

SUMMARY OF VALUE FOR MONEY ARRANGEMENTS AND REQUEST LIST

The purpose of this document is to summarise the organisation’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources. This is based upon the National Audit Office’s Auditor Guidance Note 3, Value for Money Arrangements (<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2019/12/AGN-03-Auditors-Work-on-Value-for-Money-Arrangements.pdf>), and accompanying supporting information.

In completing this summary of arrangements, there may be existing summaries for some areas that can be used (for example in the Annual Governance Statement). If this is the case, this detail should be included in the “Description of the entity’s arrangements” column (rather than cross-referred) and supplemented as necessary.

Where relevant, the description should include reference to relevant statutory codes, statutory guidance and other relevant sector guidance (for example in the NHS the Foundation Trust Code of Governance, or for Local Authorities various guidance including the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government, CIPFA Prudential Code, CIPFA Treasury Management Code, and MHCLG’s Investment Code and Statutory Investment Guidance).

If there are any departures from requirements/guidance, these should be clearly identified with accompanying rationale (and where relevant reference to where this has been disclosed if a “comply or explain” requirement). If any known weaknesses have been identified through internal processes, internal audit, external inspection, regulators/national bodies, government departments or other sources, this should be clearly noted with reference to relevant reports.

The document is divided into three sections:

1. Arrangements – covering the overall arrangements the entity has in place in each of the three sub-criteria considered in our value for money work:
 - a. Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services
 - b. Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks,
 - c. Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services,
2. Adapting arrangements in response to the Covid-19 pandemic – noting any changes that the entity has made in response to the pandemic to its arrangements
3. Arrangements in specific areas – covering arrangements in place for specific potential non-standard areas or developments during the year (for example significant outsourcing, complex transactions, or other significant developments in the entity).

Where documentary evidence has not been provided to support this summary due to it not being available at the time of preparation / agreed date to provide the document, please can you note this and indicate when it will be available.

PART 1 - ARRANGEMENTS

PART 1 - ARRANGEMENTS	Description of the entity's arrangements (including known issues/concerns/weaknesses)	Contact name for individual who can provide further detail or explanation	Reference to documentation which provides evidence of the arrangement (Provide copy or link)
1. Financial sustainability			
<p>1.1 How the body ensures that it identifies all the significant financial pressures that are relevant to its short and medium-term plans and builds these into them.</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy 2016/17 to 2021/22 contains sections on financial monitoring and governance framework (see link 12th Sept 2016 Agenda). This is currently being refreshed up to 2026/27 though there will be little change to this element.</p> <p>Separate modelling of high risk areas such as Children's, Adult Social Care, Growth and Prosperity and Strategic Leisure Assets – including separate Medium Term Financial Plans (MTFP), monthly Senior Management Teams, separate Children's Board, monthly financial tracking and monthly financial projections.</p> <p>Wholly owned companies – company governance, Shareholder Committee, separate financial work to see impact on Council.</p> <p>Link to ISA 260 financial sustainability response.</p>	<p>Director of Resources</p> <p>Head of Accountancy</p> <p>Director of Governance</p> <p>Director of Resources</p>	<p>Agenda for Executive on Monday, 12th September, 2016, 6.00 pm</p> <p> ISA260 Response</p>

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<p>1.2 How the body plans to bridge its funding gaps and identifies achievable savings.</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) incorporating announcements regarding the Government Settlement.</p> <p>Series of CLT budget workshops starting 1st July 2021 with meetings arranged for August and September. This is an ongoing process.</p> <p>Start by estimating the budget gap, request lists of savings, pressures from departments and then how deliver the savings/budget. CLT budget away day on 24th August 2021.</p> <p>The Strategic Risk Register includes a section on financial sustainability and link is attached. And MTFS includes section on this.</p>	<p>Head of Accountancy</p> <p>Director of Resources</p> <p>Head of Audit and Risk</p>	 <p>Strategic Risk Register Progress Re</p>

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<p>1.3 How the body plans finances to support the sustainable delivery of services in accordance with strategic and statutory priorities.</p>	<p>MTFS dovetailed to Council Plan.</p> <p>Look at priorities such as response to Ofsted opinion on Children's Social Care, report on Climate Emergency and environmental plan implications on Waste Services.</p>	<p>Director of Resources</p>	<p>Blackpool Council plan</p> <p> Climate Assembly Report</p> <p> Climate Assembly Recommendations</p>
<p>1.4 How the body ensures that its financial plan is consistent with other plans such as workforce, capital, investment, and other operational planning which may include working with other local public bodies as part of a wider system.</p>	<p>Council strategies dovetail with the MTFS. Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy are at 8th Feb link.</p> <p>Workforce Strategy is currently being updated and was awaiting responses following staff consultation. Previous Strategy is attached.</p>		<p>Agenda for Executive on Monday, 8th February, 2021, 6.00 pm</p>

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	<p>The Council had a good response from staff during the pandemic with many staff being seconded to support the community during the pandemic.</p> <p>Recruitment is an issue for Blackpool.</p>		 WorkforceStrategy2015to2020.pdf
<p>1.5 How the body identifies and manages risks to financial resilience, e.g. unplanned changes in demand, including challenge of the assumptions underlying its plans.</p>	<p>Timely budget monitoring regime Recovery plans Internal Audit Plan - attached Reserves policy refresh is currently underway in light of Government consultation.</p> <p>Scrutiny Leadership board – reviewed budget process, capital programme strategies – all key members of the Scrutiny Committees. See attached minutes of the last Scrutiny Leadership Board.</p>		 Internal Audit Annual Plan 21-22  Scrutiny Leadership Board minutes

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<p>2.3 How the body ensures effective processes and systems are in place to ensure budgetary control; to communicate relevant, accurate and timely management information (including non-financial information where appropriate); supports its statutory financial reporting requirements; and ensures corrective action is taken where needed.</p>	<p>Internal reviews with service budget managers Review of monitoring by CLT, Executive and Scrutiny Leadership Board.</p> <p>Financial Control Assurance Testing on report budgetary control</p> <p>Non-finance statistics such as demand in Children and Adult Social Care help to derive the budget figures.</p> <p>Budget is reported to CLT from Month 0 so can make corrective action if needed.</p>		 <p>Final Internal Audit Report - Budgetary C</p>
<p>2.4 How the body ensures it makes properly informed decisions, supported</p>	<p>Executive decision making process and Scheme of Delegation.</p>		

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<p>by appropriate evidence and allowing for challenge and transparency. This includes arrangements for effective challenge from those charged with governance/audit committee.</p>	<p>Scrutiny Committees challenge the budget monitoring reports.</p> <p>See attached budget audit report and Scheme of Delegation</p>		<p> Final Internal Audit Report - Budgetary C</p> <p> Scheme of Delegation</p>
<p>2.5 How the body monitors and ensures appropriate standards, such as meeting legislative/regulatory requirements and standards in terms of officer or member behaviour (such as gifts and hospitality or declarations/conflicts of interests).</p>	<p>Link to Annual Governance Statement</p>	<p>Head of Audit and Risk</p>	<p>Blackpool Council annual accounts</p>
<p>3. Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness</p>			
<p>3.1 How financial and performance information has been used to assess</p>	<p>Austerity has forced local authorities down this route.</p>	<p>Transformation Manager</p>	

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performance to identify areas for improvement.	<p>Headline set of Council Plan KPIs which are monitored on a quarterly basis by Corporate Leadership Team, Leadership Board and Scrutiny.</p> <p>Children's improvements driven by Ofsted report.</p> <p>Improvements in Youth Justice services driven by HMIP inspection report.</p> <p>Programme of scrutiny reviews. See attached list</p>	Transformation Manager	 Scrutiny Leadership Board Plan
3.2 How the body evaluates the services it provides to assess performance and identify areas for improvement.	<p>As above.</p> <p>Regular benchmarking against other local authorities.</p> <p>Peer Reviews and Challenges</p> <p>ICO inspection</p>	Transformation Manager	
3.3 How the body ensures it delivers its role within significant partnerships, engages with stakeholders it has	Director of Governance producing Partnership Framework for September Audit Committee.		

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<p>identified, monitors performance against expectations, and ensures action is taken where necessary to improve.</p>	<p>June 2021 – New Executive responsibilities New Shareholder Committee for Wholly Owned Companies Schools Forum for all schools and Academies Joint working groups with partners, e.g. Merlin</p>		
<p>3.4 Where the body commissions or procures services, how the body ensures that this is done in accordance with relevant legislation, professional standards and internal policies, and how the body assesses whether it is realising the expected benefits.</p>	<p>The Council has a Corporate Procurement Team of procurement professionals who oversee the contractual arrangements that are entered into and ensure that Public Sector Contract Regulations 2015 are complied with as appropriate. A suite of procurement control documents exist and are updated in line with Government procurement policy notes to ensure that compliance is maintained.</p> <p>Contract Procedure Rules are in place which govern the process by which all procurement is undertaken.</p> <p>A suite of other guidance documents, policies and codes of practice are in place to support delivery of effective and compliant procurement all of which flow down from the Procurement Strategy 2019-23 which follows National Procurement Strategy & guidance.</p> <p>A copy of contracts are held on a contract register in order to ensure that contractual arrangements are retained and updated as appropriate.</p>	<p>Head of Procurement</p>	<p> 2021 Part 4g - Contract Procedure f</p> <p> Procurement Strategy</p>

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	<p>Guidance on contract management is accessible to all staff to ensure that contract requirements are fulfilled.</p> <p>There are a number of training modules which are accessible to all Council staff via the iPool training module covering: Procurement & purchasing; e-procurement; social value and contract management</p>		 <p>Code of Practice Contract Mgt</p>

PART 2 – ADAPTING ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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<p>1. How has the entity adapted its financial planning and monitoring arrangements in response to Covid-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Reported financial pressures to MHCLG on a monthly basis by completing return in DELTA (this was optional but Blackpool has done this for every month).</p> <p>Had regular meetings with MHCLG and BEIS.</p> <p>Completed all returns for financial support such as Sales, Fees and Charges, Contain Outbreak Management Fund.</p> <p>Performance of wholly-owned companies – risk was identified early on and was included wef Month 2 2020-21 financial reporting.</p> <p>Internal Audit appointed independent review for business grants work.</p> <p>Staff redeployed from day-to-day business to cover business grant payments.</p>	<p>Head of Accountancy</p>	

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2. How has the entity adapted its governance arrangements in response to Covid-19 pandemic (including in the areas set out in Part 1)?	<p>Emergency powers grants so Chief Executive could make decisions quickly rather than wait until Executive meetings.</p> <p>Government guidance followed so there are arrangements in place regarding on line Committee meetings and continues to be so Council can function and make decisions.</p>	Chief Executive	
3. How the entity has adapted its arrangements for measuring performance and evaluating the services it provides.	<p>As above.</p> <p>Also corporate management framework.</p>		
4. How the entity has adapted its arrangements for working with partners and commissioning services from third parties (including managing risks around any new or significantly changed partnerships or commissioning relationships)	<p>Closer working with Adult Social Care residential care homes – guaranteed baseline payments for sustainability.</p> <p>Closer working with CCG re hospital discharges.</p> <p>Participation in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).</p> <p>See attached report to Full Council regarding the Council’s response to the pandemic.</p>		 <p>Chief Executive Covid update</p>

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	<p>The Corporate Procurement Team worked with stakeholders during the Covid pandemic to ensure that service continuity was maintained.</p> <p>Government guidance (Procurement Policy Notes 01/20 and 02/20 – Responding to Covid & Supplier Relief) was followed to ensure that suppliers were able to fulfil their obligations and that amendments to arrangements were made as appropriate.</p>	Head of Procurement	

PART 3 – ARRANGEMENTS IN SPECIFIC AREAS

(Note – while these will often involve new developments in the year, significant long-standing arrangements/ matters should also be included)

PART 3 – ARRANGEMENTS IN SPECIFIC AREAS	EITHER: Details of development and related arrangements in place around the development (including known issues/concerns/weaknesses) OR : confirmation that none.	Contact name for individual who can provide further detail or explanation	Reference to documentation which provides further information on the development
1. Organisational change or transformation, including mergers or local authority reorganisation.	Internal redeployment of resources e.g. payment of business grants. Collaborative working with LRF. Further collaboration across ICS footprint ahead of CCG restructuring. Lumen established Reorganisation of Accountancy to address particular themes/areas No significant reorganisation		
2. Outsourcing, or transfer to alternative delivery models, e.g. formal partnerships, mutuals, social enterprises, joint ventures, or transferring services and functions back in-house/insourcing	Adoption Board with LCC to provide Lancashire Wide adoption services. Enveco – Transfer of Cleansing services from Sept/Oct 2021		

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	Pooled budget for Safeguarding Boards across LCC, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool LAs and CCGs in ICS region. Use of Mersey Internal Audit Agency for ad hoc work.		
3. [NHS only] Integrated Care System / STP (including governance of relationships with other bodies in the ICS/STP, as well as any specific new arrangements or partnerships with other bodies)	N/A		
4. Major capital projects	See link for capital programme and capital strategy. Planning for Town Deal bids		Agenda for Executive on Monday, 8th February, 2021, 6.00 pm
5. New commercial activities or existing commercial activities where there has been a material increase in their scale	Conference Centre Golden Mile Central Business District phase 3 - planning Showtown Museum		
6. New financing structures (including debt restructuring, unusual or complex forms of new borrowing, or where being	Link to MRP Policy Review Review of strategic leisure assets		Agenda for Executive on

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used to finance unusual or complex schemes)	Debt restructuring looked at on regular basis by Treasury Management Panel.		Monday, 8th February, 2021, 6.00 pm
7. Legislative/policy changes requiring a body to take on a significant new function	Lumen social housing to deliver certain functions.		
8. Other significant developments / changes in the entity	Councillor representation – Political balance of the Council.		