Report to:	**EXECUTIVE**
Relevant Officer:	Alan Cavill, Director of Place
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Meeting:	20 June 2016

BLACKPOOL TRAMWAY EXTENSION TO BLACKPOOL NORTH STATION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider recommending the Full Council to apply for the necessary order to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To recommend to the Council to approve the making of an application to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Transport and Works Act Order under the 1992 Act, to authorise an extension of the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Extending the Blackpool Tramway to Blackpool North Station would facilitate:

- Connectivity and integration between the existing tramway and National Rail services at Blackpool North railway station. At present, there is no connection between the tramway which runs alongside the Promenade, and the railway station. The tramway extension will improve connectivity both within Blackpool and to the wider sub-region for commuters, and for visitors accessing the resort;
- the use of public transport, by enabling visitors and residents to access the existing railway station from the tramway network, thus encouraging modal shift and reducing transport emissions;
- Regeneration and economic growth, by improving transport provision and accessibility to jobs and services, and improving the connectivity between the economically important seafront and the redeveloping town centre. The tramway extension will facilitate urban realm enhancements in the town centre as well as improving access for employers in Blackpool to a larger labour pool; and

- The promotion of quality of life through a safe and healthy built and natural environment.

In order to extend the tramway, powers are needed to construct, maintain and operate the tramway extension, and to acquire necessary land rights. The most convenient way of obtaining these powers is through a Transport and Works Act Order.

3.2a	Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the council?	No
3.2b	Is the recommendation in accordance with the council's approved budget?	Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

It is possible to apply separately for planning permission for the tramway extension, and to seek to acquire all the necessary land rights voluntarily. However, this is a more complex course of action, and less likely to succeed than making a single application for a Transport and Works Act Order. In addition, the Transport and Works Act Order can clarify the relationship between the operating powers for the tramway extension and those for the existing tramway, which would not be possible through a planning application.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant council priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 A Transport and Works Act Order under the 1992 Act provides approval for the construction, operation and maintenance of a transport system. An order authorises the construction of the works and provides the necessary rights over land on a permanent and temporary basis. Blackpool Council intends to apply for such an Order to undertake an extension to the Blackpool Tramway from North Pier to Blackpool North Station. The Order application will be accompanied by a request to the Secretary of State to give a direction as to deemed planning permission, along with draft planning conditions.

5.2 The order is to provide for, amongst other matters: The power to construct, maintain, and operate the tramway, including powers to keep apparatus in streets, to undertake relevant street works, to survey and investigate land, and to give the necessary rights over the land, including temporary use of land for construction and

maintenance of the tramway. It will also modernise the operating powers for the existing tramway, where appropriate.

5.3 The following documents will be submitted:

- Transport and Works Act Order Application Form
- Draft Order
- Explanatory Memorandum
- Statement of Aims
- Statement of Consultation
- Declaration as to the status of Applicant
- List of all consents, permissions or licences required
- Funding Statement
- Estimate of Costs
- Request for Direction as to Deemed Planning Permission
- Supporting/Planning Statement
- Land and Works Plans, Sections, Traffic Regulation Plans and other Order Plans
- Planning Direction Drawings
- Supporting Environmental Documentation (Air Quality Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment, Heritage Assessment, and Transport Assessment)
- Book of Reference

5.4 A notice will be published in a local newspaper to inform members of the public and other interested parties of the application. The first notice will be published not more than 14 days prior to the date of the application and not later than the actual application date. The second notice will be published not later than seven days after the date of the application. Further, notices will be posted along the route of the proposed works, and sent to affected owners, occupiers and statutory consultees. The application documents will be deposited in the local area (likely at Central Library) and on the Blackpool Council website.

5.5 After the application for the Order there will be a statutory 42 day period where representations, supportive comments or objections can be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport. The Secretary of State may appoint an independent Inspector to conduct a local public inquiry into the proposals if the objections warrant this. This would be an opportunity for those wanting to take their representations and comments further to put forward their views in full. Likewise, the council would be able to set out its case for the scheme. After the end of the inquiry the Inspector will submit a report to the Secretary of State for Transport with the Inspector’s recommendations.

5.6 Whether or not the matter proceeds to inquiry, the Secretary of State will decide whether to grant the application for the Order, and whether any changes to it are required. The Secretary of State's decision will be given in writing. It will also be advertised and those who participated in any inquiry will be sent a copy of it.

5.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.8 **List of Appendices:**

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Preparation and submission of the application for the Order will accord with all relevant procedures and processes, guided and led by a Parliamentary Agent. The resolution recommended in this report is the first of two such resolutions required to make the application for the Order.

6.2 By virtue of Section 20 of the 1992 Act, Councils have the power to apply for Transport and Works Act Orders. In conjunction with other ancillary consents, such an Order would provide the Council with the necessary authorisation to build, maintain, and operate a relevant scheme. The power to promote an order is, by virtue of Section 20 of the 1992 Act and Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972, subject to the same conditions as would apply to a Council was it to promote a Parliamentary Bill. This means that the resolution to apply for an order must be passed at a meeting of the Full Council and confirmed at a further meeting of Full Council after the application has been made. It is anticipated that the first resolution would be considered by Full Council on 8 July 2016, and the second on 16 September 2016. In each case the necessary resolutions must be passed by a majority of the Full Council.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 Staff time will be needed to produce documentation and manage the process, which can be found internally and through necessary specialist consultancy support.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The cost of preparing and submitting the application for a Transport and Works Act Order does not deviate from information provided in reaching the decision on the Extension of the Tramway on 28 April 2014 (Decision EX30/2014 refers).

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 For the project to proceed, it is vital that the required resolutions are passed by a clear majority of members of the authority. If the required resolutions are not made, the application cannot be progressed.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 A stakeholder and public consultation process is ongoing. Statutory consultees (including the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Blackpool Council (Flood Risk)) have been consulted. None of those statutory bodies have raised any issues with the scheme.

12.2 Additionally, the proposal was featured in the Spring 2016 edition of Your Blackpool. A public exhibition will be held in Blackpool to coincide with the submission of the application in July 2016. Further, as noted above, various notices will be posted and sent and application documents will be made available for public consideration, during the 42 day period referred to at Paragraph 5.5 of the report.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1	Is this a key decision?	Yes
14.2	If so, Forward Plan reference number:	8/2016
14.3	If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days?	No

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

15.0 Call-in information:

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

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 10 June 2016 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 **Date of Decision:**

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 **Date Decision published:**

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1