

## Budget Engagement Survey Results

An online survey was conducted between December 12th 2023 and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. 87 responses were received. Residents were asked to rate the level of importance of services on a 5 point scale ranging from very important to very unimportant. The services were presented in line with the 2 Council priority areas.

### Resilient Communities

Help and Support	This includes delivering safe services for children and adults including those with additional needs and/or disabilities. It also includes benefits advice and welfare services to support households facing financial hardships, homelessness.
Living Well	This includes working with local partners and charities to deliver services such as parenting support, free blood pressure and oral health check-ups.
Environment	This includes community safety projects, household recycling and bin collections, street cleaning, maintaining parks, open spaces, clean oceans, flood defences and increasing local wildlife and biodiversity.
Housing	This includes planning and development for high quality affordable homes and ensuring decent standards are met across all privately rented homes.

### Resilient Economy

Jobs and Skills	This includes a wide range of adult learning classes, The Platform for wrap-around youth employment support, investing in apprenticeships, business start-ups as well as a new Multiversity town centre campus.
Transport	Improving local transport services to reduce traffic congestion as well as improving walking and cycling routes.
Things to do	This includes running a wide range of activities at the new or improved leisure facilities as well as maintaining libraries.

### Representation

85 residents and 2 people who work in Blackpool but live outside of the town submitted responses. Responses were received from a number of residents with disabilities. Responses were received from a range of ethnic and gender identities, age brackets and sexual orientations. However, there were no responses from residents under age 25, therefore the overall findings are unlikely to be representative of the general Blackpool population. This response rate is 40% lower than the previous engagement survey which saw 122 responses. The number of questions skipped over also increased compared to 12 months ago.

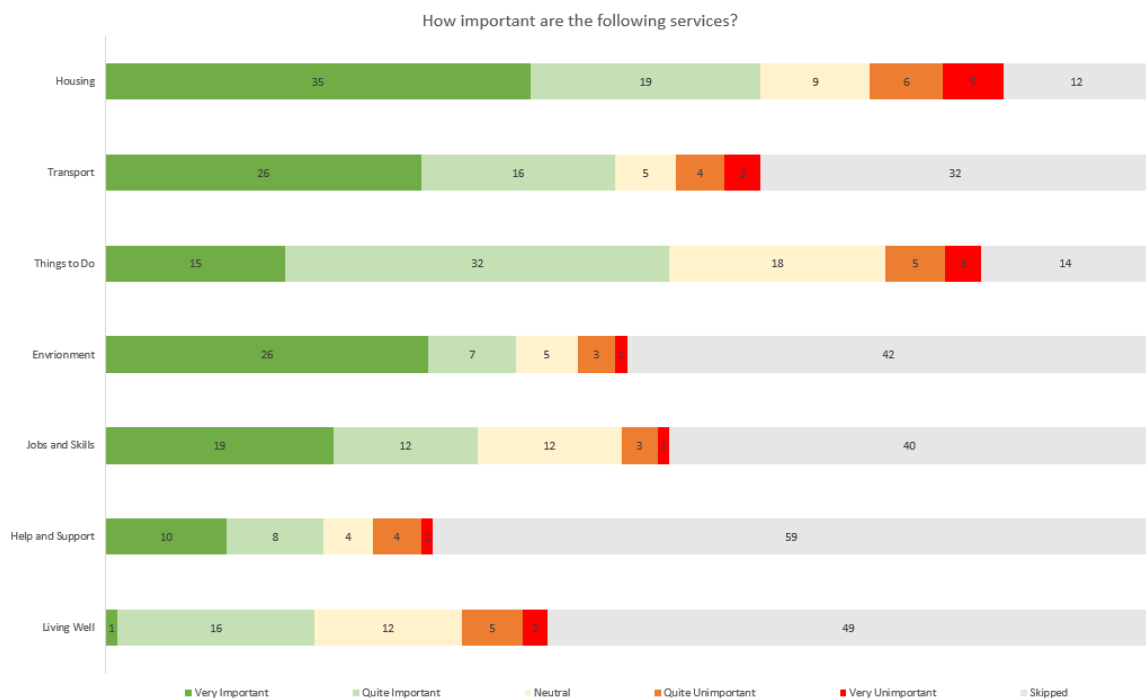
### Scoring

Respondents were able to skip rating a service area and therefore the number of votes per service area differed. Findings are ranked and then also given a score relative to the area that was voted the most important to be able to draw comparisons.

Rank

Rank	Relative Importance	
1	10 out of 10	<b>Housing</b>
2	8 out of 10	<b>Transport</b>
3	7 out of 10	<b>Things to do</b>
4	7 out of 10	<b>Environment</b>
5	6 out of 10	<b>Jobs and Skills</b>
6	3 out of 10	<b>Help and Support</b>
7	1 out of 10	<b>Living Well</b>

Responses (87)



Respondents identified housing, transport, things to do and environmental services were the most important services and that jobs and skills, help and support and living well were comparatively less important. Generally, this may indicate that infrastructure and environmental needs are viewed as the fundamental functions and services of the Council from this group of respondents. This is compared to targeted, specialist and enhanced services for people; such as health, help or skills development which were generally voted as less important or skipped over.

The survey also welcomed comments to understand more about the reasons underpinning the scores. Housing was most frequently commented on, which included quality of current housing stock, as well as the supply of homes and affordability.

Other areas of comment included; ensuring any training opportunities translate into good quality jobs. ensuring good coverage, quality and affordability in transport across the town, improving conditions on roads, residents only parking zones, maintaining green space, improving safety and enforcement as well as redeveloping areas of the town, ensuring leisure activities are affordable, well utilized and effective, working with partners, ensuring families and children have conditions to thrive as well as keeping people active and offering preventive mental health support.

The survey also welcomed suggestions about income generation or savings. A full list of comments and suggestions is included from page 5.

### Who took part?

85 responses from Blackpool Residents. 2 responses from Blackpool workers who live outside of Blackpool.

#### Sex

Female	36	41.38%
Male	28	32.18%
Non-Binary	2	2.30%
Skipped	22	21.14%

#### Age

16-24	0	0.0%
25-34	9	10.34%
35-44	13	14.94%
45-54	13	14.94%
55-64	19	21.84%
65-74	19	21.84%
75+	3	3.45%
Skipped	12	12.64%

#### Disability

No	32	36.78%
Yes, but it doesn't limit me	13	14.94%
Yes, limited a little	18	20.69%
Yes, limited a lot	13	14.94%
Skipped	12	12.64%

Disabilities included: Angina, Arthritis, Autistim, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Diabetes (Types 1 and 2), Hearing loss, Mental Health Conditions (Depression and Anxiety), Mobility impairments, Multiple Sclerosis.

Ethnicity

Mixed (Caribbean/African)	1	1.15%
Jewish	1	1.15%
White (British/Irish)	72	82.76%
Skipped	14	14.94%

Sexual Orientation

Bisexual	1	1.15%
Heterosexual	33	37.93%
Homosexual	5	5.75%
Skipped	49	55.17%

## Comments

**Homes:** shortages, unaffordable and poor quality.

"Housing has to be number one priority. Availability of affordable housing is shockingly bad. Transparency in decision making is key. Confidence in decision making for the benefit of residents, not tourists, is low."

"Quality and affordable housing is vital for people's wellbeing and quality of life."

"Very important that they ARE affordable for WORKING families who don't get benefits and cannot get on the housing ladder as they are being strangled by overhyped private landlord's rents."

"Everybody should have access to affordable homes "

"People should have access to affordable housing that is well maintained. More NHS dentists are needed. Social services are short staffed and need more money"

"The planning SHOULD be for AFFORDABLE homes as what are being built at present are certainly not affordable, especially to first time buyers. Privately rented homes are at present form some, an eyesore. Landlords do not seem to care about how the properties look and the affect it has on the area. Tatty houses make people think that it's not worth doing anything to keep the areas clean and tidy."

"If we start with the basics of good quality housing majority of things will follow suit with better living standards becomes better health and prospect."

"We have too many rentals in need of tidying up. Also householders that need help with or grants to maintain and help with heating costs."

"Having 4 hostel with in a five minute walk of my home and quiet a lot of badly maintained rental home's you ask the questions why do I look after where I live when a lot of other people don't care. Not the council or the private landlords?"

"Housing is one of the biggest issues in this town, rent accommodation is ridiculous price and the properties are of a low standard. I haven't spoken to anyone in the last 12 months who doesn't know a family living in a hotel because the landlords are selling up because they know Blackpool are going to clamp down on shoddy properties being rented. The hotels must be full of homeless families we need more social housing that is affordable and priority given to working families so that the council can recoup the money they spend on building these houses and more effort should be given to those homeless parents not working to get them into some sort of employment or at least must be on a volunteering programme to be able to get social housing that way they are giving back."

"Fed up of people wanting everything for free , but yes private landlords need to stop renting bad housing ,makes blackpool look more deprived than it is."

"Many areas of Blackpool are run down and residents unsupported in the community. The standard of housing is in parts abysmal. The example of housing east of Tyldesley Rd should be extended as far as possible."

"I feel very housing insecure. My family have been on the council housing waiting list for more than a year and we are never lower than 50th in the bidding queue."

"The measure of a good council is how it cares and protects its people and the environment. Supporting families in crisis is vital to ensure quality of life in the future. Concerning rented accommodation, in my years managing an estate agency and rental agency I inspected many properties in Blackpool which failed to provide safe, sanitary and secure accommodation for renters. Due to the volume of people needing rental properties and the grave shortage of suitable homes to rent, people are being forced to live in unsuitable accommodation, impacting on their health and wellbeing."

"The whole country is in the grip of a housing crises. Given we seem to import people with chaotic life style and other issue once this is reduced and we improve our local economy the other issue should start to reduce"

"Landlord licensing are taxes, the more the taxes, the more landlords will leave, the more rents will rise. It's simple supply and demand. Rents will continue to increase due to the open door immigration policy, the population has risen by 15m since 1997, totally unsustainable."

"The job skills one while I score it high the idea of a town centre campus they may attract students from out the town I do not rate as a high priority as this is going to make the housing crisis worse as landlords will just start to change the rent accommodation into multi occupancy with or without permission and families will continue to struggle to find accommodation. Youth wrap around and adult classes if the question was just for them I would of scored it very important as we need to give more help and opportunities to the youth and then we need more help for adults that have slipped through the net."

**Jobs and Skills:** ensuring any training opportunities translate into good quality jobs.

"Blackpool is one of the most economically deprived areas in the country for low wages. Investing in education, apprenticeships and start-up businesses to promote economic growth and a sense of pride in being part of a workforce is an essential part of regenerating the area."

"Why is it the council's responsibility for Adult & Youth learning? Surely this will be funded by central government for those on benefits who will actually do something with the learning as it will help get more people into work?"

"The youth need jobs so provide training and transport provided is adequate."

"I believe education across age ranges should be funded by central government. Everything should be done to improve public transport and pedestrian improvement to assist non car use. Libraries and leisure facilities help physical and mental wellbeing reducing people's need of the NHS."

"Residents needs are deprioritised for the benefit or tourism too often. Skills and employment opportunities need to focus on BETTER jobs not just MORE jobs."

"Blackpool is an area of deprivation offering insufficient job prospects."

"Sacrifices have to be made and to help address the issues local skilled jobs will be key."

"Jobs at all skill levels are needed for an inclusive population. There is a great need for practical skills and physical jobs in today's world if people are to enjoy active and healthy lives. Too much time spent looking at screens by the youth of our population even when crossing the road!"

"I am not sure if there is an endgame to those adult courses other than the organisations that are behind it get money and people have a place to meet. For the most part they do not give any real qualifications or accreditations which maybe for example used in searching for a job. Public transport is quite awful if one wants to be environment friendly and leave the car at home. Bus rarely on time (mostly late or very late, sometimes too early), drivers do not know where all the stops are, unpractical bus routes and unpredictability of the service makes it hard to choose it instead of a car. Unfortunately some of us have no choice in the matter."

"We need the multi university and redevelopment in Blackpool"

"A resilient economy, including new jobs, education and training opportunities is extremely important for Blackpool residents, as this creates opportunities and aspirations for everyone of any background."

"The worst thing the Council did was to drop the evening classes. It's not just academic subjects but craft based ones. Then latter could lead to someone setting up a small business, and being self-sufficient. It's not all about qualifications but what people can do to help themselves. At present there is very little in the way of creative classes."

Jobs and prospects are key to the underling economy and values with also key transport links that measure up to professional standards. Things to do are also very important to keep everyone ticking "

**Transport:** ensuring good coverage, quality and affordability.

"Local transportation should be accessible and affordable."

"I would love to be able to rely on buses more as the car is very expensive to run. Some only run hourly which I can't rely on to get to college on time because if one bus doesn't come i would end up extremely late. A lot also stop running by five which means i can't get to my evening class."

"There is significant need for a park and ride system. There are a considerable number of spaces out towards the airport and elsewhere which could run a circulating bus that goes from the park and ride, going down Yeadon Way, with a couple of stops along the way and back again. There should be more residents only parking in the side streets which come directly off the Prom such as St Chads Road, Woodfield Road, Wellington Street. Residents such as myself who have mobility issues cannot find anywhere near my house to park so that means I have to rely on taxis. The council could charge for residents' permits and would earn a decent revue ticketing those visitors who ignore it and park there anyway!"

"Reducing traffic congestion."

## Appendix 4e

"There is a lot of money going waste, people in Blackpool see that. all the time, when they are having to wait on transport to their work or appointment or to job interviews, or hospital, the local Blackpool council housing is in urgent need of repairs and a lot of other things that need urgent attention then you get things that say we can't do this or we can't do that, there needs to be a proper building where people can go to get help with benefits, housing, help with paying bills at present there is nothing...and until it's addressed you have the same problems and let will not stop."

"Transport is crucial if we are to reduce car use and improve the environment. Providing walking and cycling routes also aids general health and wellbeing and helps with motivation."

"Because the current transport service sucks! It's truly the worse I have ever used."

**Environment:** improving conditions on roads, residents only parking zones, maintaining green space, improving safety and enforcement as well as redeveloping areas of the town.

"I feel that our local area needs more attention paid towards potholes, road and path surfaces. Replacing lost trees and shrubs that help soak up water are very important to me. Whilst I appreciate we need SOME new housing, I feel that bungalows would be of benefit in building plans asap! Our transport links and bin collections are excellent. The rubbish amnesty was an excellent idea too."

"The roads are a disgrace potholes everywhere white circles round them does not help resurface the roads."

"Stop wasting money on things we don't need. Our roads need doing the amount of pot holes is just ridiculous."

"I'd like to see more money invested in road repairs. Some of our local roads are virtually undriveable - Ansdell Road for example."

"The roads are awful, must be one of the worst in the country."

"The state of the roads need sorting lots pot holes everywhere & in certain areas speed limit signs too small or non-existent. White lines marking end of roads need redoing in lots of areas before more accidents occur. Zebra crossing at Welcome bridge needs more 'attention' 'notice' cars come racing thru from the lights & don't slow down, even seen them go over crossing with a child on it. It's a main crossing for kids for Marton Primary from that area!! Maybe a speed camera just by bridge would slow them down or paint crossing luminous yellow."

"I am happy to pay my council tax but parking is a huge frustration, hence why I strongly believe many streets that have businesses close would benefit from resident permit parking. Drainage concerns me when we have heavy rainfall as the drains seem to back up terribly on the roads, I assume this is due to poor maintenance/clearing of drains. I think the money spent on policing is relevant, my issues are with CPS and how little punishment is given to the gangs, street crime, and repeat offenders. CCTV is critical in improving the safety on our streets in Blackpool."

"Investing in the town is a good thing but they seem to forget about the residents of the town. Money needs injecting into Central drive and down Waterloo road as it's just not a good image."



## Appendix 4e

"As a taxpayer I feel there's enough help for homelessness etc. I'm more for improving the area I live in."

"Clean and healthy environments the basis for clean and healthy lives improving living standards for communities creating green spaces including planting trees in built up areas. Mental health can be improved living in a better environment let people be proud of where they live encourage planting in gardens increasing local wildlife. Easy access to facilities so that large items are not left to rot in gardens or alleys. Housing in disrepair breeds criminal and anti-social activity, take care of our streets keep them clean take pride in area. Remove buildings not in use/ derelict and replace with housing. Create housing suitable for starter tenancies for young people leaving care or otherwise homeless."

"Blackpool has become very dirty and unpleasant due to the lack of bins, public awareness and indifference. It is not a nice town to live in at the moment. Everyone who comes says it is messy and unwelcoming."

"In regards to transport there's only congestion because of all the building works and tram tracks being built over the last few years we do not need any more cycle lanes etc. Blackpool is pedestrian friendly enough we do not need anymore. Please think of disabled people."

"Because Blackpool residents need clean streets and there bins emptied and to feel safe and have nice parks and green spaces."

"CCTV around Blackpool residential areas and more bins on Talbot road outside mecca Bingo and better bus stops and pot holes need filling on Beresford Street and Talbot road outside the shell garage and surrounding streets. Speed cameras on Talbot road before somebody gets seriously hurt and bike lanes to promote cycling and more green spaces and Trees around residential areas in inner Blackpool and more police and housing enforcement to cut crime."

"The budget needs directing to the run down parts of Blackpool Central drive and the shop front at the back of the metropolitan hotel."

"Build for the future."

"Improve the main street in town Church Street."

"Yes I would say the main street Church Street from the winter gardens down to the Prom needs some urgent attention for a main street it lets Blackpool down badly the council should take a walk from the Winter gardens to the Grand Theatre and think about reviving this street. And putting in a camera to cover the Street at night the shop owners have had more than their fair share of broken windows."

"Everyone should have the chance to lead their best life in the best environment that it is possible to provide for them. This includes good housing and access to help when required, but it is also important that the town looks well-presented and with as much green space and trees as it is possible to accommodate, as this has been shown to improve general wellbeing and reduce vandalism."

"When Blackpool Allotments were managed by Blackpool Federation the Council provided £10,000 to the Federation for running costs. Now all Blackpool Allotments are self-managed and receiving NO monies from Blackpool council, what had happened to the £10,000 previously allocated."

## Appendix 4e

"I would like to know where the money has gone for residential parking applications. I have been informed that there will not be any applications processed for the forcible future. If this is true, WHY? Has the money been diverted to house migrants in our town? This a subject very very close me and my fellow neighbours hearts. It needs to be a priority to have this done because we are living close to the Pleasure Beach/Sea front and more and more holiday/tourist are taking our very limited spaces."

"Ensuring landlords keep standards high for rentals is important however do not feel we need any more housing they'll be no green spaces left if we carry on."

**Help and support services:** working with partners and ensuring families and children have conditions to thrive.

"Blackpool residents will benefit from working with local charities and partners to improve access to housing, hardship funds, foodbanks and support for emotional/mental wellbeing. Charities provide essential work to support individuals and families in re-establishing their lives, achieving goals and providing a changed perspective in order to improve their standard of living. Housing in Blackpool is of a generally poor standard. Enforcing decent standards is essential to promote a healthy standard of living which in turn promotes a sense of pride for a community. Landlords are frequently permitted to allow their tenants to live in squalid conditions, offering low rent as a substitute for poor living quarters."

"ASB in pockets of the town can be at times really high I have noticed through social media and the Gazette when you engage with other organisations that ASB reduces. For example Talbot and Brunswick area my mother would not leave her house after 4 at one point due to fear of the group of kids on the corner of Caunce Street you worked with the youth workers who were out walking the streets engaging with this group and had more police walking the streets and that is no longer a huge issue."

"Services for children, children with additional needs and their families are vital to keep families together and children safe. Families with children with additional needs often need extra support especially if the child has complex needs. Life is very difficult without the added stress of coping alone with a complex child."

"Anyone can fall on hard times especially at this time. Support for those who need it is vital to balance a fairer society. The environment we live in plays an important part in our mental health. Maintaining and improving all aspects of that environment increases individual enjoyment respect and value in the environment they live in."

"Blackpool has some of the most deprived areas in the Country. Many people are struggling with the cost of living crisis."

"Get people into work, many unemployed low self-esteem poor mental health feeds into other areas of life. Childcare such as holiday and after school activities helping parents get to work"

"There doesn't seem to be many places for the young ones to go result in them hanging around the streets causing anti-social behaviour."

"As a children's social worker and employee of Blackpool council, I believe it is extremely important to invest more in local support services, in particular statutory social services. This is to ensure the

welfare of social workers is being prioritised, due to them working in high pressure environments, and so they can continue to support our children and families."

"Only one thought about Anchorsholme Park. Why can charities not get involved as per the excellent park in Lytham? Facilities such as public lavatories (only1!!!) And extended hours for the cafe. Maybe even licensed. Not a lot for older children either."

**Health:** keeping people active and preventive support.

"Blackpool has fallen behind in many areas of health protection mental health in particular."

"It's all part of the bigger picture for people's wellbeing getting out meeting new people taking part in new activities keeping healthy "

**Things to do:** ensuring activities are affordable, well utilized and effective.

"Not a lot of people can afford the leisure activities anymore so apart from maintenance of the facilities, I don't believe more should be spent on them. Why is it the council's responsibility for Adult & Youth learning? Surely this will be funded by central government for those on benefits who will actually do something with the learning as it will help get more people into work?"

"We need to keep leisure facilities affordable and accessible. The cycling routes are debatable as you rarely see anyone using them."

"Tourism and expensive attractions are not affordable for many. There should be alternatives for the local population."

"Libraries and sports centres need to stay open More jobs are needed and so is appropriate training. Apprenticeships should be better paid."

"People need to be doing something. But again they have nothing to give them hope."

"Libraries and leisure facilities are often a hub for people to get together. Reducing congestion and improving travel would keep roads in better condition and help people who don't have access to a car."

"Not a lot of people can afford the leisure activities anymore so apart from maintenance of the facilities, I don't believe more should be spent on them."

"Libraries I feel are important but are they actually being used these days with all the technology available?"

**All services are important:**

"Street cleaning, bins, unsafe pavements, road pot holes, high standard private rental properties, CCTV, drainage (after heavy rain), benefit advice, mental health services, child services, and homelessness are all very important."

"They are all very important."

"All the thing mentioned are basic services in my opinion."

"How could anyone think they weren't important?"

"Jobs and prospects are key to the underling economy and values with also key transport links that measure up to professional standards. Things to do are also very important to keep everyone ticking."

### **Suggestions for savings and income generation:**

#### **Tourism taxes:**

"Taxpayers once received special discounts to access certain activities, bring them back. It will encourage locals into town and support local businesses."

"Switch from focus on visitors to focus on residents. Make hotel owners keep their buildings to a decent standard."

"Charge visitors for the Illuminations. Make it mandatory and stop taking it from council tax money people can ill afford, residents don't get the benefit and don't wish to pay for them"

"Perhaps a tax on hotels like the one implemented in Manchester."

"Think about residents this year, not the holidaymakers and spending millions on the Prom."

#### **Social housing:**

"My main idea is as mentioned above, priority for social housing must be for working people that way revenue is generated through rent. A volunteering programme should be set up for those able to work but have no job that they must be on that programme to have social housing this then gets adults back into a routine of getting up getting out of the house and going to "work" the programme should be split into 4 sections that the adults could have a session if 12 weeks in each - volunteer at a local youth club, volunteer at a local care home for the elderly, volunteer in retail and get some big companies signed up like Asda, Tesco, BnM's and home bargains etc. and finally volunteer at your local council you could set up a 12 week programme where they go around different departments for example park and community gardening team, the local recycling centre, your admin department and maybe your partner organisation for example BCH, Active Blackpool, the Family hubs etc. You could also open a Council charity shop that is staff and ran by volunteers. This will give adults not working not only the chance to break that cycle of staying home but also gain them work experience they may get offered jobs. DBS for volunteers is also free. I think this programme would in a way be a revenue generator as if they worked they would have to contribute towards rent, council tax etc.

My final idea is a team dedicated to helping older generations still sat alone in 3 bedroom social housing who maybe with the support of someone would downsize, I know of a number of people who would downsize but the thought of going through all their stuff overwhelm s them, if you had a team supporting them not only would you have items to sell in the council ran charity shop idea you would then have more family homes the older person would then have less worries and stress downsizing which is always a good knock on effect to better health."

"By building more affordable social housing this would increase revenue in the long term as it would save too much housing benefit being paid to private landlords, many are not keeping their homes in a good state of repair both inside and out, private rents need to be capped as many of Blackpool residents only earn the minimum wage and rely on the council's housing benefit paid to the private landlords. More social housing, more money coming to the council. Need to look to the future not just the here and now!!"

### **Local discounts and offers:**

"Advertise chargeable activities better, such as exercise classes. Charge holiday makers a 1 off fee for staying in the town as some European cities do, it doesn't have to be a lot £5per room. The Blackpool transport day trips out of town seemed a good idea but I think poorly promoted and then fizzled out. Reduce expenses council workers can claim, I think general expenses such as travel or food should not be claimed for, everyone has to make provision for commuting and eating. Don't give council workers financial bonuses."

"Advertise chargeable activities better, such as exercise classes. Charge holiday makers a 1 off fee for staying in the town as some European cities do, it doesn't have to be a lot £5per room. The Blackpool transport day trips out of town seemed a good idea but I think poorly promoted and then fizzled out." "Let families not on benefits take part in activities offered by Families Hubs for a fee. Right now the Family Hubs are mostly for those on benefits and exclude the rest, so in fact they are neither inclusive, nor serve social integration between different families living in the same area."

### **Children's needs:**

"I don't agree with the ring fencing of resources. There are financially strapped people in all areas. Many local councillors are frustrated at funds being targeted by the same areas. Supporting children should be equally spread throughout all areas. Residents should not feel there areas are under resourced when youth provision is centred around wards which denies children access simply because they don't live in a certain ward."

"Would it be possible to give all children in Blackpool a free school meal - I would suggest the head of the council gets someone looking into the cost ratio benefit - how much the scheme would cost, against the amount of money the council pay a whole range of staff to work the existing free school meal system - admin/IT/Managers/support/school admin etc. Perhaps the school could make a financial commitment to a meals for all scheme if it can be proved their staff will have less work to do. If you factor in the amount of time council staff work on the Free School Meals project I believe this would go for a long way to pay for the scheme."

### **Enforcement and fines:**

"Stop pursuing kids for hanging out anywhere doing anything and calling it antisocial behaviour."

"Stanley Park already provides enough but what about a 'dog play area' only. Owners could allow pets to run free but MUST clean up after their animal, failure to do so would incur a fine."

"These areas are cesspits of old, dilapidated properties that have been allowed to decay for years. Compulsorily purchase many of them, raise them to the ground and build new, affordable ones. Ensure businesses maintain acceptable frontages by cleaning them up, especially in the town centre

and south shore. Streets swept regularly (although I have not seen one here in 20 years), including residential areas. Resident parking permits in south shore. Build huge parking lot at the end of M55 with a one of parking payment of £5 which will allow each car occupants a journey to and from town centre car park only via Yeadon Way, buses running each half hour. Clean up the town by enforcing B+B's to have bathrooms in every room, ban 'hen and stag' nights and make Blackpool a place to visit. STOP BUILDING HOTELS."

"Cut down on all the freebies and make people work for it. Start applying fines for law breakers, especially irresponsible dog owners and litter louts."

"Fine the people who consistently park on double yellows, single yellows, and the zebra crossing zigzags at schools! It's every day, especially by aspire. "

"Use CCTV to capture drivers on their phones whilst driving, fine all drivers who are captured on CCTV. Make more streets permit parking only for residents. Reduce your business fees so more shops open in the town centre. I personally think the new regeneration ideas are great and should increase footfall in the town."

### Events:

"Why have we not attracted the major craft fairs to Blackpool? Manchester lost the one next to Trafford Centre and with all the hotels being built and the new conference centre, we should be attracting these to Blackpool. It's not all about Liverpool and Manchester, we are a major part of the North West and should have a good share of this business."

"Put more money into training and educating for a more educated society and more huts on prom like barre hutte in Manchester or igloos to rent for drinking and eating trendier venues create a road for socialising that's classy like cathedral quarter in Belfast."

### Businesses:

"The council needs to open the town up for all year round the airport needs to be reopened for a key link to the outside world also to advertise blackpool to other countries the town has lots to offer. The council also need to build or buy more houses to rent out for a steady stream of income also investing into enterprises."

"The council would generate more revenue if they fixed the parking meters/app in local car park. A lot of money is lost as visitors who are happy to pay for parking are unable to pay, either because the machine is broken or the Wi-Fi signal is not strong enough to download the App."

### Cease:

"Close the illuminations in November again! Stop wasting money on arty installations. Put solar panels on new buildings and car parks to feed into the national grid."

"The illuminations could only be lit from sunset to 10pm and restricted to after schools half term."

"Stop the illuminations in the week after November or do weekends only".

## Appendix 4e

"Bulky Matters, stop giving large items to another charity to sell at large prices. Put in storage and furnish properties for those who do not have anything to move in with. Charity always starts at home."

"Attitude of council staff needs to be focused on serving the community and listening to residents' needs. Too many services focused on those out of work, nudge people who already have skills and motivation rather than focusing on those "hardest to help" would see better value and greater benefit."

"Stop spending on projects that in good times may be a good idea."

"Stop squandering money, just because it's not your money, doesn't mean that it shouldn't be spent responsibly."

"Stop buying properties and putting more eateries in Blackpool. We need reasons for visitors to come and stay here. Having visited the Abingdon Street Market, many I have spoken to are very disappointed in the conversion. How are these businesses going to survive out of season? The retail side is a disappointment also. We don't want tat in Blackpool just attract businesses that want to stay and serve not just visitors but the residents as well. Put your money into attracting sustainable businesses that people want and your budget will go much further and be of use to the residents, who feel they are being let down."

"Stop giving out everything free for people that won't help themselves, too easy for people to get free housing ,benefits and expect everything for free, while people who work get nothing, the whole of blackpool needs a good sort out, and sick of paying council take for nothing "

"Cut back on silly cycling routes that only last about 100 yards. Also switch off the illuminations after the season but only leave them on at weekends until the Xmas season is over. We have driven down the prom many times at night time (to visit daughters) and the all the illuminations are on and there is hardly anyone about, so a total waste of electricity. Many of my friends have said the same."

"Stop building silly statues and the like that are not important at all. Think about residents as well as holiday makers; we are not all involved with the entertainment business or have B&Bs. Think before spending IF it's necessary."

"Stop investing in pointless statues and actually improve areas of blackpool. Help renovate the areas where shops have closed."

"I think you need to stop thinking the same way you have done for years, think outside the box and actually listen to the communities. This is a great step and I am not saying all my ideas would 100% work but one may and it could be something you have never thought of before. "

### **Council Workforce:**

"Reduce higher paid council employees' salaries to max £30k/year? Scrap the Talbot tram extension and use the money to build a proper town centre bus hub Get the Central car park open!"

"Lower your wages first "

"Why not open up VR this year?"

"Reduce expenses council workers can claim, I think general expenses such as travel or food should not be claimed for, everyone has to make provision for commuting and eating. Don't give council workers financial bonuses."

"No one working for the council should receive a six figure salary. Get rid of any unnecessary departments, roles, such as diversity."

"Better staff retention schemes within the council to save on agency expenses."

**Council Tax:**

"Keep the poll tax low."

"Stop screwing people who work with high council tax."

"In the current cost of living crisis the council can't possibly justify an increase on council tax to more than 1%. Council taxes have increased year on year at a rate over/above inflation, but to be Frank, council services remain crappie."

**Council Assets:**

"Adults and SEND are out of control but there is little that can be done. Reserves are finite and running out the problem is on a national scale. Look to reduce costs (employee's, building, energy, and borrowing). Use receipts to pay off borrowing and pay for change. Increase income where possible. Encourage green energy."

"Turn the heating down in council offices and tell people to wear a jumper if necessary. You would not have the heating on high at home, but because people think they are not paying they insist on it being on. Get real and remember that your council tax pays for the heating. Investigate all benefit claims thoroughly. Check all works are really value for money and do not continue with the present attitude of "it's not my money" in fact it really is your money. If people are going to use libraries as a crèche, then charge them. Whatever happened to silence in libraries? If properties are not occupied for over two years then they should be taken over by the council and rented out. There seems to be various hotels that fit that idea."

"Residential and commercial properties including should be impounded and disposed of by the council. Owners of neglected commercial properties must be forced to restore or dispose of them."

"Look to dispose of assets to pay off borrowing"

**National Government:**

"More money from central government."

"I think the council does a brilliant job to balance the books under very difficult circumstances. We need a better funding system in which councils are not penalised for not being run by the ruling party and we need a fixed budget rather than the current raffle of bidding for random schemes and funds. You couldn't run a household budget on the basis of pots of money which may or may not come to fruition, and councils should not have to do so either. Fairly allocated funds based on the scale of our statutory duties should be a given."



**Improve engagement process:**

"There is no information on this website as to what the 2023/34 budget is, so therefore impossible to comment on."

"The council should be more transparent with their spending and possibly ask the residents more frequently what they should budget for. Often the council have ideas and when the public are consulted their views are ignored, despite being in the majority."

"Have more street wardens to hand out fines to cyclists who cycle on the pavement. I see three or four every day cycling on the pavements endangering people who are there. I have even seen a couple cycling whilst on their mobile phones! An offence in itself."

**General Comments:**

"Just love Blackpool but think the council doesn't listen to the residents."

"Residents in all sectors of society are feeling the devastating effects of the cost of living crisis. Prices will not go down if inflation is reduced. Now more than ever the Council needs to be responsible in setting the budget in 23/24 as every bill dropping through people's letter box has risen beyond CPI. 2024 is going to be a very hard financial year for most of the population."

"Invest in more renewable energy. Support independent businesses. Develop work schemes for school leavers."