £1,329k. This figure includes £2,184k of prudential recharges to services and means that the £150k savings target will be met in 2023/24. Offset against this is £992k relating to higher interest rates on temporary borrowing. However interest rates are predicted to increase over the duration of the financial year and these increases are likely to have a negative impact on the current position of the service. The Council is currently using temporary and long-term borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure. The Treasury Management Panel are currently assessing whether it would be more beneficial to the council to fund its capital expenditure using Long-Term or Short-Term borrowing.

The Business Loans Fund has a savings target of £154k and is forecasting a surplus of £151k as new business loans have been awarded.

Following a review of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which was approved by the Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a total of £5,158k of saving has been forecast to be achieved in 2023/24.

### **Parking Services**

Parking Services is forecasting a break-even position for 2023/24. This will depend on the impact of the cost of living crisis, the quality of the holiday season and the availability of parking due to regeneration projects within the town.

As at Week 15 (w/e 9<sup>th</sup> July) parking income is at £1.7m with patronage at 348,104. Car Park patronage is up by 1,590 and income by £88k on 2022/23. On-Street Pay and Display patronage is up by 2,779 and income by £48k.

The graphs below show, for comparison, the patronage and income figures for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

### **Housing Benefit**

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

### **Council Tax and NNDR Cost of Collection**

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

### **Subsidiary Companies**

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

### **Land Charges**

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

### **Concessionary Fares**

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

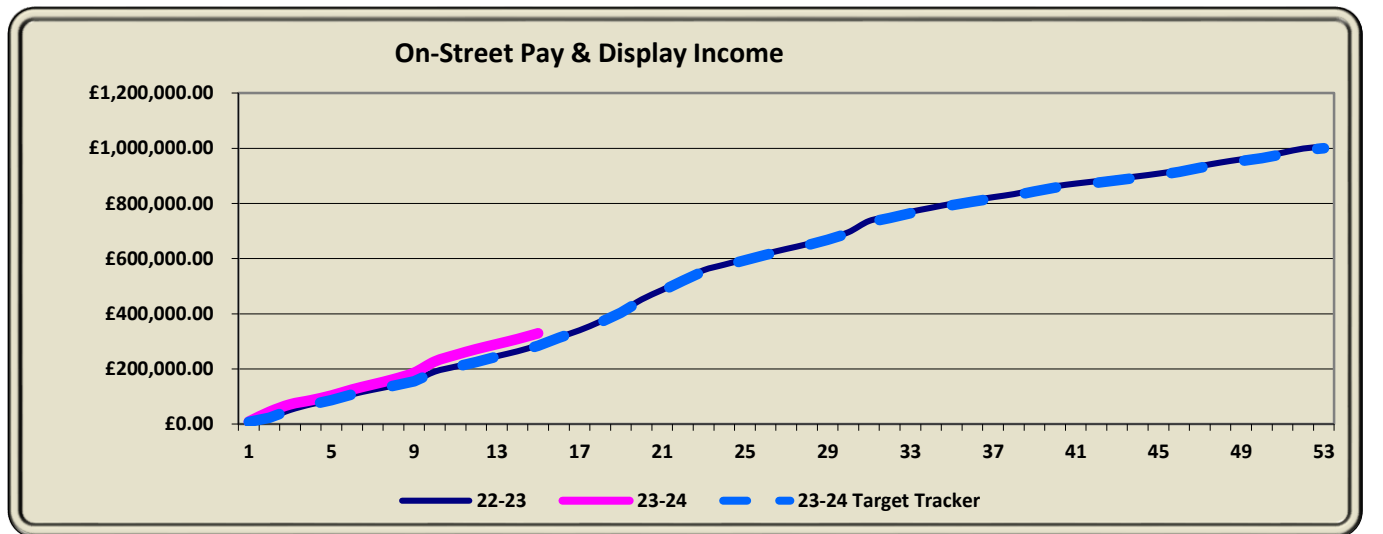
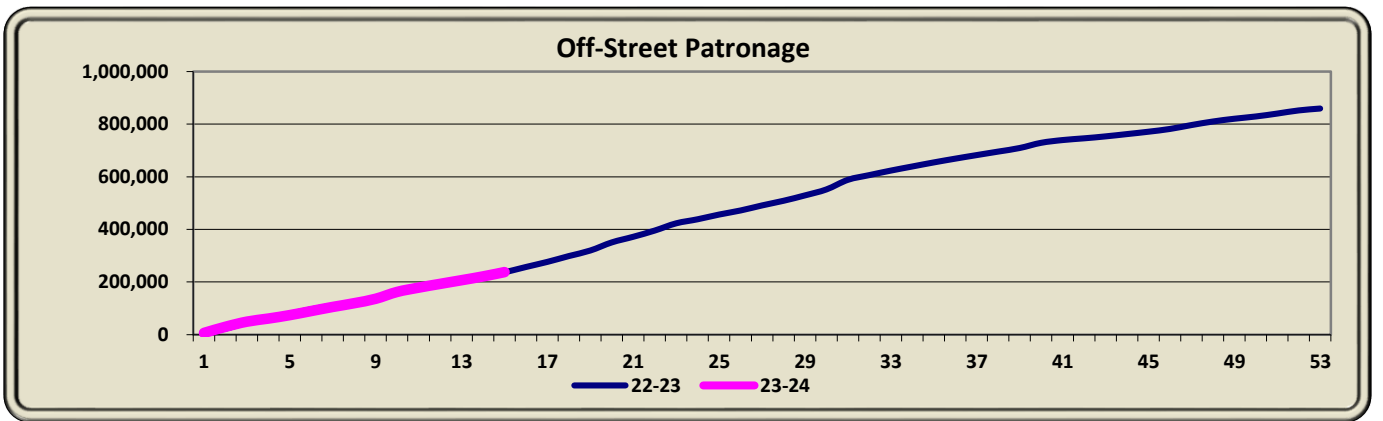
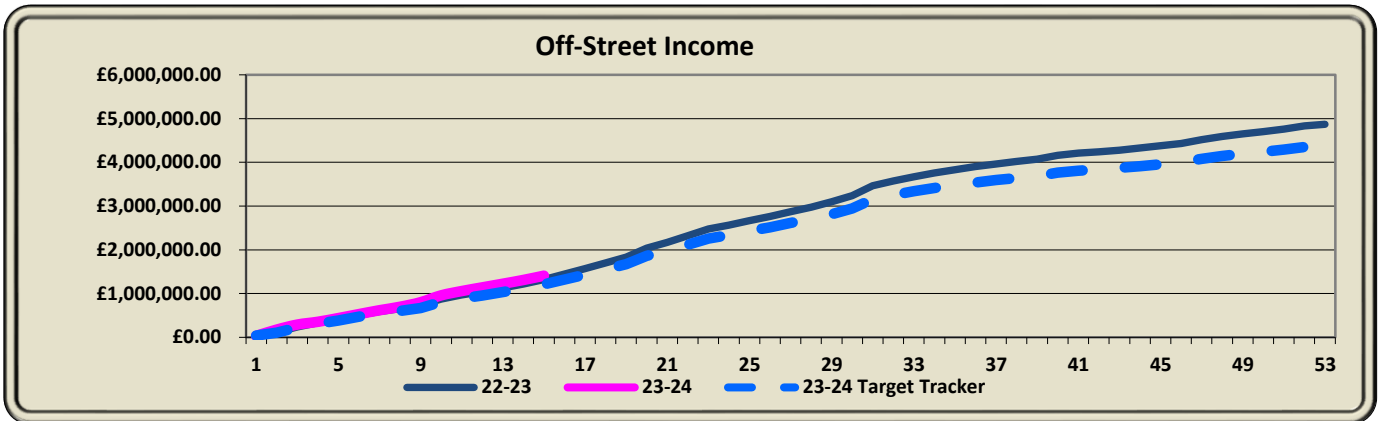
### **New Homes Bonus**

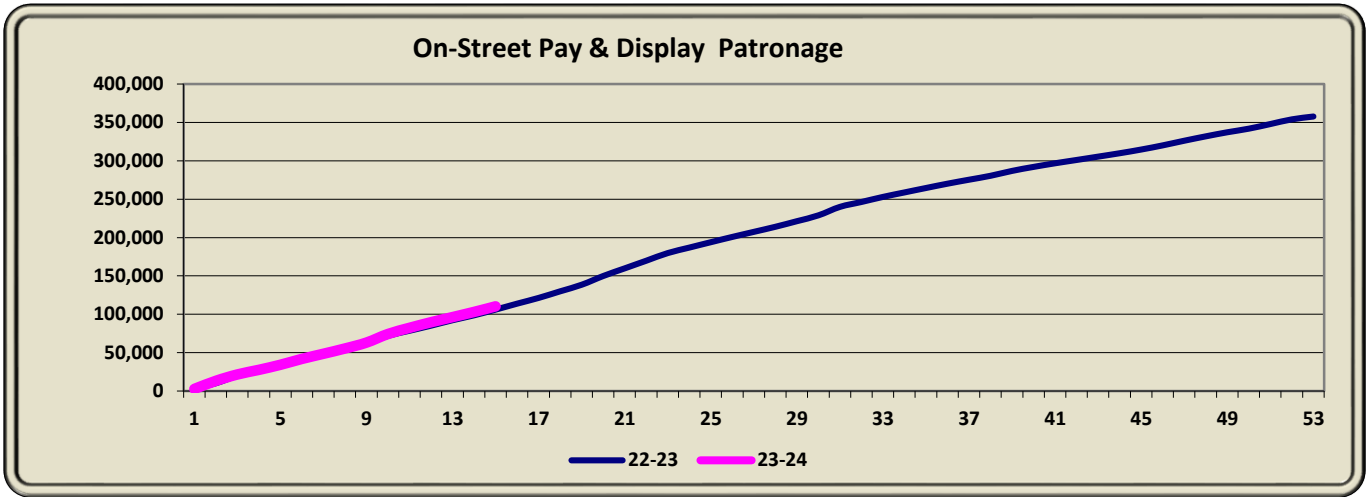
This service is forecasting an underspend of £8k and this is offset by an equivalent sum in contingencies.

### **Summary of the revenue forecasts**

After 3 months of the financial year, the Budgets Outside the Cash Limit services are forecasting a £1,337k underspend.

**Car Parking Trends**







**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**  
**BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 1 2023/2024**

FUNCTIONS	2023/2024 BUDGET QUARTER 1	2023/2024 ACTUAL QUARTER 1	2023/2024 VARIANCE QUARTER 1	2023/2024 FULL YEAR BUDGET	2023/2024 PROJECTED OUTTURN	2023/2024 VARIATION
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b><u>RENT &amp; SERVICE CHARGE INCOME DUE</u></b>						
Rental Income	(4,835)	(4,804)	31	(19,497)	(19,362)	135
Sheltered Housing	(184)	(181)	3	(734)	(724)	10
Emergency Housing	(154)	(166)	(12)	(668)	(720)	(52)
Resilience Housing	(57)	(58)	(1)	(542)	(542)	-
Other Supported Housing	(47)	(43)	4	(204)	(174)	30
Satellite Television Systems	(20)	(20)	-	(80)	(80)	-
Community Cleaning	(7)	(7)	-	(27)	(27)	-
Community Lighting	(8)	(8)	0	(33)	(33)	-
Door Entry Systems	(2)	(2)	-	(9)	(9)	-
Gardening Scheme	(17)	(16)	1	(67)	(67)	-
Grounds Maintenance	(63)	(63)	0	(253)	(253)	-
<b><u>OTHER RENTS &amp; CHARGES</u></b>						
Garages	(22)	(22)	0	(86)	(86)	-
Leasehold	(95)	(105)	(10)	(189)	(189)	-
Commercial/Other Rents	(18)	(17)	1	(72)	(69)	3
Other Income	(30)	(16)	14	(120)	(120)	-
<b><u>INTEREST INCOME</u></b>						
Interest on Revenue Balances	-	-	-	(185)	(185)	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>(5,558)</b>	<b>(5,528)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>(22,766)</b>	<b>(22,639)</b>	<b>127</b>
MANAGEMENT FEE	2,957	2,957	-	11,826	11,826	-
GENERAL FUND SERVICES	-	-	-	2,114	2,114	-
OTHER HRA COSTS	-	-	-	30	30	-
CAPITAL CHARGES	-	-	-	8,681	8,681	-
PROVISION FOR BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS	-	-	-	384	384	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,035</b>	<b>23,035</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTION (TO)/FROM WORKING BALANCES</b>	<b>(2,602)</b>	<b>(2,572)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>127</b>

WORKING BALANCES	2023/2024 FULL YEAR BUDGET	2023/2024 PROJECTED OUTTURN	2022/2023 VARIATION
	£000	£000	£000
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL	(1,399)	(1,721)	(322)
CONTRIBUTION (TO)/FROM WORKING BALANCES	269	396	127
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH	(1,130)	(1,325)	(195)

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## Blackpool Council

### Wholly-Owned Companies

#### Covid Support to Council Wholly-Owned Companies

The Coronavirus pandemic led to a number of Council Wholly-Owned Companies (WOCs) facing significant income losses as a result of lockdown and subsequent social distancing restrictions. This impacted both company profitability and cashflow. It looked likely that without Council support some would not be able to recover within a reasonable timeframe, which could leave the Council without an operator for assets of significant financial value and importance to the town and its tourist economy.

In November 2020 the Executive approved the establishment of a £24m Covid Recovery Fund (PH46/2020), £20m plus a 20% contingency, ringfenced for WOCs only, from within the existing Business Loans Fund.

To be eligible to access the Covid Recovery Fund facility companies needed to produce a 5-year Covid recovery plan (2020/21 year + 4) and to demonstrate a cumulative break-even income and expenditure position by the end of year 5 of their recovery plan, or as close as possible to this term.

Loans were offered at a fixed rate over 5 years, thereby providing the WOCs with certainty over future repayments requirements and were tailored to the individual circumstances of the company and its recovery plan, offers being made on either an interest-only basis with balloon principal repayment or with monthly repayments of interest and principal.

To date there have been loan approvals of £16.11m against that facility of which £9.52m has been drawn down. £2.05m of this has subsequently been repaid. The Council's Business Loans Fund Panel monitors progress against the WOCs' respective recovery plans on a regular basis.

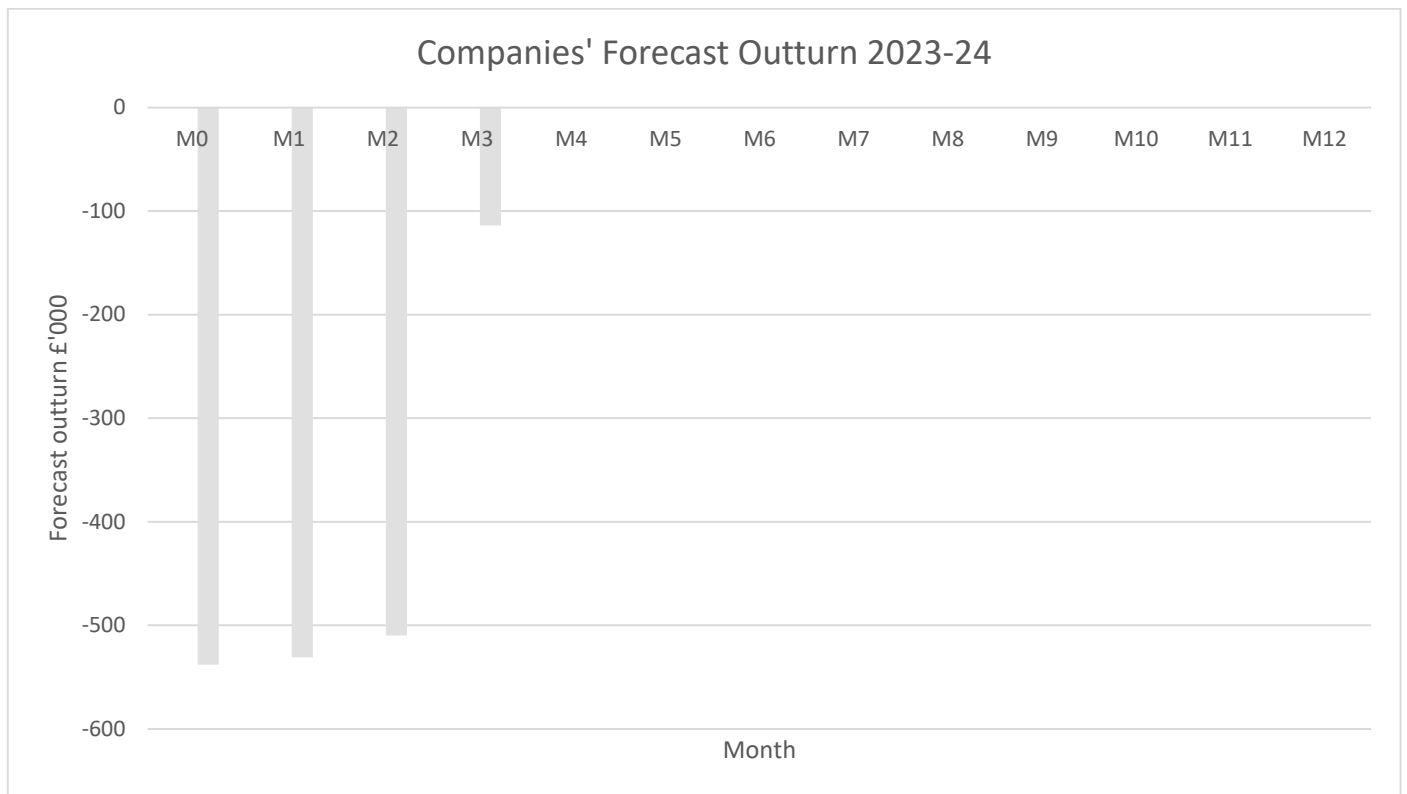
#### Non Covid-related loan support to WOCs

The Council also supports its WOCs' capital spending (capex) requirements where there is a robust business case demonstrating either a valid 'Spend to Save' initiative or an opportunity to spend to generate income. The Council's exposure to principal and capitalised interest in respect of such WOC capex loans is currently £45.07m.

There are currently no short-term cash flow loans outstanding in respect of Council Wholly-owned companies.

#### Wholly-owned companies financial performance as at Month 3 2023/24

The consolidated forecast financial position of the Council's wholly-owned subsidiary companies is a loss of £0.114m based on their Month 3 financial monitoring reports. This represents an improvement of £0.396m from the position reported at Month 2 largely as a result of improvements in income forecasts coupled with some cost savings.



The Council has taken advice from CIPFA regarding the proper accounting treatment in respect of company forecast losses. CIPFA has advised that the Council does not need to include the forecast losses in its forecast revenue outturn; the company losses will be included in the Council's consolidated financial position.

# Blackpool Council

## Budget Savings Target 2023/24

Summary of progress as at 30 June 2023.

	Target	Achieved	Not yet achieved	To be achieved before year-end	Not able to be achieved	Amount of saving not yet found recurrently
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b><u>Recurrent Savings</u></b>						
Corporate Services	12,975	(11,269)	1,706	(1,706)	0	9,946
Adult Services	3,337	(1,908)	1,429	0	1,429	1,429
Chief Executive	159	(30)	129	(129)	0	0
Children's Services	2,044	0	2,044	(778)	1,266	1,494
Governance and Partnership Services	507	(21)	486	(486)	0	0
Community and Environmental Services	367	0	367	(367)	0	0
Outside Cash Limit	1,349	(275)	1,074	(1,074)	0	0
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communications and Regeneration	497	(17)	480	(480)	0	0
Growth and Prosperity	1,510	0	1,510	(1,510)	0	0
Resources	650	(475)	175	(175)	0	0
<b>Recurrent Saving</b>	<b>23,395</b>	<b>(13,995)</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>(6,705)</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>12,869</b>

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2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING  
MONTH 3

Forecast scheme variance underminable at this stage Key:

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/23	Budget Brought Forward 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Total Available Budget 2023/24	Spend to Date April - June	Forecast to Scheme End	Forecast Scheme Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Director Responsible for Resources</b>								
<b>Property and Asset Management</b>								
Central Business District Phase 1	40,432	38,142	2,288	0	2,288		2,288	0
ICT Refresh	5,621	5,621	0	0	0	11	0	0
Core CCTV Replacement	2,000	1,179	821	0	821		821	0
Finance, HR, Payroll System	2,722	2,535	187	0	187	367	0	0
Central Library/ Grundy Gallery Roof	525	188	337	0	337	188	149	0
South King Street - Check with Steve	597	320	277	0	277	0	277	0
Other Resources Schemes	1,996	2,340	208	465	673	129	544	0
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>53,893</b>	<b>50,325</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>4,583</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>4,079</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Director Responsible for Adult Services</b>								
Support to Vulnerable Adults - Grants	2,384	0	398	1,986	2,384	284	2,100	0
I-Switch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Adult Services Schemes	2,561	1,193	1,368	558	1,926	12	1,914	0
<b>Total Adult Services</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>4,310</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Director Responsible for Community and Environmental Services</b>								
Anchorsholme Seawall	30,966	26,632	4,334	0	4,334	8	4,326	0
Coastal Protection Strategy 2021-2025	16,790	0	16,790	7,790	24,580		24,580	0
Coastal Protection Studies	4,520	3,562	958	0	958		958	0
Beach Nourishment	57,352	0	0	500	500		500	0
Others	1,094	498	596	207	803	42	761	0
<b>Total Community and Environmental Services</b>	<b>110,722</b>	<b>30,692</b>	<b>22,678</b>	<b>8,497</b>	<b>31,175</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31,125</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>								
<b>Housing</b>								
Foxhall Village	12,797	13,452	0	0	0	0	0	0
Work towards Decent Homes Standard	3,985	0	0	3,985	3,985	249	3,736	0
Queens Park Redevelopment Ph2	13,427	13,427	0		0	(392)	392	0
Troutbeck Redevelopment	11,970	11,675	295		295	(81)	376	0
Grange Park	24,206	11,675	291	12,240	12,531	2,148	10,383	0
Dunsop Court	1,233	1,227	6		6	(5)	11	0
Feasibility/ Infill site	2,750	231	2,519	130	2,649		2,649	0
Haweside Masterplan	562	82	480		480		480	0
Garstang Road West	3,495	3,495	0		0	(133)	133	0
Acquisition and Refurbishment	4,871	1,775	3,096		3,096	2	3,094	0
Others	7,101			7,101	7,101		7,101	0
<b>Total Chief Executive</b>	<b>86,397</b>	<b>57,039</b>	<b>6,687</b>	<b>23,456</b>	<b>30,143</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>28,355</b>	<b>0</b>

2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING  
MONTH 3

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/23	Budget Brought Forward 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Total Available Budget 2023/24	Spend to Date April - June	Forecast to Scheme End	Forecast Scheme Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Director Responsible for Communications and Regeneration</b>								
<b>Regeneration</b>								
College Relocation/Illumination Depot	13,405	13,924	(519)		(519)	0	0	0
Leisure Assets	68,579	66,346	2,233		2,233	776	1,457	0
Conference Centre	30,562	31,025	(463)		(463)		0	0
CBD Phase 2 - Hotel	24,500	24,213	287		287	1,931	0	0
CBD Phase 3	99,750	14,631	85,119		85,119	6,180	78,939	0
Land Release Fund	3,204	845	2,359		2,359	7	2,352	0
Enterprise Zone	29,720	15,123	14,597		14,597	382	14,215	0
Town Centre Parking Strategy	16,000	1,889	14,111		14,111	33	14,078	0
Museum	9,653	8,016	1,637		1,637	830	1,252	0
Abingdon Street Market	3,634	4,067	(433)		(433)	2	0	0
HoundsHill Ph2	20,190	13,879	6,311		6,311	2,033	4,278	0
Heritage Action Zone	1,566	1,179	387		387	76	311	0
Devonshire Road Hospital Land	1,425	1,447	(22)		(22)	0	0	0
Town Deal	57,190	5,888	51,302		51,302	2,444	48,858	0
Land Acqn Alfred, Leopold & Adelaide Streets	1,790	1,787	3		3	4	0	0
Marks and Spencers Acquisition	4,800	4,687	113		113	0	113	0
Town Centre Investments	57,100	51,208	5,892		5,892		5,892	0
Other	166	166	0		0		0	0
<b>Transport</b>								
Local Transport Plan 2021/22	2,630	2,630	0		0		0	0
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2021/22	283	283	0		0		0	0
Local Transport Plan 2022/23	2,690	413	2,277		2,277	232	2,045	0
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2022/23	223	223	0		0		0	0
Local Transport Plan 2023/24	2,690	0	2,690	2,690	5,380		5,380	0
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2023/24	223	0	223	223	446		446	0
Blackpool/Fleetwood Tramway	99,990	99,990	0		0	0	0	0
Tramway Extension	17,054	16,780	274		274	320	0	0
Tramway Refurbishment	1,053	713	340		340		340	0
<b>Total Communications and Regeneration</b>	<b>570,070</b>	<b>381,352</b>	<b>188,718</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>191,631</b>	<b>15,250</b>	<b>179,956</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Director Responsible for Children's Services</b>								
Devolved Capital to Schools	846	711	135		135	1	134	0
Park Expansion	610	412	198		198		198	0
Basic Need	1,309	3	1,306	373	1,679		1,679	0
Condition	1,878	527	1,351	506	1,857	4	1,853	0
Pegasus Expansion	800	9	791		791		791	0
Others	1,852	152	1,700	1,089	2,789	7	2,782	0
<b>Total Children's Services</b>	<b>7,295</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>5,481</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>7,449</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CAPITAL TOTAL</b>	<b>833,322</b>	<b>522,415</b>	<b>229,448</b>	<b>39,843</b>	<b>269,291</b>	<b>18,091</b>	<b>254,966</b>	<b>0</b>

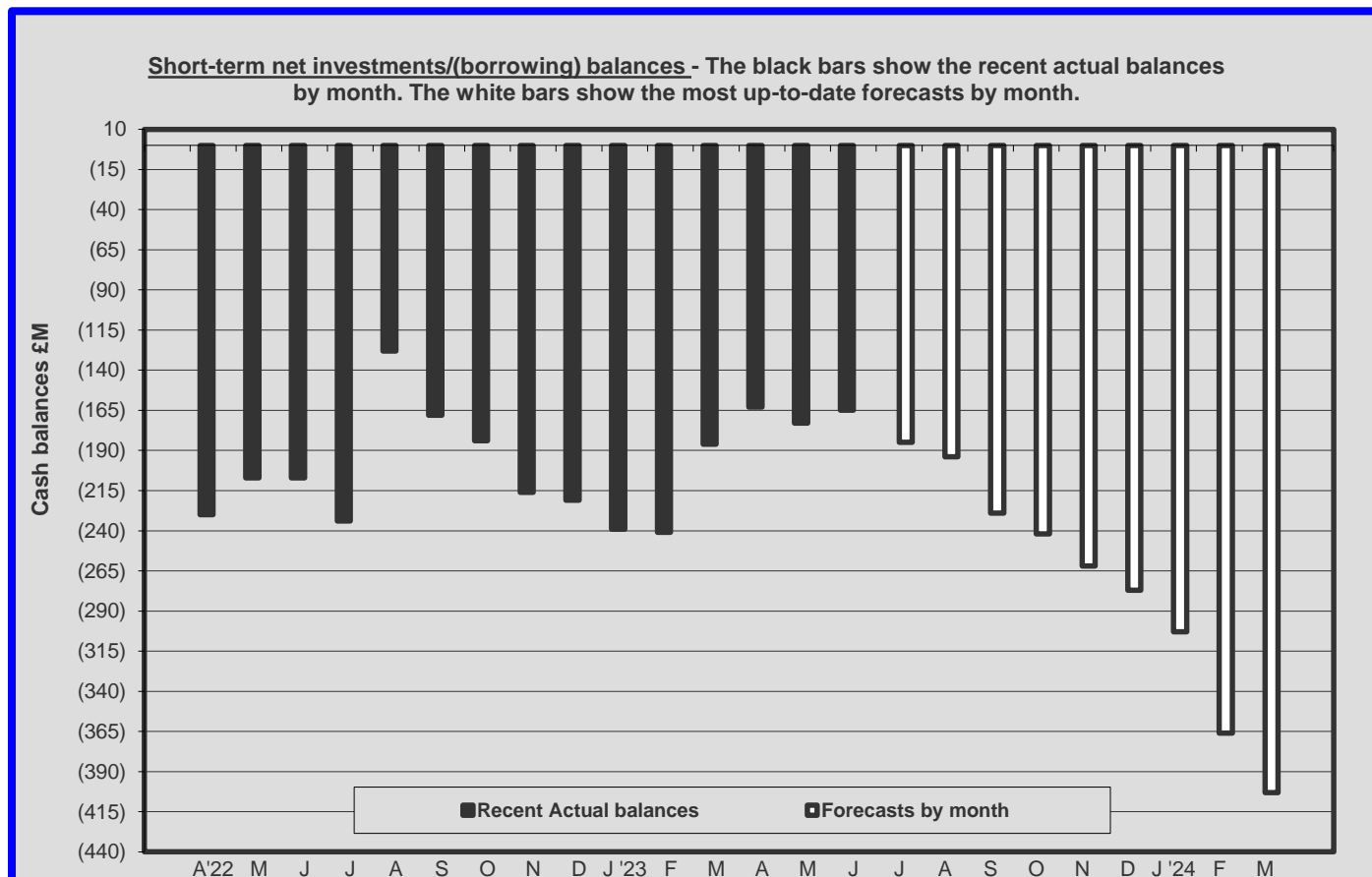


# Blackpool Council

## Cash summary - budget, actual and forecast:

CASH FLOW - SUMMARY - 23/24							
FULL YEAR CASH FLOW ORIGINAL BUDGET (*)	APR-JUN CASH FLOW ORIGINAL BUDGET (*)	APR-JUN CASH FLOW ACTUAL	JUL-MAR CASH FLOW FORECAST	(*) THE CASH FLOW BUDGET IS CONSISTENT WITH THE REVENUE BUDGET AND THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME IN TOTAL. THE BUDGETED CASH FLOW PHASING IS BASED ON DETAILED EXPECTATIONS AND PAST EXPERIENCE	APR-JUN MORE / (LESS) CASH ACTUAL vs ORIGINAL BUDGET	JUL-MAR MORE / (LESS) CASH FORECAST vs ORIGINAL BUDGET	FULL YEAR MORE / (LESS) AS NOW FORECAST vs ORIGINAL BUDGET
£M	£M	£M	£M		£M	£M	£M
42	9	7	32	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	(2)	(1)	(3)
118	30	27	87	Housing Benefit & Subsidy	(3)	(1)	(4)
22	6	3	17	Council tax and NNDR	(3)	1	(2)
46	12	12	32	VAT	-	(2)	(2)
136	34	84	131	RSG & BRR	50	29	79
149	36	36	115	Other Grants	-	2	2
-	-	-	-	Other Income	-	-	-
25	25	84	45	Money Market Transactions Received	59	45	104
				Receipt of Loans			
538	152	253	459	<b>RECEIPTS - NORMAL ACTIVITIES</b>	101	73	174
				<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
12	3	2	11	Police & Fire	1	(2)	(1)
430	89	111	324	General Creditors	(22)	17	(5)
-	-	-	-	RSG & BRR	-	-	-
127	32	31	96	Salaries & wages	1	(1)	-
37	9	9	28	Housing Benefits	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Money Market Transactions Paid Out	-	-	-
606	133	153	459	<b>PAYMENTS - NORMAL ACTIVITIES</b>	(20)	14	(6)
<b>(68)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>NET CASH FLOW IN/(OUT)</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>168</b>
A	B	C	D		= C less B	= D less (A-B)	

## Cash - short-term net investments/(borrowing) balances:



**Commentary on Cash Movements during the year:**

The summary on the previous page provides a comparison of the actual cash receipts and payments compared to the forecasted cash receipts and payments.

During the first three months of the year, the Council's net cashflow resulted in fluctuations in short-term net investment/borrowing balances due to the receipt of up-front grant income in this financial year. The Council fixed £125m of temporary loans in August 2022, which resulted in an increase in investment balances and over the next few months, short-term borrowing will be repaid using the fixed-term borrowing taken.

The chart of actual and forecast month-end balances shows temporary investment and borrowing levels throughout the year. The forecast shows the level of borrowing that may be required to cover planned and approved capital expenditure up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. However, it is likely that the Council will take out some long-term borrowing to cover some of this expenditure part way through 2023/24.

## Blackpool Council

Balance Sheet / Working Capital:

BALANCE SHEET 2023/24				
LAST Y/END		CURRENT	CHANGE	NEXT Y/END
Draft Unaudited 31 Mar 23		30 Jun 23	Movement since 31 Mar 23	31 Mar 24
£000s		Actual £000s	£000s	Forecast £000s
588,919	Property, Plant and Equipment	606,413	17,494	675,287
279,731	Infrastructure Assets	280,333	602	263,731
8,540	Heritage Assets	8,540	-	8,600
2,401	Intangible Assets	2,344	(57)	2,171
27,399	Long-term Investments	28,149	750	29,650
77,306	Long-term Debtors	81,220	3,914	72,300
107,948	Pension Asset	107,948	-	107,948
	Current Assets			
76,398	Debtors	77,500	1,102	75,000
836	Inventories	834	(2)	800
14,284	Cash and cash equivalents	8,019	(6,265)	15,000
<b>1,183,762</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,201,300</b>	<b>17,538</b>	<b>1,250,487</b>
	Current Liabilities			
(200,475)	Borrowing Repayable within 12 months	(174,600)	25,875	(200,000)
(81,762)	Creditors	(83,600)	(1,838)	(82,000)
	Long-term Liabilities			
(196,052)	Borrowing Repayable in excess of 12 months	(196,052)	-	(185,000)
(90,961)	Long Term Creditors	(90,961)	-	(88,131)
(50,576)	Capital Grants in Advance	(50,576)	-	(40,000)
(6,106)	Provisions	(6,106)	-	(6,100)
(62)	Other Long-term Liabilities	(62)	-	(62)
<b>557,768</b>	<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>599,343</b>	<b>41,575</b>	<b>649,194</b>
(82,888)	Usable Reserves	(75,047)	7,841	(71,867)
(474,880)	Unusable Reserves	(524,296)	(49,416)	(577,327)
<b>(557,768)</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>(599,343)</b>	<b>(41,575)</b>	<b>(649,194)</b>

Commentary on the key issues:

In order to provide a complete picture of the Council's financial performance, the above table provides a snapshot of the General Fund balance sheet as at the end of month 3. The key areas of focus are any significant movements in debtors, cash and cash equivalents, bank overdraft and creditors as these impact upon the Council's performance in the critical areas of debt recovery, treasury management and Public Sector Payment Policy.

The balance sheet has been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/IAS's). Each year an accounting adjustment under IAS 19 is made for the value of the pension fund at year end. In 2022/23, for the first time, this produced a pension asset rather than a pension liability. It is currently under review as to whether or not the Council can show the full amount of the pension asset. Therefore the figure is subject to change but does not affect the level of usable reserves available to the Council. Usable reserves include unallocated General Fund reserves and revenue reserves. Unusable reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and

losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold.

Due to a consultation regarding the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets, the 2020/21 and 2021/22 accounts have not been signed off by the Council's external auditors. The audit is ongoing and as soon as this is completed the 2022/23 draft balance sheet will require amendment, therefore the figures above should be treated as draft and will be subject to change.

Over the 3-month period there has been an increase in Property, Plant and Equipment of £17.5m due to capital expenditure which is in line with the Council's approved capital programme for 2023/24. Cash and Cash equivalents have decreased by £6.3m and short-term borrowing has decreased by £25.9m due to the timing of capital and revenue grants.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Karen Smith, Director of Adult Social Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	11 September 2023

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The report seeks approval for an updated version of the Adult Social Care charging policy. Proposed changes are highlighted in the recommendations below and are to keep the policy in line with associated central government guidance and also to respond to a Local Government Ombudsman adjudication relating to how the Council charges for homecare services.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the updated policy attached at Appendix 3a including changes which set out the following:
- The use of streamlined processes through lighter-touch assessments in all instances where finances can be verified through secure access to Department of Work and Pensions and HMRC online systems.
  - A revision to the client notice period from 14 to 7 days for suspended or cancelled care visits in line with care at home provider contractual requirements.
  - The introduction of a reconciliation process to ensure contributions to the cost of care do not exceed the cost to the Council.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Lighter touch financial assessments reduce the burden of information gathering from service users and their families/representatives, reducing delays in calculating contributions to the cost of care. This allows for more informed decision-making in relation to care and reduces the need for provisional charging arrangements pending assessment outcomes, providing more accurate budget forecasts.

When care at home is suspended following admittance to hospital, care providers are required to hold a package of care at home open for a period of 7 days to reduce discharge

delays and provide consistency of care. The policy required client contributions to continue to be made for a period of up to 14 days on suspension of care visits. This has now been changed to 7 days to align with care provider requirements.

The reconciliation process has been introduced following a recent Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) decision. Invoices for client contributions had continued to be issued in relation to visits that had not taken place on the request of the service user's family. The Council had not been notified that the visits had been cancelled, but the care provider did not charge the council a fee for the visits so the service user should not have been required to pay. The process introduced will check the contributions against the fees charged and either credit ongoing charges or refund the client.

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 policy could alternatively be left unchanged. This would mean that it was increasingly out-of-date which is contrary to good practice. It would also expose the Council to reputational risk in not having dealt promptly with the Local Government Ombudsman decision on homecare charging.

#### **5.0 Council priority:**

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

#### **6.0 Background information**

6.1 The charging policy sets out how the Council will deliver its obligations to financially assess individuals as per the Care Act 2014 and the associated statutory guidance. The previous version was approved in January 2020 so was due to be updated.

6.2 The key objective of the charging policy is to make the financial assessment process as transparent and easy-to-understand as possible as well as to ensure that it reflects the up-to-date guidance on how local authorities should charge for care commissioned/provided.

6.3 It was originally intended that the major change would be the introduction of the lifetime contributions limit, however this proposal was postponed at central government level so has not been included in the policy. The remaining changes are relatively minor ie the greater use of lighter touch financial assessments to speed up and simplify the process and the removal of the clause whereby cancelled homecare visits (ie cancelled by the service user for

whatever reason) were chargeable for the first two weeks. The updated policy does also reference some points for further development i.e. the introduction of reconciling invoices against homecare visits and investigating the potential to move towards a gross payment system for residential care.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 3a Updated Adult Social Care Charging Policy

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 There are no financial considerations other than the objective of speeding up the payment process once the Council agrees to carry out a financial assessment.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 There is no change in terms of the Council's legal duties and the proposed policy is in line with all of the associated central government guidance.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Risk of not updating and not complying with Local Government Ombudsman adjudication on charging. Risk would be reputational but with scope for sanctions to be applied in the event of non-compliance.

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

11.1 Given that Blackpool residents seeking financial support with the cost of care are likely to be economically disadvantaged then this policy should address inequality.

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

12.1 No impact on sustainability, climate or environment.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Limited consultation carried out in October 2022, mainly Council officers and agencies directly involved in advice and support to people seeking financial assessment for their cost of care and support. Response generally positive, some minor changes made on points of detail. At the time of the consultation the policy had introduced the concept of a lifetime cap on an individual's payments for their own care, a national proposal subsequently withdrawn

as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement last November.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 No additional background papers.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 11/2023

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: 1 September 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

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# Appendix 3a: Blackpool Adult Social Care Charging Policy

Blackpool Council



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction ----- 4

2.0 Principles of the Charging Policy ----- 4

3.0 Scope and Exclusions----- 5

4.0 Provisional Financial Assessments ----- 6

5.0 The Financial Assessment ----- 8

6.0 Light-touch Financial Assessments-----10

7.0 Charging for Care and Support in a Care Home-----11

8.0 Charging for Care and Support at Home-----13

9.0 Direct Payments and Personal Budgets-----15

10.0 Effective Point of Charging-----16

11.0 Change in Financial Circumstances-----16

12.0 Non Payment of Contributions-----17

13.0 Deprivation -----17

14.0 Reviews and Appeals -----18

15.0 Waivers -----18

16.0 Complaints -----19

<b>Issue Date</b>		April 2023 post-consultation for final amendments and approval; also to reflect delay in implementation of the proposed charging cap
<b>Version Number</b>		V0.2
<b>Effective From Date</b>		to be agreed
<b>Scope of Document</b>	The policy applies to Adult Services residential and non-residential care and support. It covers all services provided through a personal budget.	
<b>Objective</b>	To provide a point of reference for staff and service users which sets out how the Council will calculate a person's contribution towards the cost of adult residential and non-residential social care and support.	
<b>Responsibility</b>	All management and social care staff.	
<b>Documentation</b>	Health and Care Act 2022 Care Act 2014 Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 Care and Support and Aftercare (Choice of Accommodation) Regulations 2014 Care and Support Statutory Guidance	
<b>Document Status</b>	Draft/Final	Draft This document replaces the previous charging policy approved in December 2018 and in use 2018-2022.
	<b>Approved by &amp; Date</b>	
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	<b>Name</b>	
	<b>Job Title</b>	
	<b>Division</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Name</b>	Jim Green
	<b>Job Title</b>	Policy and Projects Officer
	<b>Team</b>	
	<b>Contact Tel:</b>	07776 162408
<b>Review Date</b>		2023-2024
<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Name</b>	Jim Green
	<b>Job Title</b>	Policy and Projects Officer
	<b>Contact Tel:</b>	07776 162408

#### Record of amendments:

Date	Version	Amended by	Description of changes

#### Record of approvals:

Name	Title	Signature	Date
Adults Senior Management Team			02-06-2023
Corporate Leadership Team			22-08-2023
Executive Committee			11-09-2023

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Care Act 2014 provides a single legal framework relating to charging for care and support. It enables a local authority to decide whether or not to charge a person when arranging to meet their care and support needs or a carer's support needs. There are some types of support where the local authority is required to arrange care and support free of charge. The purpose of this policy is to establish how Blackpool Council will calculate a person's contribution towards the cost of their care and support when charges do apply.

1.2 Where a local authority decides to charge it must follow the published regulations and have regard to the statutory guidance, which determine the maximum amount an authority can charge a person in receipt of care provision. The detail of how to charge is different depending on whether the person is receiving care in a care home or another setting, such as at home or in supported accommodation.

## **2.0 Principles of the Charging Policy**

### **National Policy and Regulatory Framework**

2.1 The Council has a duty to arrange care and support for those with eligible unmet needs. Where the Council arranges care and support to meet a person's needs, it has discretion whether or not to charge under section 14 of the Care Act. Where it decides to charge, it must follow the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations and have regard to the statutory guidance. This policy follows both the Regulations and guidance. The Act provides that the Council may apply charges based on the costs to the authority of meeting the assessed needs of the person.

2.2 The Council provides a range of social care services to support people with eligible care needs. Services include the provision of placements in care homes and services designed to help people to stay as independent as possible in their own homes. The key to the overall affordability of these services is the income that the Council receives from people towards the cost of their care and support. On this basis, the Council has decided to apply charges where the regulations allow but in accordance with guidelines which seek to ensure that no-one is asked to contribute more than they can afford.

### **Key Principles**

2.3 The overarching principles of the Council's charging policy are to:

- Ensure that people are not charged more than it is reasonably practical for them to pay;
- Be comprehensive, to reduce variation in the way people are assessed and charged;
- Be clear and transparent, so people know what they will be charged;
- Promote wellbeing, social inclusion, and support the vision of personalisation, independence, choice and control;

- Support carers to look after their own health and wellbeing and to care effectively and safely;
- Be person-focused, reflecting the variety of care and caring journeys and the variety of options available to meet needs;
- Apply the charging rules equally so those with similar needs or services are treated the same and minimise anomalies between different care settings;
- Encourage and enable those who wish to stay in or take up employment, education or training or plan for the future costs of meeting their needs to do so; and
- Be sustainable for local authorities in the long term.

## **3.0 Scope and Exclusions**

### **Exemptions**

3.1 In these circumstances people will not be required to make contributions

- People who have been diagnosed as having any form of Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease will be automatically exempt from charges.
- People receiving 'after-care' services will not be charged for support services provided under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
- Any service or part of a service which the NHS is under a duty to provide will be free to the user. This includes 'Continuing NHS Health Care' and the NHS contribution to registered nursing care.

### **Services provided free of charge**

- Advice and information and guidance provided by the Council about the availability of support will be available without a contribution.
- Independent advocacy services provided to facilitate the involvement of a person in their care assessment, in the preparation and review of their care and support plan as well as in safeguarding enquiries where this is deemed to be necessary.
- Assessments, including assessment of care and support needs and financial assessments will be available without a contribution.
- The Council will not require any contribution towards community equipment and minor adaptations up the value of £1,000 e.g. grab rails where an assessed need has been identified.
- Where the Council provides intermediate care including reablement, this will be provided free of charge for a period of up to six weeks, in accordance with the Regulations. If intermediate care is provided at home, and it is in addition to an established (albeit in some cases interrupted) package of support, contributions will continue against the established package. The person's assessment will identify those services provided under intermediate care arrangements. Subject to the

Council's discretion, these services may be provided free of charge for longer than six weeks where continuation of the intermediate care would have clear preventative benefits to the person as assessed by their social worker.

- Any unplanned day or night visits will be provided free of charge when delivered on a short term basis for a period of less than 7 days.
- There are a number of support schemes designed to avoid hospital admission (eg rapid response) or facilitate discharge from hospital following a stay; these arrangements are currently provided without charge. In some cases the funding for these schemes is provided by the NHS on a short term basis which means the arrangements are subject to review.
- The Council has chosen to provide free of charge, services directly provided to carers to meet carers' identified support needs.

#### **Services subject to flat rate charges**

- Where a person has eligible needs to be met through the provision of non-residential care and has assets above the upper capital limit, the Council will charge an annual administration fee for arranging services to meet their needs. The fee will be reviewed annually and will be applied at the point that services commence (on pro-rata basis) and annually thereafter on this anniversary.
- An administration fee will be applicable under the Care Act 2014 for setting up and maintaining a Deferred Payment Agreement. The set-up fee will be payable when the legal agreement is complete; the maintenance fee will be due annually in advance on this date each year.
- Where a person lacks the capacity to manage their own finances and the Council provides a money management service or acts as a court appointed Deputy, the Council will charge a fee subject to affordability.
- Where residential respite services are provided there will be a flat rate charge, to cover ordinary living expenses, for a maximum of 8 continuous weeks or for 12 separate weeks cumulatively over a year. After this period, contributions will be calculated in accordance with this Policy, however if a service user feels that they cannot afford the flat rate charge they can request a full financial assessment.
- Where a person requires a temporary or short stay in residential care there will be a flat rate charge to cover ordinary living expenses, for the first two weeks of the stay, or a full financial assessment can be requested.

## **4.0 Provisional Financial Assessments**

### **Provisional or Interim Charges**

4.1 In residential services if a full financial assessment has not been completed at the time a person's care and support commences then a provisional contribution will be applied from the date the services are put in place. Adjustments in respect of any under- or overpayments from the date the contributions



commenced will be made when the financial assessment has been completed. In non-residential services there is no interim charge, instead once the financial assessment has been completed and the outcome notified then liability for any payments will be backdated to the start of the package of care.

### **Non-Residential Care**

4.2 Where information is not available to allow a financial assessment to be completed in advance of the services commencing, a request will be made to the service user for the relevant information. This information will need to be provided within 14 days. Once this information is received then the assessed contribution for the care provision will be payable backdated to the start of the package of care.

### **Residential Care (Short stay)**

4.3 Contributions towards the cost of short stay residential care are paid by the resident or their representative directly to the care home. For the first two weeks of any short stay a flat rate charge will be applied. The service user can however request that a financial assessment be undertaken to establish an assessed charge. After the first two weeks a financially assessed charge will be established in any case if the information is available to allow this. This information will need to be provided within the first 14 days of the stay to enable a financially assessed charge to be established and applied from the beginning of the third week. If the information is not available to allow a financially assessed charge to be applied after the first two weeks then a provisional charge will be applied for a further two weeks. When the required information has been received any adjustments to contributions paid from the start of week three will be calculated. This may mean that an additional payment is due to the care home if the financially assessed figure is higher than the provisional charge. If after the further two week period, the required information has not been provided, then it will be assumed that the resident can afford to meet the full cost of their placement and this will be applied from the beginning of the third week of the stay. At present under this arrangement the full amount of the charge should be paid directly to the care home although it can also be paid to the Council.

### **Residential Care (Long stay)**

4.4 Contributions towards the cost of residential care are paid by the person resident or their representative directly to the care home. Where information is not available to allow a long stay financial assessment to be completed in advance of the placement commencing, a request will be made to the resident or their representative for the relevant information. This information will need to be provided within 14 days during which time a fixed provisional charge will be applied from the point at which the placement began. When the required information has been received the correct figure will be calculated and backdated to the date the permanent placement commenced. This may mean that an additional payment is due to the care home if the financially assessed figure is higher than the provisional charge. If the information to complete the financial assessment is not provided within the required timescale, the interim charge will continue to apply for a further 14 days. After this time, if the required information is not provided, then it will be assumed that the resident can afford to meet the full cost of their placement from the date of their admission and this must be paid directly to the care home.

4.5 The level of interim charging for residential care shall be index-linked to the state pension rate and updated annually.

## **5.0 The Financial Assessment**

5.1 The Council will positively seek to complete a financial assessment to determine how much a person should contribute towards the cost of providing their care and support unless they:

- are exempt as described under section 3.1 of this policy;
- choose not to be financially assessed.

5.2 People who refuse to be financially assessed or refuse to co-operate with the assessment to the extent that a full financial assessment cannot be completed, will be required to pay the maximum charge for their care and support. This will be equivalent to the full cost of their care (subject to the maximum weekly charge if receiving non-residential services).

5.3 A financial assessment will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to assist with decision making as part of the care and support planning process. The assessment will be subject to regular review to take account of any changes to a person's finances. People are required to notify the Council as soon as possible if there is a change in circumstance which may affect the assessment.

5.4 The amount that a person is asked to contribute towards the cost of their care and support will depend upon whether the person is to be in residential care or living at home. This is discussed in more detail in later sections.

5.5 The financial assessment will take into account income and capital. People subject to an assessment will be asked to confirm that the information being used is correct. Where appropriate or as requested a Finance Visiting Officer will arrange to meet people in a suitable place to gather information and provide advice on benefits maximisation.

5.6 In order to facilitate a prompt financial assessment and notification of the assessment to the service user we shall seek to carry out a light touch assessment (see section 6) wherever possible. This shall be the case whenever income is primarily DWP benefits which can be readily verified.

5.7 Income will always be taken into account unless it must be disregarded in accordance with the Regulations. In all cases, employed or self-employed earnings are fully disregarded.

5.8 Most of the benefits people receive will be taken into account unless they are disregarded as below. However if people are to be receiving care when living at home they will always be left with enough income to cover daily living costs or to meet needs not being met by the Council. If they receive care and support in a residential care home they will be left with a personal expenses allowance to spend as they wish.

5.9 Income from the following sources will be fully disregarded:

- Guaranteed Income Payments made to Veterans under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme;

- War Disablement Pension, War Widows and War Widowers Pension Payments;
- Survivors Guaranteed Income Payments from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme;
- The mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments;

5.10 Savings credit income will be fully or partially disregarded based on qualifying criteria.

5.11 The above list is not exhaustive and for further details of income that is either fully or partially disregarded see Annex 3: Treatment of Income, Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

5.12 The main examples of capital are assets such as property and savings. A person with assets above the upper capital limit will need to meet the full cost of their care (subject to the maximum weekly charge for non-residential care see 7.10). Where a person has capital at or below the upper capital limit, but more than the lower capital limit they will be charged £1 per week for every £250 in capital between the two amounts. This is called 'tariff income'. Any capital below the lower capital limit will be disregarded from the assessment.

5.13 In certain circumstances capital will be disregarded<sup>1</sup>. The value of a person's main or only home will be disregarded in the following circumstances:

- Where the person is receiving care and support at home;
- If the person's stay in a care home is temporary and they intend to return to that property or they are taking reasonable steps to dispose of the property and acquire something more suitable.
- Where the person no longer occupies the property but it continues to be occupied by a spouse or qualifying relative aged over 60 or incapacitated relative as defined in the Regulations and Guidance and the intent is not considered to be the avoidance of paying care charges.

5.14 Only a person's sole or main residence will be disregarded if any of the above circumstances apply. The value of any other land or property that is owned will be taken into account in the assessment.

5.15 There may be some circumstances in addition to those listed above, when the Council considers it appropriate to disregard the value of a person's main residence in an assessment. This is called a discretionary disregard but must be balanced with the need to ensure that residents with assets are not maintained at public expense.

5.16 Only the income of the cared-for person will be taken into account in the financial assessment of what they can afford to pay for their care and support. Where this person receives income as part of a couple, the starting presumption is that the cared-for person has an equal share of the income. If any assets are held jointly, for example, a joint bank account, unless there is evidence to demonstrate otherwise, it will be assumed that the total amount is shared equally and the person will be treated as owning an equal share.

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<sup>1</sup> For further details see Annex 3

5.17 All people being financially assessed shall, as part of the assessment process, be offered and strongly recommended to undertake a benefits healthcheck to maximise their income.

5.18 People are expected to take advantage of all income available to them and assistance to maximise this will be available where needed.

5.19 Where the Council considers that a person has deliberately tried to avoid care and support costs through depriving themselves of assets, either capital or income, it will charge the person as if they still possessed the asset or, if the asset has been transferred to someone else, it will seek to recover the lost income from that person. See Section 13 for full details.

5.20 Following the financial assessment people will be sent a letter informing them of the amount that they have been assessed as needing to contribute towards the cost of their care and support and how this figure has been calculated. Contributions will apply from the date that services commenced. If it has not been possible to complete a full financial assessment by the time services have been put in place, a provisional charge will apply in the short term, until the outcome of the full assessment is known. This may require adjustments to contributions in later periods. See Sections 7 & 8 for further details of how this shall be applied in residential care and care at home respectively.

5.21 Where a person lacks the mental capacity to manage their finances, they may still be assessed as able to contribute towards the cost of their care. The Council will need to work with someone who has the appropriate authority (e.g. Power of Attorney or appointee for benefits) to make financial decisions on behalf of the person. People who lack the mental capacity to give consent to a financial assessment and who do not have an authorised representative will require the appointment of a deputy for property and financial affairs. Family members can apply for this to the Court of Protection or the Council will consider applying if there is no-one else suitable. The application process can take several months to complete but contributions towards the cost of care will still apply from the date the support commenced. Debt collection procedures will be suspended during this period until such time as a deputy has been appointed. The Council will then expect payment of any outstanding charges in full and if necessary take steps to recover any arrears of charges.

## **6.0 Light-touch Financial Assessments**

6.1 In some circumstances, the Authority may choose to treat a person as if a financial assessment has been carried out. In order to do so, it must be satisfied on the basis of evidence provided by the person that they can afford, and will continue to be able to afford any charges due. This is known as 'light-touch' financial assessment.

6.2 The main circumstances in which the Council will carry out a light-touch financial assessment are:

- Where a person has significant financial resources, and does not wish to undergo a full financial assessment for personal reasons, but wishes to access local authority support in meeting their needs;

- Where there is a small or nominal amount charged for a particular services which a person is clearly able to meet and would clearly have the relevant minimum income left and carrying out a full financial assessment would be disproportionate;
- When an individual is in receipt of benefits which demonstrate that they would not be able to contribute towards their care and support costs;

The Council will inform people when it intends to carry out a light-touch financial assessment and a full financial assessment can be requested as an alternative.

## **7.0 Charging for Care and Support in a Care Home**

7.1 People receiving care and support in a care home will be expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their care, unless they are considered to be exempt under the criteria outlined in Section 3.1, subject to a financial assessment in line with the Regulations and Guidance. The Council will take into account income and capital when carrying out the financial assessment.

7.2 However, a person will always be left with a minimum amount of income, known as the Personal Expenses Allowance. This is a figure set by the government. Any income above this amount may be taken into account when determining charges with the exception of the income amounts detailed in section 5.8 which will be disregarded. The personal expenses allowance is intended for people to spend as they wish and may be varied by the Council subject to specific and individual circumstances.

7.3 The financial assessment will take into account the value of any property that is owned, including the person's main or only home. If a person is considered to have assets, including a property, valued at more than £23,250<sup>2</sup>, they will be expected to meet the full cost of their care. Where this is the case, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria<sup>3</sup>, a person may be offered the option of delaying the payment of some of their care costs and entering into a deferred payment agreement with the Council. In these circumstances a person will still be expected to contribute towards the cost of their care from their income but can defer the rest of the payment until such as time as their assets are realised. If a deferred payment is not agreed, a person will be expected to meet the full cost of their care if they have assets valued at more than £23,250.

7.4 When the value of a person's assets, excluding their property, is below the upper capital limit, the value of their main or only home will be disregarded for 12 weeks in the following circumstances:

- When they first enter a care home as a permanent resident; or

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<sup>2</sup> This figure is set by the Department of Health and Social Care and is reviewed on a periodic basis. This Policy will be updated to reflect any change in the figure.

<sup>3</sup> The person has care needs to be met by the provision of residential accommodation; the person has less than (or equal to) the upper capital limit in assets excluding the value of their home (i.e. in savings and other non- housing assets); and anyone whose home is not disregarded because, for example, it continues to be occupied by a spouse or dependent relative.

- When a property disregard other than for the 12 week period unexpectedly ends because the qualifying relative has died or moved into a care home.

7.5 The Council has the discretion to disregard property for other reasons and each case will be considered on an individual basis but this must be balanced against the duty to ensure that the value of a person's assets are not maintained at the expense of the wider public.

7.6 Where the care planning process has determined that a person's needs are best met in a care home, the Council will provide for the person's preferred choice of accommodation subject to certain conditions. The type of accommodation must be appropriate to the person's needs and the cost must not exceed the amount included in their personal budget. There should always be at least one option which is affordable within the individual's personal budget. However, a person will also be able to choose alternative options, including a more expensive care home, where a third party or in certain circumstances<sup>4</sup> the individual themselves is willing and able to pay the additional cost i.e. the difference between the actual cost and the amount in the personal budget or 'top-up' fee. Any first or third party arrangements to pay top-up fees will be subject to a formal agreement between the Council and the third party which clearly documents the implications of a failure to make the required payments.

7.7 Where a person is resident in a care home for the purposes of receiving respite care, the Council will request a flat rate contribution (up to the first 8 weeks of continuous care or 12 separate weeks on a cumulative basis per year) in addition to any established contributions to non-residential care. If a person feels that they cannot afford to pay the flat rate contribution they can request a financial assessment as if they were a short stay resident (see 7.8 below). The contribution a person is asked to make will need to be paid direct to the care home. Any such top up payments shall not count towards the lifetime cap on care costs.

7.8 If a person is assessed to need a temporary or short stay in a care home, for any purposes other than respite, then a flat rate contribution will be applied for the first two weeks. If a person feels that they cannot afford to pay the flat rate contribution they can request a full financial assessment to be applied from the start of their stay. In any case after the first two weeks, a full financial assessment of what they can afford to contribute to the cost of their care will be undertaken. The financial assessment will be based on the individual resources of the person but with regard to any spouse or partner remaining at home. The person's main or only home will be disregarded where the person intends to return home or is taking steps to dispose of the property in order to acquire something more suitable. Other factors, such as ongoing home commitments, will also be taken into account in accordance with the Guidance.

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<sup>4</sup> The person whose needs are to be met by the accommodation may choose to pay a 'top-up' where any of the following circumstances apply:

- Where they are assessed to have sufficient financial assets
- Where they are subject to a 12 week property disregard
- Where they have a deferred payment agreement in place
- Where they are receiving accommodation provided under s117 of the Mental Health Act 1983

7.9 If the person subsequently becomes a long stay resident, a further financial assessment will be undertaken to take account of the change in circumstances; however the new charge will only be applied from the date that the care plan was amended to reflect the need for long term support and as agreed with the individual or their representative.

7.10 If necessary, a provisional financial assessment will apply from the date of permanent admission or two weeks after a short stay admission, until the full financial assessment has been completed. It may be necessary to refund or collect any over- or underpayment. The contribution a person is asked to make will need to be paid direct to the care home.

## **8.0 Charging for Care and Support at Home**

8.1 People receiving care and support in their own home or in the community will be expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their care (as set out in their personal budget), unless they are considered to be exempt under the criteria outlined in Section 3.1, subject to a financial assessment in line with the Regulations and Guidance. The Council will take into account income and capital when carrying out the financial assessment.

8.2 People receiving care and support arranged by the Council other than in a care home need to retain a certain level of income to cover their living costs. Under the Care Act 2014, charges must not reduce a person's income below a certain amount but local authorities can allow people to keep more of their income if they wish. This is known as the Minimum Income Guarantee and its purpose is to promote independence and ensure that people have sufficient funds to meet basic needs such as buying food, paying for utilities and purchasing insurance. The Minimum Income Guarantee figures are reviewed at intervals by the government. (See Annex 1 for latest figures)

8.3 The following household expenses will also be considered and may be taken into account in the financial assessment process depending on the individual's circumstances:

- Rent net of housing benefit/universal credit
- Mortgage repayments
- Council Tax net of Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Water rates
- Ground rent/maintenance charges

8.4 Where disability related benefits are taken into account as part of the financial assessment process, the Council will allow a person to keep enough benefit to pay for necessary disability related expenditure to meet agreed needs which are not being met by the authority. The Council applies a notional level of banded disability related expenditure (DRE) based upon the level of a person's disability benefits. However, the maximum level of banded DRE can be exceeded in cases where the expense is justified and can be verified through evidence of expenditure such as receipts.

8.5 There is no exhaustive list of what can be counted as disability related expenditure – it can be different for each person dependant on their individual circumstances. The Council will consider something as DRE if the following conditions are met:

- The extra cost is needed to meet specific needs due to a medical condition or disability, as identified in the Care Plan assessment of needs or supported by additional medical evidence e.g. a GP letter

- The cost is reasonable and can be verified, evidence will be required
- A reasonable alternative is not available for free or at a lower cost. If a reasonable alternative is available at a lower cost, the lower amount will be considered as DRE rather than the amount spent.

8.6 Certain expenditure may not be classed as DRE if it is considered a service the general population would use e.g. house insurance, appliance insurance, travel costs other than those related to disability, special dietary requirements not related to disability or medical condition etc.

8.7 Where the need for DRE is unclear, the Council's Social Care Benefits Team is authorised to make additional enquiries with relevant parties to satisfy themselves whether any expenditure should be included in a financial assessment.

8.8 The night care element of Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance will also be disregarded if there are agreed day and/or night care needs and costs, which are not being met by the Council. Where a person is in receipt of a Personal Independence Payment, the care component will be treated as income in full, but an allowance will be made where any disability related expense can be identified in relation to agreed day and night care not being arranged by the local authority.

8.9 People will retain the right to have their assessment reviewed (or to appeal) when the whole or part of their impairment or disability related expense has not been taken into account.

8.10 The Council will consider within the assessment, the financial implications for people who have children up to 19 years of age, who are financially dependent on them. Young people will continue to be considered as dependants until their 19th birthday on receipt of proof that they remain in full time education.

8.11 Where a carer has eligible support needs of their own, the Authority has a duty, or in some cases a power, to arrange support to meet their needs. Where the Authority arranges to meet the needs of the carer by arranging for the direct provision of services to the carer themselves, charges will not be applied. However, where services are provided to the "cared for" person, such as respite care, then charges will be applied to the cared for person in line with this Policy.

8.12 The non-residential assessment calculation is summarised as follows:



Assessable Income
Less: Minimum Income Guarantee
Less: Housing Costs
Less: Disability Related Expenditure
Equals: Assessed Contribution or Net Disposable Income

The full amount of the assessed contribution or net disposable income is then compared to the amount of the personal budget and the amount due will be the lower of the two figures.

8.13 The Council will set an upper limit on the amount that any person will be asked to contribute towards their care at home costs regardless of their level of income or capital. This amount shall never exceed the cost of the care package and is called the ‘cap’ or maximum weekly charge and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

8.14 When a person’s contribution to their personal budget has been established, this is the amount that they will be required to contribute unless the following circumstances apply:

- A person is admitted to hospital or there is another absence from home for a period of more than one week. The authority must be notified and the contribution towards the cost of the personal budget will be reviewed.
- A person dies in which case a refund or any balance outstanding will be calculated from the date of death.

8.15 Where a person is funding their own care package charges shall be subject to review for any absence notified to the Council. To avoid charges exceeding the cost of care an annual reconciliation and amendment exercise shall be carried out by the Council to compare planned care with actual care delivered and then make appropriate adjustments to the charges levied.

8.16 People with eligible needs and financial assets above the upper capital limit may ask the Council to meet their needs. If their needs are to be met by care and support in the home, then the Council must provide assistance, but this will be subject to the payment of an annual administration fee to cover costs in addition to the costs of providing the care and support. In these circumstances there is no entitlement to financial support with the payment of charges.

## 9.0 Direct Payments and Personal Budgets

9.1 Direct payments are an option for people who would like to arrange their own care and support at home instead of receiving services through the Council. A personal budget or a portion of a personal budget may be paid on a cash basis as a Direct Payment. Direct Payments are not available to people in residential care.

9.2 Where a person opts to receive a Direct Payment their financial contribution will be determined through a financial assessment in accordance with this Policy. Where a person is assessed as being liable to pay a financial contribution towards their care and support, the relevant contribution will be deducted before each Direct Payment is paid to them. People receiving Direct Payments will be expected to regularly pay their assessed financial contribution or 'charge' into their Direct Payment account and this will be monitored through regular account audits.

9.3 Where a person chooses to access a combination of support arranged by the Council and a Direct Payment and is assessed to make a financial contribution, the contribution will be deducted before the Direct Payment is paid. If the assessed contribution exceeds the amount of the Direct Payment then an invoice will be sent for the remaining amount due.

## **10.0 Effective Point of Charging**

10.1 People will be informed at the earliest appropriate time that there may be a contribution required towards the cost of their care and support.

10.2 People will be sent a letter notifying them of the outcome of their financial assessment, the frequency and amount of their payment and the date from which contributions will be due.

10.3 The Council will expect contributions to commence from the date at which it starts to meet a person's care and support needs. If the financial assessment has not been completed to determine how much the person can afford to pay at the outset, it may be necessary to apply a provisional charge. Adjustments in respect of any under- or overpayments will be processed when the financial assessment has been completed.

10.4 Invoices will be addressed to the individual in receipt of the care and support, unless there is another person with legal authority to act on their behalf, for example, a DWP appointee for benefits, a registered lasting or enduring power of attorney or a Court appointed Deputy; evidence of authority will be required.

## **11.0 Change in Financial Circumstances**

11.1 A person's assessed financial contribution towards the cost of care and support will be updated at the start of the financial year to take into account changes in DWP benefits and private pensions. For most people, this update will be completed automatically by the Council's Social Care Benefits Team. However some people may be asked to provide supplementary information subject to the nature of their income and investments.

11.2 In any event it is essential that the Council's Social Care Benefits Team is notified at the earliest opportunity of any changes in financial circumstances which are not routine annual increases in DWP benefits as applied in April in each year, for example, a change in the type of benefit received, a change in disability status meaning an increase from standard to enhanced rate Personal Independence Payment, etc.

11.3 If a person in receipt of care and support experiences a change in their financial circumstances then they must inform the Social Care Benefits Team as soon as possible, either by telephone on 01253 477532

or by email [sc.benefits@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:sc.benefits@blackpool.gov.uk) or in writing to Social Care Benefits Team, Blackpool Council, P.O. Box 50, Town Hall, Blackpool, FY1 1NF .

11.4 Any change, which results in a reduction in the assessed charge payable will take effect from the Monday following the date that the Council is notified.

11.5 Any change that results in a higher charge payable will be applied from the actual date of the change.

11.6 Where the change results in backdated charges exceeding 6 months and the individual or their representative could not have reasonably expected to know that they would have increased charges to pay, then the Council can consider charging from the beginning of the financial year that the change was notified.

11.7 Where an individual lacks capacity to manage their finances and an authorised representative is appointed, the Council will allow one calendar month from the date of appointment to be notified of any changes. Changes notified after this time period will be treated as above.

11.8 The Council reserves the right to use discretion in deciding whether to backdate charges, depending on the individual's circumstances. To avoid the accrual of historic debt it is important that the Council is notified immediately of any changes.

## **12.0 Non Payment of Contributions**

12.1 Failure to make payment will result in action being taken to recover the debt in accordance with the Council's corporate debt management procedures. If a person has been assessed as needing services these will not be withdrawn because a person refuses to pay the contribution. The overall approach will be to obtain co-operation while at the same time working with any individuals experiencing difficulty in making payment to agree a payment plan etc. Individual circumstances will be handled with sensitivity, however in fairness to those people who pay their assessed contribution; non-payment will be handled in line with the Council's policy on unpaid invoices. If a DWP appointee or other legally authorised person is appointed to act on behalf of an individual and does not arrange to make payment for services provided as necessary, the Council will take action to recover the debt from the responsible party (ie the appointee or other legally authorised person). Ultimately the Council may institute County Court proceedings to recover the debt after exploring other options such as offering a deferred payment agreement.

## **13.0 Deprivation**

13.1 Deprivation of assets is considered to mean that a person has intentionally deprived or decreased their overall assets (income or capital) in order to reduce the amount they are expected to contribute towards their care. This means that people knowing that they need care and support have deliberately tried to avoid or reduce the amount of charges they will be expected to pay, for example, by gifting an amount of money or transferring ownership of a property, including the family home. Before deciding whether deprivation has occurred, the Council will consider:

- Whether avoiding charges was a significant motivation;

- The timing of the disposal of the asset e.g. at the point the capital was disposed of could the person have a reasonable expectation of the need for care and support; and
- Did the person have a reasonable expectation of needing to contribute to the cost of their eligible care needs?

13.2 It is up to the person to prove that they no longer have the asset otherwise they will be assessed as if they still had ownership. Where the person has transferred the asset to a third party to avoid or reduce charges, the third party will be treated as liable for the difference between what would have been charged and what is actually charged. As with any other debt the Council will consider using County Court proceedings to recover any debt owing. This could include recovery of charges directly from the recipient of the asset(s); this is referred to as a Third Party Debt Order.

## **14.0 Reviews and Appeals**

14.1 If a person believes that there has been a mistake in the assessment process or that the assessment process has not taken full account of their circumstances they can request a review of their assessed contribution. If a person still feels that they cannot pay the assessed contribution, for example, because they have an additional disability related expense, they can use the Appeals procedure. Full details are contained in the Council's Reviews, Appeals and Waivers Procedure Document. A copy of the Procedure is available on the Council's website: <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Health-and-social-care/Social-care-for-adults/Documents/Reviews-and-Appeals-Procedure.pdf>

14.2 Requests for a review should be made in writing to the Social Care Benefits Team, Blackpool Council, P.O. Box 50, Town Hall, Blackpool, FY1 1NF stating the reasons for the request, within 28 days of the notification of the outcome of the financial assessment.

## **15.0 Waivers**

15.1 Blackpool Council financially assesses the ability of people to contribute towards the cost of their care and support as set out in their personal budget. This assessment considers the income, savings and expenses of the individual and determines the amount that they can reasonably be expected to pay towards the cost of their care.

15.2 However, it recognises that there are people whose particular financial circumstances may be such that even though the assessment of their finances has been undertaken accurately, they may have difficulty in contributing towards the cost of their care and that this difficulty may result in a limitation of the person's ability to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

15.3 The Council will waive part or all of an assessed contribution towards the cost of care where to apply the contribution in full would result in:-

- Significant harm to that person
- The significant impairment of, or significant avoidable deterioration in, physical or mental health

- The significant impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development or well-being
- A significant risk to the person's long term independence

15.4 Requests for a waiver should be made in writing to the Social Care Benefits Team, Blackpool Council, P.O. Box 50, Town Hall, Blackpool, FY1 1NF stating the reasons why the charge is not affordable and how the requirement to pay will affect you. Please write within 28 days of the notification of the outcome of the financial assessment with any evidence to support the application and a member of the team will contact you to discuss the request. Requests for waivers will be considered on a case by case basis and will take into account any resulting expected economic hardship or anticipated impacts on physical or mental health.

15.5 Waivers will be strictly time limited and conditional upon a referral to the Council's Debt Advice Team for help with personal budgeting.

## **16.0 Complaints**

16.1 If a person is unhappy with the way their case has been handled, a formal complaint can be made using the Complaints Procedure. The complaints procedure cannot investigate the assessed contribution for services or complaints about general policy. It can however investigate concerns about the process by which the assessment has been made. For more information about the Complaints Procedure or if you wish to complain about the financial assessment process then you can contact the Customer Relations Team on 01253 477700 or by email at [customerrelations@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:customerrelations@blackpool.gov.uk) or you can write to the Customer Relations Team, Blackpool Council, PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA.

## ANNEX 1: ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES & CHARGES 2022/23

Service users in receipt of care services will be offered a Financial Assessment which will take into account their income and savings and reflect whether they receive non-residential care and support (i.e. care at home or in the community) or residential care and support as detailed below.

<b>Contributions payable by Service Users for Care At Home &amp; Other Non-Residential Care Services (subject to a financial assessment)</b>	
<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>2022 – 2023 Service User Contributions</b>
<b>Maximum Charge for non-residential care and support services</b>	£720.00 per week
<b>Personal Budget</b>	The person will be financially assessed and asked to contribute the lower of the two figures : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the full amount of the personal budget or</li> <li>• net disposable income</li> </ul>
<b>Care at home (Domiciliary Care)</b>	Assessed Charge  <b>Subject to financial assessment</b>
<b>Supported Living</b>	Assessed Charge  <b>Subject to financial assessment</b>
<b>Day Care</b>	Assessed Charge  <b>Subject to financial assessment</b>
<b>Community Alarm / Telecare provided under eligibility criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silver</li> <li>• Gold</li> <li>• Platinum</li> <li>• Diamond</li> <li>• GSM unit (SIM card/no landline)</li> </ul>	Assessed Charge  <b>Subject to Financial Assessment</b>
<b>Provisional Financial Assessment Rate (pending full financial assessment)</b>	Full cost of service

<b>Contributions payable for other Non-Residential and Residential Care Services (Not subject to a financial assessment)</b>	
<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>2022 – 2023 Service User Contributions</b>
<b>Domiciliary Intermediate Care – Re-enablement Care &amp; ARC Outreach Service</b>	No Charge – free service up to 6 weeks maximum then full financial assessment.  NB : Contributions towards any established package of care will continue
<b>Residential Respite Care Rate per night (up to first 8 weeks of continuous care or 12 separate weeks on a cumulative basis)</b>	£16.90 per night contribution to cover daily living expenses  <b>FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.</b>
<b>Short Stay Rate per night (up to first 2 weeks)</b>	£16.90 per night contribution to cover daily living expenses  <b>FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.</b>
<b>Respite Care at Home (up to first 8 weeks of continuous care or 12 separate weeks on a cumulative basis)</b>	No charge  NB : Contributions towards any established package of care will continue
<b>Transport</b>	£2.70 per one way journey
<b>Meals at Day Centres</b>	Charge to cover cost of provision
<b>Community Alarm/Telecare (Private subscribers)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze</li> <li>• Silver</li> <li>• Gold</li> <li>• Platinum</li> <li>• Diamond plus</li> <li>• Diamond basic</li> <li>• GSM unit (SIM card/no landline)</li> <li>• Couples charge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £4.80 per week (plus VAT)</li> <li>• £5.60 per week (plus VAT)</li> <li>• £7.25 per week (plus VAT)</li> <li>• £13.60 per week (plus VAT)</li> <li>• £26.20 per week (plus VAT)</li> <li>• £14.50 per week (plus VAT)</li> <li>• £10.00 per month (plus VAT)</li> <li>• As above plus 50%</li> </ul>

<b>Residential Care</b>	
<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>2022– 2023 Service User Contributions</b>
<b>Long term residential care</b>	Financial assessment
<b>Short Stay</b>	£16.90 per night for first two weeks and then financial assessment  <b>FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.</b>
<b>Residential Respite Care</b>	See above
<b>Intermediate/ Rehabilitation</b>	No charge for up to six weeks when provided as part of a care plan and then subject to financial assessment
<b>Provisional Financial Rate (pending a full financial assessment)</b>	£152.20 per week
<b>DISABILITY RELATED EXPENDITURE BANDINGS</b>	
<b>Category of Disability Benefit</b>	<b>Amount allowed per week</b>
<b>No disability benefits received</b>	£5.00
<b>Lower/middle rate Disability Living Allowance or lower rate Attendance Allowance or standard rate Personal Independence Payment</b>	£10.00
<b>Higher rate Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance or enhanced rate Personal Independence Payment</b>	£20.00
<b>Supported Living service users (additional to above relevant band)</b>	£25.00
Where disability related benefits are taken into account as part of the financial assessment process, the Council will allow a person to keep enough benefit to pay for necessary disability related expenditure to meet agreed needs which are not being met by the authority. The Council applies a notional level of banded disability related expenditure (DRE) based upon the level of a person's disability benefits. However, the maximum level of banded DRE can be exceeded in cases	



where the expense is justified and can be verified through evidence of expenditure such as receipts.

Miscellaneous	
Type of Service	2022- 2023 Charges
<b>Extra Care Housing – Peace of Mind Service</b>	£13.80 per week flat rate charge. Includes access to on site core care and support service. Rent and Service Charge are payable in addition to the charge for the Peace of Mind service.
<b>Out of Hours Housing Management</b>	£7.70 per week
<b>Deferred Payment Agreements</b>	
Set up Fee	£700
Annual Administration Fee (payable in advance)	£340
Interest rate	national rate
Interest rate (six months after settlement due)	8%

Applicable Financial Thresholds	2022 – 2023
Lower Capital Limit	£14,250
Upper Capital Limit	£23,250
Tariff Income	For every £250 or part of £250 above £14,250, you are treated as if you have an extra £1 a week income.
Residential Personal Expenses Allowance (Pocket Money)	£24.90 per week
Administration of Care Packages (where a service user has assets valued at more than £23,250)	
Set up fee	£65.00
Annual Administration fee	£65.00

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE/PERSONAL ALLOWANCES 2022-2023							
SINGLE PERSON				COUPLE			
£				£			
<b>18-24</b>				<b>18 to pension credit age</b>			
Basic				Basic			
91.40				71.80			
*Disability Premium				*Disability Premium			
40.35				28.75			
*Enhanced Disability Premium				*Enhanced Disability Premium			
19.70				14.15			
151.45				114.70			
<b>25 to pension credit age</b>							
Basic							
91.40							
*Disability Premium							
40.35							
*Enhanced Disability Premium							
19.70							
151.45							
<b>Pension credit age</b>				<b>Pension credit age</b>			
189.00				144.30			
* carer premium				* carer premium			
43.25				43.25			
* responsible for child				* responsible for child			
83.65				83.65			
				*include where applicable			

## ANNEX 2: Assessing your financial contribution – Non Residential Care

The information that we need to assess your financial contribution if you are living in your own home is explained in more detail below -

Information required	Please explain ...	Examples
<p><b>How much capital do you have?</b></p> <p><b>What is the value of your assets?</b></p>	<p>If you have assets valued at more than £23,250 you must pay for the full cost of your care</p> <p>Any assets valued at £14,250 or less will not be taken into account</p> <p>The value of your own home is not taken into account if you are receiving non-residential care</p>	<p>Bank or savings accounts</p> <p>Premium Bonds</p> <p>Property (other than your main home)</p> <p>Stocks and Shares</p>
<p><b>What is your income?</b></p>	<p>What money do you have coming in regularly?</p> <p>What are you entitled to receive?</p>	<p>Income- related benefits e.g. universal credit, ESA</p> <p>Disability-related benefits e.g. Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP)</p> <p>Pensions e.g. state pension, occupational pensions</p>
<p><b>What is your tariff income?</b></p>	<p>If you have assets valued over £14,250 and less than £23,250, for every £250 or part £250 in between, £1 will be taken into account</p>	<p>If you have £15,000 of premium bonds, £14,250 will be ignored. The difference of £750 is divided by £250 which means an extra £3 per week will be added to your weekly income</p>
<p><b>What income is not taken into account?</b></p>	<p>Some income and benefits are ignored in the financial assessment</p>	<p>Disability Living Allowance Mobility Component</p> <p>Personal Independence Payment Mobility Component</p> <p>Savings credit</p> <p>Earnings</p>
<p><b>How much income do you need to cover essential living costs</b></p>	<p>This is called the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). This amount is set and reviewed annually by the Department of Health and Social Care; it varies depending on your age,</p>	<p>See earlier table showing Minimum Income Guarantee/Personal Allowances</p>

<p><b>such as food, utility bills and insurance?</b></p>	<p>disability, relationship status and how many dependent children you have living with you.</p>	
<p><b>What expenses do you have in relation to where you live?</b></p>	<p>Allowances are made for your regular housing costs</p>	<p>Rent not covered by housing benefit</p> <p>Mortgage</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Council tax not covered by council tax benefits</p> <p>Ground rent/maintenance charges</p>
<p><b>What is your disability related expenditure?</b></p>	<p>Allowances are made for disability related costs that you may incur due to your disability which are not already being met by us.</p> <p>If you receive no disability benefits we will automatically allow £5 per week in your assessment.</p> <p>If you receive lower rate or middle rate DLA or standard rate PIP or lower rate AA we will automatically allow £10 per week.</p> <p>If you receive higher rate DLA or AA or enhanced rate PIP we will automatically allow £20 per week</p> <p>And finally in you are in a supported living scheme we allow a further £25 per week.</p> <p>If you think that your disability related expenses are higher than the amount allowed automatically let us know and we will review the amount allowed provided you can evidence the extra costs with receipts etc. and it clear that the costs cannot be avoided.</p>	<p>Day or night care which is not being arranged by the local authority</p> <p>Specialist washing powders or laundry</p> <p>Additional costs of special dietary needs due to illness or disability</p> <p>Special clothing or footwear, for example, where this needs to be specially made; or additional wear and tear to clothing and footwear caused by disability</p> <p>Additional costs of bedding, for example, because of incontinence</p> <p>Any heating costs, or metered costs of water, above the average levels for the area and housing type</p> <p>Reasonable costs of basic garden maintenance, cleaning, or domestic help, if necessitated by the individual's disability and not met by social services</p> <p>Purchase, maintenance, and repair of disability-related equipment,</p> <p>Personal assistance costs, including any household or other necessary costs arising for the person</p>

		<p>Internet access for example for blind and partially sighted people</p> <p>Other transport costs necessitated by illness or disability over and above the mobility component of DLA or PIP, if in payment and available for these costs.</p>
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In summary, the calculation is outlined below followed by an example overleaf:

<b>Consider your capital (bank account, savings, property, etc.)</b>	
<b>INCLUDED</b>	
+ Money coming in (e.g. pension, disability benefits, universal credit or ESA)	
+ Tariff income	
<b>ALLOWANCES</b>	
- Income not counted (e.g. Personal Independence Payment Mobility Allowance)	
- Minimum Income Guarantee	
- Expenses and outgoings	
- Disability Related Expenditure	
= Maximum Charge	

EXAMPLE 1		£ per week	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>	State Pension	+ 137.95	
	Pension Guarantee Credit	+ 85.44	

	Savings Credit	+ 3.70	
	Lower rate AA	+ 60.00	
	Tariff Income	+25.00	Savings of £20,780
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>+ 312.09</b>	
<b>ALLOWANCES</b>	Minimum Income Guarantee	- 189.00	Amount for a single person of pensionable age
	Savings Credit disregard	- 3.70	
	Household costs	- 6.00	
	Disability Related Expenditure	- 10.00	Automatic allowance linked to lower rate AA
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>- 208.70</b>	
<b>MAXIMUM CHARGE</b>		<b>= 103.39</b>	
<b>The cost of your care = £271 per week.</b>			
<b>You will be asked to contribute £103.39 per week towards this cost.</b>			

## ANNEX 3: Assessing your financial contribution – Residential Care

The information that we need to assess your financial contribution if you are living in a care home is explained in more detail below -

Information required	Please explain ...	Examples
<p><b>How much capital do you have?</b></p> <p><b>What is the value of your assets?</b></p>	<p>If you have assets valued at more than £23,250 you must pay for the full cost of your care</p> <p>Any assets valued at £14,250 or less will not be taken into account</p> <p>The value of your own home is taken into account if you are living in a care home</p>	<p>Bank or savings accounts</p> <p>Premium Bonds</p> <p>Property</p> <p>Stocks and Shares</p>
<p><b>What is your income?</b></p>	<p>What money do you have coming in regularly?</p>	<p>Disability-related benefits e.g. Disability Living Allowance (DLA),</p>

	What are you entitled to receive?	Attendance Allowance (AA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Pensions e.g. state pension, pension guarantee, occupational pensions
<b>What is your tariff income?</b>	If you have assets valued over £14,250 and less than £23,250, for every £250 or part £250 in between, £1 will be taken into account	If you have £15,000 of premium bonds, £14,250 will be ignored. The difference of £750 is divided by £250 which means an extra £3 per week will be added to your weekly income
<b>What income is not taken into account?</b>	Some income and benefits are ignored in the financial assessment	Disability Living Allowance Mobility Component Personal Independence Payment Mobility Component Savings credit
<b>How much income do you need to spend on personal items such as clothes and other items that are not part of your care?</b>	This is called the Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA). This amount is set and reviewed annually by the Department of Health and Social Care. The rate is currently £24.90 per week.	Hairdressing Chiropody Toiletries Books and newspapers

In summary, the calculation is outlined below followed by an example:

<p><b>Consider your capital (bank account, savings, property, etc.)</b></p> <p><b>INCLUDED</b> + Money coming in (e.g. pension, disability benefits etc.) + Tariff income (dependent on your savings)</p> <p><b>ALLOWANCES</b> Income not counted (e.g. Savings credit, DLA mobility component ) - Personal Expenses Allowance = Maximum Charge</p>
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## Annex 4 Glossary

### Capital

In general this refers to financial resources and assets available for use, excluding income, for example property, bank accounts, post office savings, stocks and shares.

### Chargeable Personal Budget

The value of the personal budget after adjustment to reflect services which are provided at less than full cost, for example respite services.

### Contribution

This is the amount a service user has to pay towards the cost of their care and support as set out in their personal budget.

### Daily Living Charge

Charges levied by a care provider to reflect costs which are not directly related to the cost of care, for example food, utilities and laundry.

EXAMPLE 2		£ per week	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>	State Pension	+137.95	
	Pension Guarantee Credit	+ 85.44	
	Savings Credit	+ 3.70	
	Tariff Income	+ 5.00	Savings of £20,780
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>+ 252.09</b>	
<b>ALLOWANCES</b>	Personal Expenses Allowance	-24.90	
	Savings Credit disregard	-3.70	
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-28.60</b>	
<b>MAXIMUM CHARGE</b>		<b>= 223.49</b>	
<p><b>The cost of your care = £545.86 per week.</b>  <b>You will be asked to contribute £223.49 per week towards this cost.</b></p>			



## **Direct Payments**

Payments made directly to an individual to allow them to purchase services to meet their care and support needs rather than services being provided through the Council.

## **The Guidance**

Refers to the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014.

## **Guarantee Credit of Pension Credit**

If income is below a certain level the guarantee credit makes up the difference for people who have reached the minimum qualifying age.

## **Income Support/Universal Credit**

A means tested benefit for people with a low income.

## **Net Disposable Income**

This is calculated by obtaining the difference between assessed eligible income and eligible expenditure.

## **Person/People**

For the purposes of this policy document these terms relate to an individual undergoing a financial assessment for social care provision.

## **Personal Budget**

The amount of money the local authority has agreed it will cost to fund the support to meet the needs identified in the approved care and support plan. The personal budget is made up of money from the Council and the amount that a person is financially assessed as able to contribute towards their support.

## **Personal Expenses Allowance**

This is the weekly amount that people in residential care receiving local authority financial support will be allowed to keep for personal use.

## **The Regulations**

Refers to the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 as amended 2022.

## **Minimum Income Guarantee**

The non-residential financial assessment process will ensure that individuals retain a minimum level of income to cover their living costs. The residential financial assessment process will ensure that individuals retain an amount of income equivalent to the Personal Expenses Allowance.

## **Savings Credit**

This is intended to reward those people aged 65 and over who have made provisions for retirement above the basic state pension. Those people reaching state pension age on or after 6 April 2016 may not be eligible.

## **Tariff Income**

Where individuals have capital over the lower capital limit and up to and including the upper capital limit<sup>5</sup> an assumed level of income (£1 per week for every £250 or part thereof) will be included in the financial assessment. This is called tariff income.

## **Upper and Lower Capital Limits<sup>6</sup>**

The capital limits set out at what point a person is able to access local authority financial support and how much support they receive.

Capital below the lower limit will be disregarded from the assessment.

If a person has assets above the upper capital limit they will be expected to meet the full cost of their care and support (subject to the maximum weekly charge for non-residential care)

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<sup>5</sup> Please note that the upper and lower capital limits are set and reviewed at intervals by the Department of Health and Social Care and may be subject to amendment. The current capital limits can be found in Annex 1.

<sup>6</sup> See above.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11 September 2023

## **BLACKPOOL TOWER STRUCTURAL STEEL REPLACEMENT AND REPAINTING**

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

1.1 To progress the continued renewal and repainting of the Blackpool Tower steel structure including the completion of all due diligence associated with the project and to complete the project funding package.

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

2.1 That the Director of Communications and Regeneration be provided with delegated authority to progress the continued renewal and repainting of the Blackpool Tower steel structure, to include the completion of all due diligence associated with the project, as set out in this Executive report and Appendix 4a to this report.

2.2 To authorise the Head of Legal Services to continue to enter into any such documentation as may be necessary and to consider and deal with such due diligence as may be required to provide for completion of the Blackpool Tower steel structure renewal and repainting Scheme.

2.3 That authority is provided to complete the project funding package of eleven million pounds, through debt finance in the form of Prudential Borrowing, over six years commencing in Financial Year 2022/23, as detailed in the Appendix 4a to this Executive report.

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

3.1 To help safeguard Blackpool Tower into the future, extending the useful economic life of the asset considerably, and allow the Tower to continue to significantly contribute toward attaining the Council vision for Blackpool of being the UK's number one family resort with a thriving economy that supports a happy and healthy community who are proud of this unique town.

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

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

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

4.1 The Blackpool Tower structure renewal and repainting programme is driven by recommendations provided by the Council's structural engineers, Ove Arup Limited, following the completion of twice-annual structural surveys, which is supplemented by further desk top analysis and calculations of the steel assembly. Works identified as required are prioritised based on the condition of the steel, and the necessary intervention is then completed accordingly. The works are essential in order to significantly extend the useful economic life of the asset, preserve and maintain the structural integrity of the Tower and safeguard the ability to continue to operate the Tower as a world-class family focused visitor destination and one of Blackpool's flagship visitor attractions. On this basis, the proposal set out within this report is the only option available.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 Since its acquisition by Blackpool Council in 2010, the steel structure of Blackpool Tower has benefitted from an ongoing renewal programme, which has addressed a considerable number of requirements including partial lift pit and lift shaft steel replacement, installation of new access ladders and platforms, the replacement of a range of individual steel members and connection details, and repainting. However, due to the age of the structure and minimal maintenance historically, in addition to the geographical location of the Tower and the associated exposure to adverse weather, works continue to be required.

6.2 Blackpool Council has appointed specialist structural engineers, Ove Arup Limited, to advise on the renewal works needed to the Tower steel structure, in order to maintain and preserve it. The advice provided by Ove Arup Limited is based on the completion of physical structural surveys of the steel structure, which are currently undertaken twice each year. The surveys are further complimented by desk-top structural analysis and calculations. This sets out the requirements for steel renewal and replacement, and repainting, needed to maintain and preserve the integrity of the Tower structure.

6.3 The works currently identified as necessary are likely to require a programme duration of between at least five to seven years. It is planned that works would be packaged and completed in specific areas of the Tower on a logical basis, moving to the following package of work in the next section of the structure once the previous works package has been

completed, as far as possible. This approach is designed to minimise the operational and visual impact of necessary temporary access structures such as scaffold and encapsulation materials, whilst maximising efficiency of the works and minimising cost. Scheduling of the works is a continual planning and programming process.

6.4 The works currently identified as required include:

- Removal of the existing stair structure and making good
- Further steel, concrete and paint renewal works to the lift shafts and lift pit
- Replacement of individual steel components, members and connections, across the entire structure
- Replacement of secondary steel elements
- Repainting of the structure in accordance with the Ove Arup Limited specification requirements
- Removal of redundant items such as secondary steel and other miscellaneous items
- Replacement of ladder platforms and landings and the associated support steelwork
- Repair and renewal of concrete structural elements

6.5 Ove Arup Limited has produced a paint specification and confirmed its application provides a useful life of twenty years. This ensures that all new and existing steel to which the Arup paint specification is applied, will not require further replacement for at least twenty years. On this basis, the benefit of the works as set out in this report accrues over a period of twenty years, significantly extending the useful economic life of the asset. This offers a number of benefits including:

- The cost of the works can be capitalised and realised over the same time period as the life of the works. Expense can therefore be spread over the life of the asset, twenty years
- The treatment of scheme costs in this way assists in maintaining the current Leisure Asset Portfolio Medium Term Financial Plan position
- It is envisaged the capital expenditure proposed, as set out in the appendix to this paper will address the currently identified steel renewal and repainting requirements, and these works are currently anticipated to be complete over the next five to seven years

6.6 Blackpool Council has appointed a locally based main Contractor to complete previously instructed steel renewal works. Should the proposals put forward in this report be approved, further instructions will be issued to the existing main Contractor to complete the required steel works. Options for undertaking the painting of the structure currently remain under consideration.

6.7 It is anticipated the authority sought through this Executive report will allow completion of the currently identified works required to the Blackpool Tower structure, in addition to finalising the associated funding package.

6.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 4a: Finance – Commercially Sensitive Information.

Appendix 4a is not for 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 be not served by publishing information at this stage.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 It is proposed the project is funded through debt finance in the form of Prudential Borrowing.

8.2 Financial information including the estimated capital expenditure and forecast finance costs for the scheme are set out in the financial Appendix 4a to this Executive report.

8.3 Historical costs for similar work to the Grade I listed structure have been used as a baseline on which to draft expenditure estimates. However, the works required are unique and there are many constraint and risk considerations to the works including physical access, weather conditions, the operational nature of the Tower, the age of the structure, and the continual condition survey process. Given these considerations, cost estimates are likely to fluctuate. Expenditure will be closely monitored and controlled as part of the scheme delivery, and this will include regular updating of cost forecasts.

8.4 Subject to authority, funding is to be met through Prudential Borrowing. Table 1 overleaf sets out the debt repayment estimates in summary form.

**Table 1 - Estimated Debt repayments Summary**

£'000's

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 24	Total
Debt finance costs	102	355	601	789	972	1,046	12,882	16,748

Financial analysis confirms expenditure associated with the required works is met through income generated by the Strategic Leisure Assets Portfolio, as was envisaged at the point of original acquisition, and the continuation of the current forecast level of revenue, from the

assets over the term of this scheme, is intrinsic to meeting the cost of this project.

## **9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 The Council's Corporate Procurement department developed a compliant procurement route utilised in the appointment of all contractors and structural engineers associated with these works. Through that procurement route the Council has ensured the achievement of:

- Effective market testing to seek a minimum of three proposals, where possible, so as to help ensure value for money is being achieved
- Engagement with local construction companies and supply chain has been undertaken. Due to the nature of the services required, the appointment of local contractors is not possible for some specialist work
- Assessment of key Information and declarations including satisfactory health and safety matters, grounds for exclusion and subcontract information
- Financial due diligence undertaken as required
- Collateral warranties to be in place where appropriate
- Expectations to be put in place around the visual impact of the site as works commence to help ensure a safe, smooth, positive and undisrupted visitor experience while minimising the visual impact of the scheme

9.2 The Council's Legal Services team has assisted in the drafting of contracts, which form the legal agreements between the Council and appointed contractors.

9.3 The Council's contracting and commissioning procedures have been applied when entering into contracts with Contractors and Structural Engineers.

## **10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The works associated with this scheme are risk inherent due to a number of factors and constraints and will require careful judgement and coordination. Key risks in completing the works include:

- Access constraints. Due to the nature of the 158-meter tall Tower and the different locations where works are required within the structure, access management to complete the intervention needed is a key risk consideration. Minimising the amount of scaffold and encapsulation system used to access the works locations adequately, at any one time, has a beneficial impact on cost and also reduces the potentially

perceived negative visual impact of the access scaffold and protective wrap.

In order to mitigate this risk works are to be complete, in their entirety (as far as possible), in a particular location on the structure employing a full scaffold and wrap when required, using a logical methodical approach and moving from the roof level of the Tower building up the structure. This will help reduce the amount of assembly and disassembly of scaffold and encapsulation as far as possible in the different sections of the Tower and reduce cost, while minimising the amount of scaffold and wrap in place on the Tower throughout the project duration. Work schedules will remain under constant review throughout the programme of activity with the aim of maximising efficiency in this regard.

- The Tower will continue to function as a world-class visitor attraction throughout the delivery of this scheme.

In order to help mitigate the impact of the works on the visitor experience and operation of the Tower Eye, activity in these areas (lift shaft, lift pit and Tower Top) is to be programmed to take place out of the main visitor season as far as possible. Works in locations not impacting the lifts and Tower Top will be dealt with at other times. In this way, the risk of effecting the operation of the Tower as a result of the works will be minimised.

- The Tower steel structure is complex in its build-up and this factor, together with its age and access constraints, the Grade I listed building status, and the continual condition survey process, make it difficult to

establish the full detail of the works required. This generates the risk of works scope creep and the associated impact this can have on cost increase, extending the programme duration and complexity of the works to be done.

Measures implemented to help control this risk include site surveys undertaken twice per year along with additional structural analysis and calculations to constantly monitor the condition of the structure.

Close supervision of the works, completed by the appointed structural engineers Ove Arup Limited, also helps to ensure the correct level of quality workmanship is achieved in obtaining the required performance of the installations and prevent revisiting works once they are complete.

These measures help to confirm the scope of the works required and provide price certainty as far as possible however, the current cost estimates are based on historic expenditure levels and currently known requirements and until the full scope of work is identified and quotes instructed costs and programme may fluctuate.



- Other works, including Tower illuminations and general building work, will continue while the structural steel works take place. This generates increased site management and logistics complexity and the associated risk of potential delays and increased cost.

Regular project meetings and direct communication routes between different contractors on site, managed by the project team, assists in ensuring each works discipline is aware of the specific activity planned and helps allow effective site coordination to take place. In addition, the main steelwork Contractor has overall responsibility for managing the site, and in this way, details of other works taking place including health and safety considerations and procedures, and logistical matters, are agreed with the main Contractor prior to commencement. These measures help to manage this site coordination risk.

- Adverse weather has the potential to severely impact on the pace of works and the associated negative impact on programme. High winds dictate that access to the working areas is prohibited in order to adhere to health and safety requirements, while painting of the structure can be hampered by rain and low temperature or high humidity conditions.

This risk factor is largely outside of the control of the project team however, procedures are in place to closely monitor weather forecasts to help plan works to take place in favourable conditions where possible, while encapsulation of working areas also assists in mitigating the risk of adverse weather conditions.

- Degradation of the structure. The programme of works is estimated to have a duration of between five to seven years. During this period the possibility of further deterioration to the steel structure is a risk. Ove Arup Limited have established a paint specification that provides protection of the structure for a period of twenty years, which significantly extends the useful economic life of the asset. As steel is renewed, this paint system is applied to new and existing elements of the structure.

In order to mitigate the risk of further deterioration of the structure it is important that the new paint system is applied as soon as possible. Works are to be programmed to apply the new paint as steelwork replacement is complete.

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

11.1 Contractors are closely monitored in regard to taking responsibility for completing the works while applying ethical principles, including:

- Respect is shown in the conduct of undertaking the works and when communicating with stakeholders

- Health and Safety regulations are complied with as required and the works site is well managed and presented
- Transparency is a key requirement when communicating with stakeholders including reporting on progress of the works. Regular updates are obtained from contractors and where material changes in forecast works progress is apparent, detailed explanations are required. This helps ensure transparency of reporting from the outset

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

12.1 The specification requirements for the works to be undertaken as part of this scheme require that strict environmental standards are applied. Works are monitored closely to help ensure these conditions are met and this process is managed through the works contract mechanism.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation has taken place with both internal departments and external consultants on the requirements set out in this report.

Stakeholder communication will continue throughout the delivery of this project.

**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: 15/2023

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:

Not applicable.

**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: 1 September 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