

# Public Document Pack

# Blackpool Council

25 February 2020

To: Councillors Mrs Callow JP, Collett, Galley, Hobson, Mitchell, Mrs Scott and Walsh

The above members are requested to attend the:

## **SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Thursday, 5 March 2020 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room A, Blackpool Town Hall, Blackpool

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

### **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 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2019** (Pages 1 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2019 as a true and correct record.

### **3 GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTION PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Pages 5 - 46)

To review progress on the implementation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy and associated action plan.

**4 SOCIAL MEDIA AND SCRUTINY**

To explore the possibility of using social media and other communication methods to increase public engagement in scrutiny.

**5 EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY PROTOCOL APPROVAL** (Pages 47 - 56)

To approve the revised Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.

**6 SCRUTINY WORKPLANS** (Pages 57 - 70)

To review the work of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Scrutiny Committees and consider progress of the ongoing Scrutiny Reviews.

**7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY SCRUTINY REVIEW** (Pages 71 - 74)

To update on the work undertaken by scrutiny members on the review of Community Engagement Policy.

**8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting as 21 May 2020, subject to confirmation at Annual Council with an informal meeting of the Board to be held on 2 April 2020.

**Venue information:**

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

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager, Tel: 01253 477213, e-mail [sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk)

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER  
2019

## Present:

Councillor Mrs Callow JP (in the Chair)

Councillors

Collett	Hobson	Mrs Scott
Galley	Mitchell	Walsh

## In Attendance:

Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Delivery and Performance, Blackpool Council

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager, Blackpool Council

## Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Stansfield who was on official Council business.

## 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

## 2 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Delivery and Performance posed a number of questions to the Scrutiny Leadership Board in order to commence discussions relating to the future reporting of performance data. She highlighted that the Corporate Delivery Unit could undertake a number of roles for the Scrutiny function from the provision and analysis of performance data to mapping the impact of scrutiny work and whether it had achieved change.

In relation to Council Plan performance data reporting, Members highlighted the importance of being able to measure progress against objectives on an annual basis in order to determine whether particular projects or priorities were on course to be achieved by the end of the Plan in 2024. Ms Aldridge advised that some projects did not run for the whole lifespan of the Plan, whilst others might be projected to continue after the Plan's end date of 2024. It was reported that, currently, targets were set on a one to two year timescale, however, consideration could be given to setting longer range targets in appropriate areas such as capital projects.

The Board also discussed the potential use of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to monitor progress made against objectives in the Council Plan such as achieving a healthier population. In response, Ms Aldridge confirmed that data relating to smoking cessation and alcohol for example could be used to measure such targets but that it must be noted that not all JSNA data was measured on an annual basis and that data could look static as it had not been measured for a number of years.

It was queried whether the Corporate Delivery Unit could provide data relating to the

## **MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019**

success of strategies and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy was used as an example. The Strategy contained a number of objectives that Members would like to ensure could be monitored for impact. Ms Aldridge advised that performance on such strategies could be measured and reported back by exception. It was noted that there were a large number of strategies at the Council and the Scrutiny Committees must determine which were of importance and required review.

The Board agreed that:

1. The Scrutiny Committees continue to receive key performance indicator reporting on a regular basis.
2. Reporting on performance of strategies and increased used of targets and timelines in reporting be explored further.

### **3 FORWARD PLAN**

The Scrutiny Leadership Board considered the Forward Plan, October 2019 to January 2020 and noted that new decisions had been added to the Forward Plan on Drug and Alcohol Strategies. It was noted that there had been no involvement of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee in these Strategies and that the Committee had not been advised that the Strategies were being revised. It was agreed that the relevant Cabinet Member and Director be contacted to determine potential input from the Committee going forward.

Members noted that further input into policy and strategy development was a key priority for Scrutiny and Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager advised that the policy development framework form had been amended to include reference to Scrutiny. The importance of Scrutiny Members being curious and asking questions about policy development was highlighted as was the importance of prioritising which policy and strategy Scrutiny Members should input into.

It was also noted that the consultees listed for the decision to be taken on 'Investment Strategy for Council Homes' only included Blackpool Coastal Housing Board and it was requested that further information be sought regarding the decision to be taken and the consultees.

The Board requested that Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager make the enquiries relating to the Forward Plan and report back.

### **4 NEW STATUTORY SCRUTINY GUIDANCE**

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager presented a report on the new statutory scrutiny guidance and outlined the key themes throughout the guidance, focussing on the importance of the culture of the authority and planning and carrying out work.

The Board discussed raising the profile of scrutiny in detail and noted the importance of involving officers outside of the Council's Management Team in scrutiny and demonstrating that scrutiny could be a positive experience. It was also queried whether social media could be used to canvass the opinions of members of the public in relation to items to be considered by Scrutiny Committees. It was agreed that use of social media

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER  
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would be investigated.

It was also noted that lists of key contacts for some committees were being established to try and target appropriate public representation at meetings.

The Board agreed to investigate the use of social media in seeking items for scrutiny and seeking input into items to be considered.

## **5 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN UPDATE**

At the request of the Chairman, each Scrutiny Committee Chairman was asked to set out their core aims for their Committee over the next few years. Key aims were identified as the improvement of Mental Health Services, the challenge of the new Integrated Care System, how Children's Social Care was run and the impact on Looked After Children, secondary education and elective home education and having an impact on tackling climate change, environmental impact and regeneration. The importance of housing and homelessness were also acknowledged.

The Scrutiny Leadership Board agreed its workplan for the remainder of 2019/2020 and approved the Channel Shift Scrutiny Review scoping document. It was agreed that the first exploratory meeting of the review would take place on 29 October 2019.

In addition, the Chairman of Audit highlighted that the concerns raised at the last Audit Committee meeting regarding elective home education had been fed into the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee through the Chairman who had been in attendance at the meeting.

Members also noted concerns regarding the progress of the tramway and it was noted that the Chairman of the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee had an upcoming meeting with relevant officers on Town Centre Regeneration and would raise the concerns.

The Board agreed:

1. To approve the workplan.
2. To approve the Channel Shift Scrutiny Review scoping document and establish the review.

## **6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Scrutiny Leadership Board noted the date of their next informal meeting as Tuesday, 29 October 2019, commencing at 6.00pm. To be preceded by the first exploratory meeting of the Channel Shift Scrutiny Review Panel to commence at 4.30pm that same day.

**Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 7.12 pm)

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER  
2019**

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager  
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E-mail: [Sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk)

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2020

## GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To review progress on the implementation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy and associated action plan.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To consider the progress of the GBI Strategy and Action Plan and to identify any further areas for scrutiny as appropriate.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the GBI Strategy and progress on the associated Action Plan

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:

None

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

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

### 5.0 Background information

5.1 The report provides an update on the performance of the Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy and associated Action Plan (Appendix 3(a)) which on 25 February 2019, the Executive

resolved:

1. To approve the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan for Blackpool as attached at Appendix 3a, to the Executive report, with effect from 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2029.
2. To request the Director of Community and Environmental Services to take steps prior to the publication to ensure that the strategy and action plan are converted into suitable accessible formats.

5.2 Throughout this report references are made to Green and Blue Infrastructure or GBI, which is defined within the strategy as: *“a network of multifunctional green space, which delivers a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities... As a network it includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, but also street trees, allotments and private gardens. It can also include streams, the sea and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and walls.”*

5.3 Blackpool’s GBI strategy is to be delivered by Blackpool Council in partnership amongst internal directorates, private developers, landowners, schools, healthcare providers, infrastructure managers and the local community.

5.4 Blackpool’s GBI Strategy has identified 6 strategic goals and implementation priorities:

- Engaging People in Health and Well-being
- Enhancing the Visitor Experience
- Greener Housing and Infrastructure
- Enabling Productive Green Business and Workers
- Promoting a Green Image and Culture
- Improving Habitats and Benefitting Pollinators

5.5 In order to deliver the GBI strategy an Action Plan has been developed with 4 objectives, aligning with Core Strategy Policy CS6.

- Protect and Enhance GBI
- Create and Restore GBI
- Connect and Link GBI
- Promote GBI

## **6.0 Progress on GBI Strategy**

### **6.1 GBI Delivery Mechanism and Governance**

6.1.1 In order to ensure the strategy is delivered in a coordinated approach, officers’ prioritised Action 4.4 to “Appoint a GBI Officer to take ownership and to deliver the GBI Strategy and Action Plan, forming partnerships with health, housing, town centre, schools, cultural and arts specialists.”

6.1.2 In September 2019, Annie Heslop Green Infrastructure Development Manager was recruited as part



of the Community and Environmental Services Directorate.

6.1.3 Since appointment work has focussed on:

- Establishing progress on each action within the action plan document
- Developing Key Performance Indicators in line with the Strategy’s objectives and the Core Strategy
- Developing a multi-directorate group of officers to oversee the delivery of the GBI
- Investigating best practice
- Establishing key partnerships with stakeholders
- Progressing priority actions

6.1.4 It is proposed that the remit and representation on the Corporate Sport and Physical Activity Group is expanded to include Green and Blue Infrastructure. That the 10 year plan is reviewed annually to agree those actions to be taken forward in that financial year, dependant on the wider Council plans and available external funding sources.

6.1.5 Long term Key Performance Indicators and annual Key Performance Indicators will be agreed by the group.

6.2 Performance Indicators

6.2.1 The Blackpool Local Plan identifies Green Infrastructure as one of the Core Policies, CS6, in the Core Strategy (2012-27). The objectives for the GBI Strategy were produced in line with those already identified within Green Infrastructure CS6 of Core Strategy using 9 policies indicators.

6.2.2 The table below highlights the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) against the Green Infrastructure CS6 indicators for 2018/19. This provides a baseline for the position before the Green Infrastructure Strategy was adopted.

<b>CS6 Policy Indicator</b>	<b>2018/19 (reflects the position at 31/03/2019)</b>
Number of green spaces managed to ‘Green Flag Award’ standard	In 2018/19 there were no parks submitted for a Green Flag award in Blackpool. Measured against the Green Flag award criteria, the Open Spaces Assessment found that Stanley Park was maintained to the excellent standard and Watson Road Park to the very good standard. There has been no change recorded since 2014.
Amount (sqm) of public open space and playing fields lost to other uses	No public open spaces/playing fields were lost to other uses in 2018/19.
Commuted sums payments received and spent	In 2018/19 £83,426.00 commuted sum monies were spent and £8,772.80 commuted sum monies were received.
Amount (£) invested in green infrastructure.	£147,145 invested by Parks Service infrastructure and planting and through Highways schemes including tree planting with Quality Corridors.

Percentage of new development providing open space (or developer contributions for off-site provision) in accordance with the council's approved standards	In 2018/19 100% of developments met the Council's approved standards for open space.
Area (ha) designated as green belt	There has been no change in the area designated as Green Belt.
Number of developments approved in the green belt	Two developments were approved in the green belt in 2018/19. 18/0370 granted permission for 2 temporary cremators with 2.8m high boundary fencing at Carleton Crematorium. Application 18/0371 was for a single storey extension at Carleton Crematorium.
Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance	No change recorded.
Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest	In September 2010, the Marton Mere SSSI received a 100% 'Favorable' rating. There has been no recorded change.

6.2.3 No public open spaces/playing fields were lost to other uses in 2018/19.

6.2.4 In addition to the Core Strategy Green Infrastructure Policy Indicators, further Performance indicators are being established to monitor the progress of the GBI strategy.

### 6.3 Action Plan Update

6.3.1 The GBI strategy was adopted in March 2019 and significant progress has been made on many of the projects and programmes within the Action Plan. A complete update of all these actions is attached in 'Appendix B' and this report highlights below where the main focus has been.

#### 6.3.2 **Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure**

6.3.2.1 In 2019 enhanced public open spaces and a new play area within the new Queens Park housing development were opened to the public. Layton Recreation Ground includes 74 new standard sized trees, wildflower spaces and a £100,000 new playground enhanced through additional funding of £60,000 from Blackpool Better Start. **Action 1.2**

6.3.2.2 The Strategy highlights the use of Parks as training centres, focusing on apprentices and skills training. This year the Parks Service have been able to employ two new members of staff who were previously volunteers with the service on long term placements. This includes a teenager from the Pupil Referral Unit who is now employed as an Apprentice Gardener, a scheme which includes formal qualifications in Horticulture gained at Myerscough college. **Action 1.3**

6.3.2.3 A £2,000,000 ERDF bid has been submitted to create 'Grange Park Garden Estate.' The project

includes £120,000 of improvements to Green Infrastructure through the introduction of tree planting alongside behaviour change projects encouraging a 'greener' culture through a place-based approach to tackling climate change. **Action 1.2**

6.3.2.4 An Open Spaces Assessment, currently in final draft form, has been undertaken to all Blackpool's Open Spaces to establish the current condition of all Blackpool Parks and open spaces. This is currently being used to direct future priorities and create Park Development Plans. These will be used to create targeted site improvements with the view to obtaining Green Flag where possible. **Action 1.3**

6.3.2.5 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) entitled Greening Blackpool has been drafted for consultation in early 2020. **Action 1.7**

6.3.2.5 Initial steps have been undertaken to scope requirements for HLF funding for Stanley Park. Projects will be aimed at increasing park usage and ownership including infrastructure improvements to the lake, bandstand, terraces and sports facilities along with a programme of public engagement activities. **Action 1.1**

6.3.2.6 Stanley Park was voted 2019 Fields in Trust Best UK Park by the public, resulting in national media coverage and promotion of the park. **Action 1.1**

### 6.3.3 **Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure**

6.3.3.1 A Policy Framework Proposal (Appendix 'C') is being taken to Corporate Leadership Team, which highlights the requirement for a Tree Strategy. This will include a Tree planting plan identifying suitable locations for planting, under the 'right tree in the right place' principle. The tree strategy will be written in house involving a range of both internal and external stakeholders to enable an ambitious yet deliverable tree strategy. A Street Tree Priorities report has been produced and will feed into the Tree Strategy to ensure key gateways in the town are prioritised. **Action 2.2, Action 1.7**

6.3.3.2 Within an approved planning application, Carlton Cemetery planting scheme was submitted and approved which enhances the landscape character and biodiversity of the new extension including the addition of 45 trees. **Action 2.2**

6.3.3.3 The planning policy framework is in place to support the inclusion of GBI with key town centre development projects such as Talbot Gateway, Central Leisure Quarter and the Central Business District. The Core Strategy identifies that 'all development should incorporate new or enhance existing green infrastructure of an appropriate size, type and standard. Where on-site provision is not possible, financial contributions will be sought to make appropriate provision for open space and green infrastructure.' **Action 1.8**

### 6.3.4 **Objective 3 Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure**

6.3.4.1 The ERDF programme includes the enhancement of walking and cycleways to encourage active travel around the estate and connecting Green Infrastructure. **Action 3.3**

6.3.4.2 Links have been established across boundaries with Lancashire Local Authorities working together to

create a Lancashire Woodland. Connections and projects are being developed with the Wyre and Ribble Rivers Trust to enable a catchment based approach to developing woodlands and tree planting. **Action 3.4**

#### 6.3.5 **Objective 4 Promote the benefits of Green and Blue Infrastructure**

6.3.5.1 From January 2019 to date, the Parks Service has recorded 11,700 volunteer hours undertaken on Blackpool's Open spaces through Friends groups or supervised volunteer activities. There is a network of Volunteer Rangers who undertake practical site maintenance of ecological sites including Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve. The Parks Service supports 13 Friends Groups who are volunteer led and provide opportunities for local residents to get involved in their local park through practical tasks, fundraising and running events. Representatives from the Friends groups attend the Open Spaces Network which shares best practices and networks groups to work together. **Action 4.2**

6.3.5.2 In 2019 the Better Start funded Park Ranger Service was extended and expanded and now includes a team of 6 including a Head Start part funded post of Junior Park Ranger Coordinator. The Park Ranger Service deliver events across the town to encourage local residents to enjoy their local park and get involved in looking after it. A business plan is being developed to create a long-term sustainable strategy to enable the Ranger Service to continue post external funding. **Action 4.1**

6.3.5.3 A Green bus shelter has been created at Grange Park in partnership with students at the nearby Pupil Referral Unit. **Action 4.2**

#### 7.0 **Future opportunities/priorities**

##### 7.1 Short –term (within 3 months)

7.1.1 Anchorsholme Park has been redeveloped in partnership with United utilities and includes new facilities including a café, play area, amphitheatre, multi-use games area, bowling pavilion and species rich meadows. The park is programmed to be open to the public in spring 2020. **Action 1.3**

7.1.2 Harold Larkwood park on Chance Street is undergoing regeneration with new play facilities, removal of the wall to open up sightlines and tree planting. This is due to be complete by April 2020. **Action 1.3**

7.1.3 Consultation is being undertaken for the Tree Strategy and associated tree planting plan with internal and external stakeholders. **Action 2.2, Action 1.7**

7.1.4 The Active Lives Strategy will be developed which will identify and highlighting the importance of utilising green and blue spaces across the town as active spaces and the cross cutting work opportunities identified within the GBI strategy **Action 4.7**

7.1.5 Consultation for Part 2 of Local Plan will commence in May 2020 following Executive and Full Council approval. The consultation process for adopting the greening Supplementary Planning Document and open space assessment will be carried out in the next 12 months following consultation for Part 2 of the Local Plan. **Action 1.7**

7.2 Medium term (within 12 months)

7.2.1 Submission of Stanley Park Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. **Action 1.1**

7.2.2 Completion of Tree Strategy and Planting plan. **Action 2.2, Action 1.7**

7.2.3 Completion of Park development plans to focus investment and engagement. **Action 1.3**

7.2.4 Completion of business plan for Park Ranger Service. **Action 4.3**

7.2.5 Development of Park and green space Volunteer opportunities. Signposting those interested to all available opportunities across the town. **Action 1.4**

7.2.6 An ecological audit undertaken of all Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and identify priorities for management and those sites at risk. **Action 1.5**

7.2.7 Completion of the updated Management Plan for Marton Mere Local Nature reserve, Site of Special scientific Interest (SSSI). **Action 1.4**

8.0 **List of Appendices**

Appendix 3(a): Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan.

Appendix 3(b): Action Plan update.

Appendix 3(c): Tree Strategy proposal.

9.0 **Legal considerations**

Legal considerations will be dealt with as they arise.

10.0 **Human Resources considerations**

The aim is to embed green and blue thinking across the Council, therefore involving all staff who are able through their work or volunteering to make a contribution.

11.0 **Equalities considerations**

This strategy takes into consideration mental health and physical wellbeing, aims to reduce inequalities and promote community cohesion.

12.0 **Financial considerations**

The Action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and is dependent on being able to direct revenue funding to the plan and also achieving external funding from partners and various funding streams available.

13.0 **Risk management considerations**

The key risk relates to Green and Blue not being a part of 'Making Blackpool Better' in relation to

inclusion in all our major capital schemes and developments.

Also not being able to release revenue funding to support the plan and achieve capital funding.

**14.0 Ethical considerations**

This strategy aims to reduce inequalities and promote community cohesion in line with the Council's ethical policy.

**15.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken**

During the development of the Strategy, consultation was undertaken with:

1. Interdepartmental steering group
2. Focus groups and 1 to 1 interviews with key individuals
3. Councillor information sessions
4. Attendance at all Scrutiny Committees and special scrutiny committee organised
5. Attendance at Health and wellbeing Board
6. Public consultation
7. Consultation through Open Spaces Network
8. Local Business Forum
9. Schools Forum.

**16.0 Background papers**

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.



Blackpool  
Green and Blue  
Infrastructure Action Plan

DECEMBER 2018  
FINAL DRAFT

## Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan

This Action Plan:

- Sets out the actions to realise the vision and meet the objectives over the next 10 years;
- Identifies priority sites against each action; and
- Identifies key stakeholders and deliverers against each action.

The 10 year action plan when approved, will be reviewed to create an annual action plan.

### Funding

Funding to implement this long-term action plan will in the main come from external sources. Therefore the annual plan will include, the actions for that year based on priorities, opportunities and availability of funding sources.

### Performance Monitoring

The annual Action Plan will generate a small number of Key Performance Indicators for that year. The long term indicators will be linked to the high level objectives of doubling the tree canopy and 5000 people involved in green initiatives in addition to enter Blackpool into Britain in Bloom.

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest’</b>			
1.1 Celebrate Stanley Park, voted the UK’s Best Park in 2017, as Blackpool’s most prestigious heritage and visitor destination and promote links to other parks in Blackpool, Fleetwood and Lytham St. Annes.	1.1.1 Achieve the Green Flag Award, and Green Flag Heritage Accreditation. Stanley Park was previously a Green Flag Award winner, and the application should be reinstated to promote the benefits that green spaces provide to the local community and visitors to Blackpool.	Parks & Leisure  Friends of Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure



Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'</b>			
	1.1.2 Heritage Lottery Bid for further restoration of Stanley Park following previous successful bids.	Parks & Leisure  Friends of Stanley Park Blackpool Conservation Officer	Parks & Leisure
	1.1.3 Use the park as a training centre for council led services and third sectors. Particular focus on apprenticeships and skills training.	Parks & Leisure PRU/Education Diversity	Parks & Leisure
	1.1.4 Continue and enhance the promotion of Stanley Park to the visitor market, including highlighting events and attractions directly to visitors, as well as travel agencies, visitor information services, on social media, etc.	Visit Blackpool	Visit Blackpool
1.2 Enhance GBI in housing areas, accepting that during housing transformation, greenspaces may be restructured to improve estate design and security, but overall GBI functionality should be enhanced.	1.2.1 Explore the aspiration to enhance the open space at Mereside in conjunction with the development of the western part of the open space so that it is of a higher quality than is there currently.	M.A.F.I.A Mereside and Friends in Action, LeftCoast and Blackpool Coastal Housing Better Start Planning Team	Mereside M.A.F.I.A
	1.2.2 Through the master planning process ensure that Whyndyke Garden Village delivers innovation in GBI design to promote physical activity and wellbeing.	Whyndyke Partnership Board Fylde Borough and Blackpool Councils Planning Team	Whyndyke Partnership Board

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'</b>			
	1.2.3 Complete the housing development on the site of the Queens Park flats including GBI plan.	My Blackpool Home Blackpool Coastal Housing Blackpool Council - Housing	Blackpool Council – Housing
	1.2.4 Through community consultation and involvement the potential for rationalising and enhancing existing open space within Grange Park should be reviewed and implemented.	Blackpool Council including Housing, and Planning BCH, @the Grange development group My Blackpool Home	Blackpool Council – Housing
1.3 Invest in Blackpool's parks to acknowledge their importance in each local area, and ensure they are meeting Blackpool's quality benchmark associated with Green Flag criteria.	1.3.1 There are 16 other parks in Blackpool which, along with Stanley Park, need to be recognised for the role they play in providing multiple GBI functions crossing environmental, social and economic benefits	Parks & Leisure Stakeholder Open Space Network	Parks and Leisure
	1.3.2 Develop a Parks Development Plan informed by the Open Space Assessment 2018 which included quality audits for each park (and other open spaces across Blackpool).		
	1.3.3 Consider crowd funding and alternative funding sources.		
1.4 Maintain investment in Marton Mere Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as the premier site for promoting nature conservation across Blackpool.	1.4.1 Use Marton Mere as a nature conservation hub to promote other nature conservation.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'</b>			
	1.4.2 Continue and enhance the promotion of Marton Mere to the visitor market, including highlighting events and attractions directly to visitors, as well as travel agencies, visitor information services, on social media, environmental groups, birdwatching clubs, etc.	Visit Blackpool Parks & Leisure	Visit Blackpool
1.5 Ensure all Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and green corridors are protected for nature conservation, then the planning reference would be appropriate	1.5.1 There are currently 13 Biological Heritage Sites within the Blackpool Local Authority area identified and safeguarded by the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 Core Strategy (adopted 2016)  The Council is committed to maintaining the biodiversity and local distinctiveness of sites of nature conservation interest and will endeavour to safeguard, conserve and enhance any further sites that are identified as adding to the wildlife and amenity value of the network of Biological Heritage Sites.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council Blackpool Council Blackpool Council Planning Team	Planning
1.6 Invest in the promenade and headlands to connect people with the natural seascape.	1.6.1 Enhance the headlands for the local community. Facilities such as toilets should also be considered on the promenade.	Fylde Peninsula Bathing Water Management Partnership Planning Team	Blackpool Council – Environmental Services
	1.6.2 Investigate options to introduce GBI to the promenade.	Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Parks & Leisure
	1.6.3 Consider ways of enhancing the disused crazy golf area, North Pier.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
1.7 Protect and enhance GBI in streetscapes, quality corridors and the town centre.	1.7.1 Enhance road verges along key gateways, including Preston New Road, by introducing stretches of wildflower to provide an attractive setting for residents, commuters and visitors.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'</b>			
	1.7.2 Work with the Conference Centre contractor to plant trees to enhance existing green space in the town centre.	Leisure assets	Leisure assets
	1.7.3 Cease further use of artificial grass on roundabouts and verges and instead introduce stretches of wildflower to provide an attractive setting for residents, commuters and visitors. Identify funders for the works and ongoing maintenance through sponsorship.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
	1.7.4 Protect the existing number of street trees and hedgerows/shrubs in the Defined Inner Area from development and highway works through planning policy. Put Tree Preservation Orders in place where appropriate to protect the best trees in Blackpool.	Planning Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Planning
	1.7.5 Investigate the options for greening Bloomfield Road. This road forms part of the 'Wildlife Cycle Route' on the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Cycle Map (2015) 'Heading inland from Blackpool Prom there are two cycle friendly explorer routes; Wildlife and Park, that take you to Blackpool Zoo and Stanley Park.'	Transport Strategy Parks & Leisure	Transport Strategy
	1.7.6 Introduce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) policy whereby any trees and hedgerows/shrubs lost through development in the Defined Inner Area must be replaced with an agreed ratio.	Planning Team	Planning Team

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'</b>			
	1.7.7 Encourage hedgerows or shrubs in place of fences and railings to the front of properties within proposed developments during pre-application discussions.	Blackpool Council – Planning Team and Blackpool Coastal Housing Council Environmental Partnership Planning Team	Planning
1.8 Protect and manage GBI in corporate, business and industrial settings, enhancing it for biodiversity, sustainable drainage, and to create an attractive setting for the Enterprise Zone, the Town Centre, the Inner Area and other corridors and gateways identified in the GBI Strategy report.	1.8.1 Protect and enhance GBI associated with business parks, retail parks and other commercial setting and ensure they are adequately safeguarded from development wherever practicable.	Planning Team Growth and Prosperity Team Business Town Centre BID	Planning

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’</b>			
2.1 Incorporate the creation of new GBI into the Town Centre Strategy Update and emerging Sustainability Strategy to ensure a greener town centre where each part of the public realm is considered as an opportunity for civic GBI.	2.1.1 Embed GBI such as trees, planters, groundcover and hedges into the Business Improvement District with long-term plans for management and maintenance.	Business Improvement District Team Planning Team	BID
	2.1.2 Work with Network Rail to incorporate GBI into the design of the planned tram extension at Blackpool North Station and the tram route to North Pier. This could include greening the tracks and creating green walls.	Network Rail, Transport Planners and Corporate Leadership Team could advocate. Growth & Prosperity Team Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity
	2.1.3 Incorporate GBI into the external spaces at the Conference Centre using civic space.	Leisure Assets Planning team	Leisure Assets
	2.1.4 Identify opportunities to green the Winter Gardens by approaching local businesses for funding for projects.	Leisure Assets Blackpool Conservation Team	Leisure Assets
	2.1.5 Work with local businesses owners to encourage and support the retrofitting of GI to their buildings using green walls and green roofs.	Business in the Community Business & Enterprise BID	Business & Enterprise
	2.1.6 Incorporate GBI into the Talbot Gateway Phase 2 planning.	Growth & Prosperity Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed'</b>			
	2.1.7 Consider the green within the town centre as an urban community park and create a town centre friends group.	BID Planning Parks	Growth & Prosperity
2.2 Increase the overall tree canopy in Blackpool to 10%, starting with planting of 10,000 trees in the ten year period 2018 to 2027.	2.2.1 Develop a tree planting plan for Blackpool which addresses a range of priorities including air quality.	City of Trees Parks & Leisure Highways Transport Planning Growth & Prosperity Environmental Health Public Health	Environmental Health
	2.2.2 Develop a business plan for the full implementation of the community project to give every child at school a tree to plant in 23 and then follow it up till 33.	The Green Team St Georges High School Lancaster University Schools Forum Parks and Leisure Adult social care	Adult social care
2.3 Ensure multifunctional GBI is incorporated in new residential developments.	2.3.1 Create new open spaces in the Defined Inner Area as part of regeneration projects e.g. Rigby Road.	My Blackpool Home Planning Parks & Leisure Housing Strategy	My Blackpool Home

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’</b>			
2.4 Incorporate GBI into the master plan for the Enterprise Zone to create a welcoming place for businesses.	2.4.1 Create open spaces within the Enterprise Zone for workers as well as being accessible to local residents. Open spaces could include Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS), perimeter planting, measured walking and running routes. Explore opportunities for local businesses to implement GBI and take stewardship of the GBI by delivering long term maintenance. Encourage innovative green elements in building design (e.g. roof-top planting, green walls, etc.)	Growth & Prosperity Leisure Team. Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity
	2.4.2 Deliver the Common Edge Sports Village Project.	Growth & Prosperity Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Parks & Leisure
2.5 Identify opportunities in the Leisure Quarter to embed GBI.	2.5.1 Explore opportunities to incorporate GBI within the Leisure Quarter. Explore opportunities for local businesses to take stewardship of the GBI by delivering long term maintenance.	Developers Place Department, Economic development team to advocate and business owners. Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity
	2.5.2 Explore opportunities to expand Illuminations through the use of lit trees potentially linking to LightPool.	BID Communications and Regeneration	Communications and Regeneration
2.6 Use GBI at the gateways and corridors into and around Blackpool (e.g. the ‘Green Line’) to provide attractive routes for residents, commuters, visitors and tourists and to encourage walking and cycling.	2.6.1 Explore the opportunity to create a ‘Green Line’ along the central corridor from south Station to the Town Centre, comprising a continuous green space/ series of green spaces that facilitates walking, running and cycling.	Enterprise Partnerships Highways Transport Strategy Parks & Leisure	Transport Strategy



Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’</b>			
	2.6.2 Plant street trees on key transport gateways from the M55, including Yeadon Way, Progress Way and Westcliffe Drive/ Talbot Road.	City of Trees Enterprise Partnerships Highways Transport Strategy	Transport Strategy
	2.6.3 Encourage Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) in proposed residential development as per Policy CS9: Water Management and with a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).	United Utilities and Environment Agency Coastal & Environmental Investments Planning Team	Coastal & Environmental Investments
2.7 Adopt a Planning and Development checklist to ensure GBI is incorporated in all new developments, linked to existing assets, and where on-site provision is not possible, an appropriate contribution is made to off-site GBI assets and networks.	2.7.1 Create a GBI design checklist to be included in the updated SPD for Open Space Provision for New Residential Development.	Planning Team	Planning
	2.7.2 Explore the opportunities to create and deliver new GBI provision for children and young people in Hawes Side and Common Edge where there is currently a deficiency.	BID Places	Places
	2.7.3 Temporarily green vacant sites in the Town Centre e.g. Bank Street Car Park prior to their development. Seek the support of local business to fund and manage such sites.	BID Places Planning	Places
2.8 In the Green Belt and Countryside Areas, restore elements of the landscape that contribute to character and biodiversity.	2.8.1 Develop a cemetery extension planting scheme.	Democratic Services Parks & Leisure	Democratic Services

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’</b>			
2.9 Continue to expand and support the Allotment Society.	2.9.1 Create allotments in the north of Blackpool where there is currently a deficiency.	Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Parks & Leisure Planning

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 3 Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Making the Links, Improving Connectivity and Accessibility of GBI'</b>			
3.1 Ensure the Council obtains maximum input to GBI from businesses and services.	3.1.1 Include specific.GBI opportunities in Social Value element of tendering for contracts	Procurement Parks & Leisure Public Health	Procurement
3.2 Create and/or upgrade the Blackpool Activity Trail which incorporates Gateways and Green Corridors to connect key GBI for people and wildlife, including the walking and cycling route from the Town Centre to Stanley Park, Zoo and Marton Mere.	3.2.1 Develop the Blackpool Activity Trail – cycling, walking, and nature trails. A vision for the Trail has been previously explored and should be implemented to widen opportunities for cycling, walking and nature trails.  The Activity Trail links the National Cycle Route, Heron's Reach Footpath Trail, Blackpool Heritage Trail, North Blackpool Pond Trail, and Blackpool Promenade.	HLF, SITA, Sport England and National Governing Bodies Parks & Leisure Transport Policy Planning Team,	Parks & Leisure
3.3 Promote and support initiatives that encourage active travel such as 'Steps to Health' and 'Cycle for Health' scheme.	3.3.1 Further develop the Living Streets: Walk to 2017-2020 programme.	Living Streets, Modeshift, Cycling UK, Active Blackpool Team and Heartwize Public Health	Public Health
3.4 Work with neighbouring local authorities to promote links to cross-boundary GBI provision.	3.4.1 Continue to work with Fylde Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on promoting cross-boundary GBI provision.	Blackpool Council, Fylde Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire County Council Planning Teams and Fylde Peninsula Bathing Water Management Partnership	Blackpool Council Planning

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 3 Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Making the Links, Improving Connectivity and Accessibility of GBI'</b>			
	3.4.2 Work with Fylde Borough Council to create links from the outer housing estate at Mereside to the Whyndyke Garden Village and Marton Mere.	NHS and Fylde Borough Council (lead applicant) Blackpool Council Whyndyke Board	Whyndyke Board
	3.4.3 Promote the Lancashire Coastal Way (137 mile footpath following the coastline between Merseyside and Cumbria) to connect residents to neighbouring GBI and visitors and tourists to Blackpool.	Visit Blackpool	Visit Blackpool

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'</b>			
4.1 Provide topical and user-friendly information on GBI, parks, open spaces and nature conservation sites, and how to get involved in activities and volunteering.	4.1.1 Create information packs for community hubs on the importance of their gardens and local green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. Information pack could include information about their local green spaces e.g. beach, Marton Mere, Kincaig Pond Trail. Also how to get involved and how to go about maintaining or improving the public realm.	Internal Communications Team, Friends of Groups, Parks Department and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside Open Space Network	Parks & Leisure
	4.1.2 Through planning policies where residents apply to change front gardens into car parking on a classified road or conservation area, ensure that plans maintain green wherever possible and facilitate drainage.	Planning Team	Planning
	4.1.3 Identify roads that could be closed at an agreed time and day each week/month to provide informal play space for children as part of Playing Out.	Playing Out Childrens Services – Early Intervention Highways	Childrens Services
	4.1.4 Encourage park led volunteering to engage residents with GBI for the benefit of physical and mental health and to promote stewardship of local spaces including junior park wardens.	Head Start and Better Start Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'</b>			
	4.1.5 Encourage local businesses to take stewardship of local green spaces by allowing staff to undertake Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) volunteering.	Business in the Community Parks & Leisure Business & Enterprise BID	Blackpool Council – Business & Enterprise
	4.1.6 Ensure that the new Integrated Neighbourhood Teams identify green gyms and cook and eat opportunities in next area and actively refer patients.	Public Health CCG Blackpool Council – Adults Services Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	CCG
	4.1.7 Establish a Men in Sheds Network for Blackpool, to coordinate GBI projects.	UK Men's Shed's Association Fulfilling Lives Public Health	Public Health
	4.1.8 Consider incentive scheme for green volunteering.	Growth and Prosperity Volunteer centre	Growth and prosperity
	4.1.9 Consider a focal point on a website to inform the public of all the volunteering opportunities available.	Growth and Prosperity Public Health FYI Volunteer centre	Growth and Prosperity

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'</b>			
	4.1.10 Expand the remit of Street Scene workers to include stewardship of the green environment, working with volunteer groups to make the most of the public realm.	Friends Group Street Scene	Street Scene
4.2 Encourage and support Parks Friends Groups, Beach Guardians, Tree Wardens and other community led environmental stewards.	4.2.1 Identify further opportunities to support Friends of Groups to ensure their continuation and to increase members.	Keep Britain Tidy and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
	4.2.2 Beach Guardians to promote the educational and recreational value of the beach and sea.	Turning Tides Public Health	Public Health
	4.2.3 Further expand the work of the Council's Adult Services Green Team	Adult services	Adult services
	4.2.4 Support and empower street drinkers and others to become stewards of the town centre green space and help with its maintenance as part of their journey to recovery.	BID Community Safety Horizon Fulfilling Lives	Fulfilling Lives
	4.2.5 Consider the creation of Community Greenhouse Project whereby residents can contribute to the greening of Blackpool to growing plants at home.	Grow Blackpool Growth & Prosperity Parks	Growth & Prosperity
	4.2.6 Work with Highways and Blackpool Transport to consider the creation of a pilot green/growing bus shelter, to bring green into Street Scene.	Blackpool Transport	@ the Grange

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI ‘Changing Behaviour’</b>			
4.3 Continue to support and promote the outdoor aspects of the Better Start and HeadStart Programmes and work with health professionals throughout the town to promote “green prescribing”.	4.3.1 Continue to promote and support the Better Start and HeadStart Programmes with the aim of building capacity for developing community skills and social mobility.	Better Start, National Lottery Programme, Parents of 0-3 year olds and Community Connectors Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
4.4. Appoint a GBI Officer to take ownership and to deliver the GBI Strategy and Action Plan, forming partnerships with health, housing, town centre, schools, cultural and arts specialists.	4.4.1 GBI Officer to drive change in policy and delivery of GBI through new development, including developer contributions and bid writing.	Growth and Prosperity Public Health	Growth and Prosperity
4.5 Continue to deliver GI projects that promote food growing, gardening and stewardship of local green spaces.	4.5.1 Link Grow Blackpool @ The Grange, Grange Park, Cherry Tree Allotments and the Better Start programme to provide a network of sites.	Better Start and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside	Groundwork
	4.5.2 Fully implement an Urban Farm @ The Grange with Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.	Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside	Groundwork
4.6 Promote the use of GBI by educational institutions and incorporate GBI into the curriculum e.g. through Forest Schools.	4.6.1 Engage with the Schools Forum and colleges to encourage educational trips to local green spaces. Where the school has limited space, encourage schools to partner with local public green space in the delivery of GBI activities.	Curious Minds Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	Blackpool Council – Childrens Services



Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'</b>			
4.7 Incorporate GBI into the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2018 when updated.	4.7.1 During the update of the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy ensure GBI and its benefits are highlighted by targeting specific sports that use outdoor space.	Football Foundation, Sport England and National Governing Bodies.	Parks & Leisure
4.8 Encourage GBI implementation through the Arts and Culture Strategy.	4.8.1 Identify opportunities to create pop-up public art/ temporary GBI around Blackpool in isolation of or in conjunction with other events in Blackpool.	Arts Award Program, Urban Splash Program and Visit Blackpool	Blackpool Council – Culture
	4.8.2 Create an Arts Trail and promote it to residents, workers, visitors and tourists.	Grundy Art Gallery, Arts Award Program, Visit Blackpool and Urban Splash Program	Blackpool Council – Culture
4.9 Leadership of the GBI agenda.	4.9.1 Obtain a personal commitment to GBI from Councillors and senior Officers of the Council.	Cabinet Secretary Director of Adult services Director of Public Health Director of Community and Environmental services	Director of Community and Environmental services

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
<b>Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'</b>			
4.10 Create a social movement of residents and businesses to maintain and improve GBI in Blackpool	4.10.1 Develop and implement a social marketing strategy for GBI	Blackpool Sixth Form College Public Health	Public Health
4.11 Monitor the outcomes of this Action Plan from the residents perspective.	4.11.1 Ensure GBI and its use, is included in future residents surveys.	Blackpool Council – Research	Blackpool Council - Research
4.12 Incorporate GBI in all strategies for the built environment.	4.12.1 GBI impact assessment to be included in all Council policy and strategy papers.	CLT	CLT
4.13 Inspire Local Business – Promote GBI activities by Blackpool Council staff	4.13.1 Consider the potential to allow paid leave for employees to volunteer on green and blue projects in order to lead from the front as a Council and inspire businesses.	CLT	CLT



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## GBI Strategy Action Plan - October Update

Objective	Headline Actions	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead	October 2019 update
Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'	1.1 Celebrate Stanley Park, voted the UK's Best Park in 2017, as Blackpool's most prestigious heritage and visitor destination and promote links to other parks in Blackpool, Fleetwood and Lytham St. Annes.	1.1.1 Achieve the Green Flag Award, and Green Flag Heritage Accreditation. Stanley Park was previously a Green Flag Award winner, and the application should be reinstated to promote the benefits that green spaces provide to the local community and visitors to Blackpool.	Parks & Leisure, Friends of Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure	Park audit being undertaken as part of the Heritage Lottery bid process to assess what infrastructure needs to be in place to secure Green Flag. The 2019/20 application round opens 1st November and closes 31st January.
		1.1.2 Heritage Lottery Bid for further restoration of Stanley Park following previous successful bids.	Parks & Leisure, Blackpool Conservation Officer, Friends of Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure	Scoping exercise has been undertaken to establish the scale and nature of bid in order to inform an expression of interest to be put in. Working group has been set up to direct the bid and engage with stakeholders.
		1.1.3 Use the park as a training centre for council led services and third sectors. Particular focus on apprenticeships and skills training.	Parks & Leisure,	Parks & Leisure	In 2019 the Parks Service have employed two new members of staff who were previously volunteers on long term placements. One of these was a pupil from the Pupil Referral Unit who is now an Apprentice Gardener, a post which includes formal qualifications gained at Myerscough college.
		1.1.4 Continue and enhance the promotion of Stanley Park to the visitor market, including highlighting events and attractions directly to visitors, as well as travel agencies, visitor information services, on social media, etc.	Visit Blackpool	Visit Blackpool	In September, Stanley Park was voted the Fields in Trust UK's Park of The Year 2019 resulting in a high profile publicity campaign across media outlets including BBC Northwest tonight.
	1.2 Enhance GBI in housing areas, accepting that during housing transformation, greenspaces may be restructured to improve estate design and security, but overall GBI functionality should be enhanced.	1.2.1 Explore the aspiration to enhance the open space at Mereside in conjunction with the development of the western part of the open space so that it is of a higher quality than is there currently.	M.A.F.I.A Mereside and Friends in Action, LeftCoast and Blackpool Coastal Housing, Better Start, Planning Team	Mereside M.A.F.I.A	The open space at Mereside is currently undergoing investment by Blackpool Coastal Housing (£35,000) and Better Start (£35,000) which already has seen a new Multi-Use games area installed, BMX track refurbished and additional play equipment. Ongoing work includes improvements to the wider open space through landscaping and the additional of playful features targeted at 0-4yrs.
		1.2.2 Through the master planning process ensure that Whyndyke Garden Village delivers innovation in GBI design to promote physical activity and wellbeing.	Whyndyke Partnership Board, Fylde Borough and Blackpool Councils Planning Team	Whyndyke Partnership Board	Outline planning permission has been granted including the allocation of public open space, sports pitches, allotments, the retention and improvement of natural habitats, watercourse, ponds, reed beds and hedgerows and landscape features.
		1.2.3 Complete the housing development on the site of the Queens Park flats including GBI plan.	My Blackpool Home, Blackpool Coastal Housing	Blackpool Council – Housing	Queens Park housing open spaces are now open to public. Works have included 100 trees planted, species rich meadow, entrance features and path network. A new play area, part funded by Blackpool better start (£60,000) has been created in the middle of housing areas.
		1.2.4 Through community consultation and involvement the potential for rationalising and enhancing existing open space within Grange Park should be reviewed and implemented.	Blackpool Council including Housing, and Planning BCH, @the Grange development group, My Blackpool Home	Blackpool Council – Housing	An European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid submitted for 'Grange Park Garden Estate.' The programme uses a place based approach to reduce carbon and includes £120,000 of energy improvements improvements to green infrastructure through tree planting and cycle ways.
	1.3 Invest in Blackpool's parks to acknowledge their importance in each local area, and ensure they are meeting Blackpool's quality benchmark associated with Green Flag criteria.	1.3.1 There are 16 other parks in Blackpool which, along with Stanley Park, need to be recognised for the role they play in providing multiple GBI functions crossing environmental, social and economic benefits.	Parks & Leisure, Stakeholder Open Space Network	Parks and Leisure	Parks Development Plans are being drafted to highlight a programme of works for each park
		1.3.2 Develop a Parks Development Plan informed by the Open Space Assessment 2018 which included quality audits for each park (and other open spaces across Blackpool).			The Open Spaces Assessment is at present in final draft form.
		1.3.3 Consider crowd funding and alternative funding sources.			Action to be carried forward.
	1.4 Maintain investment in Marton Mere Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as the premier site for promoting nature conservation across Blackpool.	1.4.1 Use Marton Mere as a nature conservation hub to promote other nature conservation.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council, Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	Marton Mere currently the base of the Volunteer Rangers who meet 3 times a week to undertake volunteering activities. The Marton Mere Management Plan is currently being updated. The site is protected within Local plan policy and within further policy in the emerging Part 2 of the Local Plan.
		1.4.2 Continue and enhance the promotion of Marton Mere to the visitor market, including highlighting events and attractions directly to visitors, as well as travel agencies, visitor information services, on social media, environmental groups, birdwatching clubs etc.	Visit Blackpool, Parks & Leisure	Visit Blackpool	A programme of monthly Junior Park Ranger Activities has been launched. On 29.09.19, BBC Radio Lancashire aired an interview with Friends of Marton Mere and the Parks Service's Volunteer coordinator Tanya Fairclough and Junior Ranger coordinator, Becca Wright.
	1.5 Ensure all Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and green corridors are protected for nature conservation, then the planning reference would be appropriate	1.5.1 There are currently 13 Biological Heritage Sites within the Blackpool Local Authority area identified and safeguarded by the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 Core Strategy (adopted 2016)	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council	Planning	8 out of 13 sites are identified as being in positive management. 3 sites are in private ownership and require further investigation into their status.
		1.5.2 The Council is committed to maintaining the biodiversity and local distinctiveness of sites of nature conservation interest and will endeavour to safeguard, conserve and enhance any further sites that are identified as adding to the wildlife and amenity value of the network of Biological Heritage Sites.	Planning Team		8 out of 13 sites are identified as being in positive management. 3 sites are in private ownership and require further investigation into their status.
	1.6 Invest in the promenade and headlands to connect people with the natural seascape.	1.6.1 Enhance the headlands for the local community. Facilities such as toilets should also be considered on the promenade.	Fylde Peninsula Bathing Water Management Partnership, Planning Team	Blackpool Council – Environmental Services	Planning permission has been improved for toilets at Flagstaff Gardens, opposite the Sandcastle Waterpark.
		1.6.2 Investigate options to introduce GBI to the promenade.	Parks & Leisure, Planning Team	Parks & Leisure	Action to be taken forward. Supportive policy framework has been developed.
		1.6.3 Consider ways of enhancing the disused crazy golf area, North Pier.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	The site is under the management of Fulfilling Lives.
	1.7 Protect and enhance GBI in streetscapes, quality corridors and the town centre.	1.7.1 Enhance road verges along key gateways, including Preston New Road, by introducing stretches of wildflower to provide an attractive setting for residents, commuters and visitors.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	Funding secured from BlackpoolBetterStart and Glasdons to create a wild flower area on Preston New Road.
		1.7.2 Work with the Conference Centre contractor to plant trees to enhance existing green space in the town centre.	Leisure assets	Leisure assets	5 trees have been planted and an additional 30m of hawthorn hedge has been planted through the conference centre contractor on High Street.
		1.7.3 Cease further use of artificial grass on roundabouts and verges and instead introduce stretches of wildflower to provide an attractive setting for residents, commuters and visitors. Identify funders for the works and ongoing maintenance through sponsorship.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	A programme of works has been established to add wildflowers to a roundabout on St Walburgas this spring with additional roundabouts to follow as funding is secured.
		1.7.4 Protect the existing number of street trees and hedgerows/shrubs in the Defined Inner Area from development and highway works through planning policy. Put Tree Preservation Orders in place where appropriate to protect the best trees in Blackpool	Planning, Parks & Leisure	Planning	A Tree Strategy will include the protection of existing tree assets. A supportive planning policy framework is in place and action to be progressed to ensure trees are further protected through Tree Preservation Orders.
		1.7.5 Investigate the options for greening Bloomfield Road. This road forms part of the 'Wildlife Cycle Route' on the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Cycle Map (2015) 'Heading inland from Blackpool Prom there are two cycle friendly explorer routes; Wildlife and Park, that take you to Blackpool Zoo and Stanley Park'	Transport Strategy, Parks & Leisure	Transport Strategy	Action to be taken forward
		1.7.6 Introduce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) policy whereby any trees and hedgerows/shrubs lost through development in the Defined Inner Area must be replaced with an agreed ratio.	Planning Team	Planning Team	A supplementary Planning Document, Greening Blackpool, draft has been created. Consultation will be undertaken this year.
		1.7.7 Encourage hedgerows or shrubs in place of fences and railings to the front of properties within proposed developments during pre-application discussions.	Blackpool Council – Planning Team and Blackpool Coastal Housing, Council Environmental Partnership	Planning	Action identified within Part 2 of the Local Plan in regard to section "wildlife friendly boundary treatments" to ensure a net gain.

	1.8 Protect and manage GBI in corporate, business and industrial settings, enhancing it for biodiversity, sustainable drainage, and to create an attractive setting for the Enterprise Zone, the Town Centre, the Inner Area and other corridors and gateways identified in the GBI Strategy report.	1.8.1 Protect and enhance GBI associated with business parks, retail parks and other commercial setting and ensure they are adequately safeguarded from development wherever practicable.	Planning Team, Growth and Prosperity Team, Business, Town Centre BID	Planning	The planning policy framework is in place to ensure GBI is protected and enhanced. Projects and programmes are being identified and developed.
Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed'	2.1 Incorporate the creation of new GBI into the Town Centre Strategy Update and emerging Sustainability Strategy to ensure a greener town centre where each part of the public realm is considered as an opportunity for civic GBI.	2.1.1 Embed GBI such as trees, planters, groundcover and hedges into the Business Improvement District with long-term plans for management and maintenance.	Business Improvement District Team, Planning Team	BID	Ongoing action throughout the strategy... Action to link to the objectives within the Town centre strategy
		2.1.2 Work with Network Rail to incorporate GBI into the design of the planned tram extension at Blackpool North Station and the tram route to North Pier. This could include greening the tracks and creating green walls.	Network Rail, Transport Planners and Corporate Leadership Team could advocate. Growth & Prosperity Team, Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity	Action to be taken forward
		2.1.3 Incorporate GBI into the external spaces at the Conference Centre using civic space.	Leisure Assets, Planning team	Leisure Assets	Tree planting/landscaping to Leopold Grove outside the main entrance to the Conference Centre is scheduled to take place during summer 2020.
		2.1.4 Identify opportunities to green the Winter Gardens by approaching local businesses for funding for projects.	Leisure Assets, Blackpool Conservation Team	Leisure Assets	Action to be taken forward
		2.1.5 Work with local businesses owners to encourage and support the retrofitting of GI to their buildings using green walls and green roofs.	Business in the Community, Business & Enterprise, BID	Business & Enterprise	Action to be taken forward
		2.1.6 Incorporate GBI into the Talbot Gateway Phase 2 planning.	Growth & Prosperity, Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity	Action to be taken forward
		2.1.7 Consider the green within the town centre as an urban community park and create a town centre friends group.	BID, Planning, Parks	Growth & Prosperity	Potential opportunity has identified around the central gateway and central business district. Designs have been created and work is underway to identify funding.
	2.2 Increase the overall tree canopy in Blackpool to 10%, starting with planting of 10,000 trees in the ten year period 2018 to 2027.	2.2.1 Develop a tree planting plan for Blackpool which addresses a range of priorities including air quality.	City of Trees, Parks & Leisure, Highways, Transport Planning, Growth & Prosperity, Environmental Health, Public Health	Environmental Health	A Tree Strategy is being developed which includes a Tree Planting plan to ensure the Right Tree for the Right Place. An expression of Interest sent to Forestry Commission Urban Tree Challenge Fund to fund large scale tree planting. A report has been created to identify a strategy for street trees.
		2.2.2 Develop a business plan for the full implementation of the community project to give every child at school a tree to plant in 23 and then follow it up till 33.	The Green Team, St Georges High School, Lancaster University, Schools Forum, Parks and Leisure, Adult social care	Adult social care	A network of partners has been developed and funding sources are being identified. This programme will link with the emerging Tree Strategy and Tree planting plan.
	2.3 Ensure multifunctional GBI is incorporated in new residential developments.	2.3.1 Create new open spaces in the Defined Inner Area as part of regeneration projects e.g. Rigby Road.	My Blackpool Home, Planning, Parks & Leisure, Housing Strategy	My Blackpool Home	Open spaces have been developed with the Rigby Road development. Opportunities to create additional places are being explored.
	2.4 Incorporate GBI into the master plan for the Enterprise Zone to create a welcoming place for businesses.	2.4.1 Create open spaces within the Enterprise Zone for workers as well as being accessible to local residents. Open spaces could include Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS), perimeter planting, measured walking and running routes. Explore opportunities for local businesses to implement GBI and take stewardship of the GBI by delivering long term maintenance. Encourage innovative green elements in building design (e.g. roof-top planting, green walls, etc.)	Growth & Prosperity, Leisure Team, Planning	Growth & Prosperity	The addition of Open Spaces and GBI written into a design framework for Blackpool airport Enterprise Zone in the emerging local plan part 2.
		2.4.2 Deliver the Common Edge Sports Village Project.	Growth & Prosperity Parks & Leisure, Planning Team, Developers	Parks & Leisure	Project progressing to provide football provision at Common Edge. Planning application has been submitted.
	2.5 Identify opportunities in the Leisure Quarter to embed GBI.	2.5.1 Explore opportunities to incorporate GBI within the Leisure Quarter. Explore opportunities for local businesses to take stewardship of the GBI by delivering long term maintenance.	Place Department, Economic development team to advocate and business owners. Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity	Action to be taken forward
		2.5.2 Explore opportunities to expand illuminations through the use of lit trees potentially linking to LightPool.	BID, Communications and Regeneration	Communications and Regeneration	Action to be taken forward
	2.6 Use GBI at the gateways and corridors into and around Blackpool (e.g. the 'Green Line') to provide attractive routes for residents, commuters, visitors and tourists and to encourage walking and cycling.	2.6.1 Explore the opportunity to create a 'Green Line' along the central corridor from south Station to the Town Centre, comprising a continuous green space/ series of green spaces that facilitates walking, running and cycling.	Enterprise Partnerships, Highways, Transport Strategy, Parks & Leisure,	Transport Strategy	Action to be linked to wider central development work
2.6.2 Plant street trees on key transport gateways from the M55, including Yeadon Way, Progress Way and Westcliffe Drive/ Talbot Road.		City of Trees, Enterprise Partnerships, Highways, Transport Strategy	Transport Strategy	A Street Trees report highlighted priorities for Street Trees and is influencing the Tree Planting Strategy. A design specification is being produced to ensure the right tree for the right place.	
2.6.3 Encourage Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) in proposed residential development as per Policy CS9: Water Management and with a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).		United Utilities and Environment Agency, Coastal & Environmental Investments, Planning Team	Coastal & Environmental Investments	Supporting policies through adopted and emerging the Local Plan framework	
2.7 Adopt a Planning and Development checklist to ensure GBI is incorporated in all new developments, linked to existing assets, and where on-site provision is not possible, an appropriate contribution is made to off-site GBI assets and networks.	2.7.1 Create a GBI design checklist to be included in the updated SPD for Open Space Provision for New Residential Development.	Planning Team	Planning	A 'Greening Blackpool' SPD, currently in draft format, highlights a GBI design checklist for developers	
	2.7.2 Explore the opportunities to create and deliver new GBI provision for children and young people in Hawes Side and Common Edge where there is currently a deficiency.	BID, Places	Places	A fortnightly Junior Park Ranger programme has started in Crossland Road park. The programme targets 10-16yrs to get involved in their local green space and is funded by HeadStart, BetterStart and ward councillors. Local neighbourhood forum and emerging neighbourhood plan highlight potential opportunities for open space.	
	2.7.3 Temporarily green vacant sites in the Town Centre e.g. Bank Street Car Park prior to their development. Seek the support of local business to fund and manage such sites.	BID, places, planning	Places	Action to be carried forward.	
2.8 In the Green Belt and Countryside Areas, restore elements of the landscape that contribute to character and biodiversity.	2.8.1 Develop a cemetery extension planting scheme.	Democratic Services, Parks & Leisure	Democratic Services	Cemetery planting scheme has been submitted, including the inclusion of approximately 45 trees.	
2.9 Continue to expand and support the Allotment Society.	2.9.1 Create allotments in the north of Blackpool where there is currently a deficiency.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	A couple of sites have provisionally been identified for suitable allotment sites in the North of the town.	
Objective 3 Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Making the Links, Improving Connectivity and Accessibility of GBI'	3.1 Ensure the Council obtains maximum input to GBI from businesses and services.	3.1.1 Include specific GBI opportunities in Social Value element of tendering for contracts	Procurement, Parks & Leisure, Public Health	Procurement	Investigation into the use of social value in particular regard to highway contracts to establish street trees.
	3.2 Create and/or upgrade the Blackpool Activity Trail which incorporates Gateways and Green Corridors to connect key GBI for people and wildlife, including the walking and cycling route from the Town Centre to Stanley Park, Zoo and Marton Mere.	3.2.1 Develop the Blackpool Activity Trail – cycling, walking, and nature trails. A vision for the Trail has been previously explored and should be implemented to widen opportunities for cycling, walking and nature trails.	HLF, SITA, Sport England and National Governing Bodies, Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	Action to be taken forward with the Active Lives Strategy.
		The Activity Trail links the National Cycle Route, Heron's Reach Footpath Trail, Blackpool Heritage Trail, North Blackpool Pond Trail, and Blackpool Promenade.	Transport Policy, Planning Team,		Action to be taken forward with the Active Lives Strategy.
	3.3 Promote and support initiatives that encourage active travel such as 'Steps to Health' and 'Cycle for Health' scheme.	3.3.1 Further develop the Living Streets: Walk to 2017-2020 programme.	Living Streets, Modeshift, Cycling UK, Active Blackpool Team and Heartwise, Public Health	Public Health	Action to be taken forward with the Active Lives Strategy.
3.4 Work with neighbouring local authorities to promote links to cross-boundary GBI provision.	3.4.1 Continue to work with Fylde Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on promoting cross-boundary GBI provision.	Blackpool Council, Fylde Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire County Council Planning Teams and Fylde Peninsula Bathing Water Management Partnership	Blackpool Council Planning	Cross-boundary work is undertaken in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding. Links have been developed with Fylde Council to investigate a joint tree warden scheme. Current project underway to scope out potential improvement of Midgeland Farm working with LCC and Fylde residents and community groups.	

		3.4.2 Work with Fylde Borough Council to create links from the outer housing estate at Mereside to the Whyndyke Garden Village and Marton Mere.	NHS and Fylde Borough Council (lead applicant), Blackpool Council, Whyndyke Board	Whyndyke Board	Outline planning permission has been granted including the allocation of public open space, sports pitches, allotments, the retention and improvement of natural habitats, watercourse, ponds, reed beds and hedgerows and landscape features.
		3.4.3 Promote the Lancashire Coastal Way (137 mile footpath following the coastline between Merseyside and Cumbria) to connect residents to neighbouring GBI and visitors and tourists to Blackpool.	Visit Blackpool	Visit Blackpool	Wildlife Trust is creating a coastal leaflet to highlight the wildlife off the coast and encourage use.
Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'	4.1 Provide topical and user-friendly information on GBI, parks, open spaces and nature conservation sites, and how to get involved in activities and volunteering.	4.1.1 Create information packs for community hubs on the importance of their gardens and local green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. Information pack could include information about their local green spaces e.g. beach, Marton Mere, Kincaig Pond Trail. Also how to get involved and how to go about maintaining or improving the public realm.	Internal Communications Team, Friends of Groups, Parks Department and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside, Open Space Network	Parks & Leisure	Action to be taken forward
		4.1.2 Through planning policies where residents apply to change front gardens into car parking on a classified road or conservation area, ensure that plans maintain green wherever possible and facilitate drainage.	Planning Team	Planning	This is included within emerging policy through the current draft of Part 2 of the Local Plan.
		4.1.3 Identify roads that could be closed at an agreed time and day each week/ month to provide informal play space for children as part of Playing Out.	Playing Out, Childrens Services – Early Intervention, Highways	Childrens Services	Action being investigated within masterplanning exercise being undertaken in Clarendon and Revoe areas.
		4.1.4 Encourage park led volunteering to engage residents with GBI for the benefit of physical and mental health and to promote stewardship of local spaces including junior park wardens.	Head Start and Better Start, Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	From January 2019 to date, the Parks Service have recorded 11,700 volunteer hours undertaken on Blackpool's Open spaces through Friends groups or supervised volunteer activities. There is a network of Volunteer Rangers who undertake practical site maintenance of ecological sites include Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve. In addition Revoe Park hosts a gardening club each week in which volunteers look after the Community Garden. The Parks Service supports 13 Friends Groups who are volunteer led and provide opportunities for local residents to get involved in their local park through practical tasks, fundraising and running events. A Junior Park Ranger scheme has been launched in September 2019, funded through BetterStart and HeadStart, engages young people aged 10-16yrs with fun park activities to promote ownership and involvement.
		4.1.5 Encourage local businesses to take stewardship of local green spaces by allowing staff to undertake Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) volunteering.	Business in the Community, Parks & Leisure, Business & Enterprise, BID	Blackpool Council – Business & Enterprise	In 2019 Sainsburys have been undertaking practical volunteering sessions with their staff at Jubilee Gardens. Further opportunities are to be identified to engage the business sector with CSR volunteering.
		4.1.6 Ensure that the new Integrated Neighbourhood Teams identify green gyms and cook and eat opportunities in next area and actively refer patients.	Public Health, CCG, Blackpool Council – Adults Services, Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	CCG	Update Required
		4.1.7 Establish a Men in Sheds Network for Blackpool, to coordinate GBI projects.	UK Men's Shed's Association, Fulfilling Lives, Public Health	Public Health	A Men in Sheds steering group was established to identify opportunities. At Revoe Park, Dads 4 Life meet each week to undertake woodwork activities in the 'shed' at the Community Garden. They have created planters, hedgehog and bird boxes, a mud kitchen and sensory sound wall. They are also supporting the Junior Park Rangers, creating pieces alongside the young people
		4.1.8 Consider incentive scheme for green volunteering.	Growth and Prosperity, Volunteer centre	Growth and Prosperity	Action to be taken forward
		4.1.9 Consider a focal point on a website to inform the public of all the volunteering opportunities available.	Growth and Prosperity, Public Health, FYI, Volunteer centre	Growth and Prosperity	Action to be taken forward
		4.1.10 Expand the remit of Street Scene workers to include stewardship of the green environment, working with volunteer groups to make the most of the public realm.	Friends Group, Street Scene	Street Scene	update required
	4.2 Encourage and support Parks Friends Groups, Beach Guardians, Tree Wardens and other community led environmental stewards.	4.2.1 Identify further opportunities to support Friends of Groups to ensure their continuation and to increase members.	Keep Britain Tidy and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside, Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	All Friends groups are invited to the 'Open Spaces Network' which meets to share best practice, exchange knowledge and share experiences.
		4.2.2 Beach Guardians to promote the educational and recreational value of the beach and sea.	Turning Tides, Public Health	Public Health	Monthly LOVEmyBEACH beach cleans held in partnership with the SEALIFE centre and Bispham Coastal cleans.
		4.2.3 Further expand the work of the Council's Adult Services Green Team	Adult services	Adult services	The Green Team of New Langdale volunteers undertake practical ground work across the town including the maintenance of Salisbury Woodlands, East Pines Park and café garden and at Cheery Tree allotments.
		4.2.4 Support and empower street drinkers and others to become stewards of the town centre green space and help with its maintenance as part of their journey to recovery.	BID, Community Safety, Horizon, Fulfilling Lives,	Fulfilling Lives	update required
		4.2.5 Consider the creation of Community Greenhouse Project whereby residents can contribute to the greening of Blackpool to growing plants at home.	Grow Blackpool, Growth & Prosperity, Parks	Growth & Prosperity	Action to be taken forward
		4.2.6 Work with Highways and Blackpool Transport to consider the creation of a pilot green/growing bus shelter, to bring green into Street Scene.	Blackpool Transport	@ the Grange	A Green bus shelter has been created at Grange Park. The Bus shelter was designed in partnership with students at the nearby Pupil Referral Unit and consists of.
	4.3 Continue to support and promote the outdoor aspects of the Better Start and HeadStart Programmes and work with health professionals throughout the town to promote "green prescribing".	4.3.1 Continue to promote and support the Better Start and HeadStart Programmes with the aim of building capacity for developing community skills and social mobility.	Better Start, National Lottery Programme, Parents of 0-3 year olds and Community Connectors, Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	In 2019 the BetterStart Park Ranger Service was extended and expanded now include a team of 6 including a HeadStart part funded post of Junior Park Ranger Coordinator. The Park Ranger Service deliver events across the town to encourage local residents to enjoy their local park and get involved in looking after it. They link in with Adult Services***, BetterStart Community Connectors and the Volunteer Service to target people with mental health needs, social isolation or community support.
	4.4. Appoint a GBI Officer to take ownership and to deliver the GBI Strategy and Action Plan, forming partnerships with health, housing, town centre, schools, cultural and arts specialists.	4.4.1 GBI Officer to drive change in policy and delivery of GBI through new development, including developer contributions and bid writing.	Growth and Prosperity, Public Health	Growth and Prosperity	Funding has been secured through Public Health and in September 2019 a Green and Blue Infrastructure Development Manager was appointed to drive and direct the implementation of the strategy.
	4.5 Continue to deliver GI projects that promote food growing, gardening and stewardship of local green spaces.	4.5.1 Link Grow Blackpool @ The Grange, Grange Park, Cherry Tree Allotments and the Better Start programme to provide a network of sites.	Better Start and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside	Groundwork	update required
		4.5.2 Fully implement an Urban Farm @ The Grange with Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.	Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside	Groundwork	The @theGrange farm is continuing to build on its early success and engage residents of the Grange Park estate with community growing and gardening activities
4.6 Promote the use of GBI by educational institutions and incorporate GBI into the curriculum e.g. through Forest Schools.	4.6.1 Engage with the Schools Forum and colleges to encourage educational trips to local green spaces. Where the school has limited space, encourage schools to partner with local public green space in the delivery of GBI activities.	Curious Minds, Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	Action to be taken forward	
4.7 Incorporate GBI into the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2018 when updated.	4.7.1 During the update of the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy ensure GBI and its benefits are highlighted by targeting specific sports that use outdoor space.	Football Foundation, Sport England and National Governing Bodies.	Parks & Leisure	The Active Lives Strategy will be developed which will identify and highlighting the importance of utilising green and blue spaces across the town as active spaces and the cross cutting work opportunities identified within the GBI strategy	
4.8 Encourage GBI implementation through the Arts and Culture Strategy.	4.8.1 Identify opportunities to create pop-up public art/ temporary GBI around Blackpool in isolation of or in conjunction with other events in Blackpool.	Arts Award Program, Urban Splash Program and Visit Blackpool	Blackpool Council – Culture	Action to be taken forward	
	4.8.2 Create an Arts Trail and promote it to residents, workers, visitors and tourists.	Grundy Art Gallery, Arts Award Program, Visit Blackpool and Urban Splash Program	Blackpool Council – Culture	Action to be taken forward	
4.9 Leadership of the GBI agenda.	4.9.1 Obtain a personal commitment to GBI from Councillors and senior Officers of the Council.	Cabinet Secretary, Director of Adult services, Director of Public Health, Director of Community and Environmental services	Director of Community and Environmental services	Action to be taken forward	
4.10 Create a social movement of residents and businesses to maintain and improve GBI in Blackpool	4.10.1 Develop and implement a social marketing strategy for GBI	Blackpool Sixth Form College, Public Health	Public Health	Action to be taken forward	

4.11 Monitor the outcomes of this Action Plan from the residents perspective.	4.11.1 Ensure GBI and its use, is included in future residents surveys.	Blackpool Council – Research	Blackpool Council - Research	Key performance indicators have developed in line with the core strategy GBI objectives and GBI Action Plan. This includes resident surveys to establish a perception baseline in 2020.
4.12 Incorporate GBI in all strategies for the built environment.	4.12.1 GBI impact assessment to be included in all Council policy and strategy papers.	CLT	CLT	The GBI Technical Report highlights relevant council policies and strategies. The Local Plan Part 2 in draft form highlights GBI requirements.
4.13 Inspire Local Business – Promote GBI activities by Blackpool Council staff	4.13.1 Consider the potential to allow paid leave for employees to volunteer on green and blue projects in order to lead from the front as a Council and inspire businesses.	CLT	CLT	The Parks and Leisure Service is developing a programme staff volunteering opportunities launching January 2020.



# Policy Framework Strategy Development Proposal

<b>Overview</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	Tree Strategy
<b>Lifespan:</b>	10 years (2020-2030)
<b>Opening Statement &amp; Summary:</b>	<p>A Tree Strategy document is being proposed to shape the management of the tree stock and urban forest in Blackpool and ensure a detailed tree planting scheme is developed which highlights the 'right tree for the right place' approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current tree strategy is a draft version from 2016 and therefore, needs updating and formalising.</li> <li>• Create a tree strategy that enables Blackpool Council to achieve its tree targets within the Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2019 – 2029.</li> <li>• There is currently a national and worldwide emphasis on increasing tree numbers to aid in combating climate change, however, in addition to the increasing awareness of trees and their ability to affect the climate. There are many benefits on a smaller scale within built up areas and open spaces, which have been known and documented for many decades. These benefits include clean air, providing oxygen, provide a cooling effect, increasing mental wellbeing, increasing property value, reduce UV-B exposure by about 50% and provide food to local wildlife and people etc.</li> </ul> <p>Councils have a legal responsibility under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 &amp; 1984 to take reasonable steps in order to make their land safe for trespassers and visitors. In practice, if a tree fails and causes damage to a person or property, then the owner of the tree is liable. Therefore, it is in the Local Authority's best interest to make sure our tree stock is safe and well maintained.</p> <p>Many issues arise due to properties and land boundaries near trees. Therefore, creating an up to date strategy will provide clear direction on how to manage our current tree population. The tree strategy will also deal with tree protection, tree preservation orders (TPOs), conservation areas, felling licenses, restrictive covenants, woodlands and amenity enhancements.</p> <p>Due to the increasing housing developments within Blackpool, it has the potential to decrease our existing tree stock numbers. Therefore, mitigation needs to be put in place to make sure that protected trees and trees that conform to the 'A' and 'B' categories within BS 5837 are retained within development sites. The categorisation of trees needs to be applied to the tree strategy, the planning system and planning conditions, to increase best practice and conform to the British Standards, whilst moving forward to make trees at the forefront of everyone's mind.</p>
<b>Lead Department:</b>	Leisure, Parks and Catering Services
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Annie Heslop, Green Infrastructure Development Manager
<b>Is the strategy being developed in</b>	The tree Strategy is primarily a Council document, although it is relevant to any external organisations and individuals that deliver and aid in the management of our tree stock. In

partnership with other organisations?	addition, developers will be required to follow our tree strategy as part of the planning system and conform to planning conditions in line with the tree strategy.
<b>Timeline for Development</b>	
Approximate timescale for development:	Draft document to be developed for consultation by May2020, which will be wrote by Paul Hodgson <i>RFS Cert Arb, FdSc Arb, MArborA following consultation with stakeholders.</i>
Anticipated date of refresh:	This strategy will expire in 2030. This strategy will be subject to annual monitoring and updates in line with British Standards, Arboricultural Association guidance and industry best practice i.e. HSE, AFAG, NTSG etc.
<b>Policy Framework and Routes of Approval</b>	
Is this strategy part of the Council's Constitutional Policy Framework, as set out in the Constitution?	No
Which Council committee or group will provide final approval?	Executive
<b>Links with Council Plan and other Strategies, Policies or Plans</b>	
Which Council Priorities does the strategy support?	<p>There are currently key activities and priorities within the tree strategy plan, which align to both Priority 1 'Economy' and Priority 2 'Communities'. The biggest impact will fall upon communities.</p> <p>This strategy will support the people of Blackpool by having safe and well managed trees within green spaces and street trees, benefiting mental and physical wellbeing and Increasing community engagement by creating high amenity areas for the public to use.</p>
Which other strategies, policies and plans does the strategy link to?	<p><b>National</b></p> <p><b>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2018</b> The government's 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment sets out actions to meet the government's ambition to be the first generation to leave our environment in a better state than we found it. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry and land use that puts the environment first. <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Tree Health Resilience Strategy 2018</b> This strategy sets out plans to reduce the risk of pest and disease threats. It also sets out how we will strengthen the resilience of our trees to withstand threats. <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710719/tree-health-resilience-strategy.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710719/tree-health-resilience-strategy.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Town &amp; Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)</b> The Town &amp; Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to protect trees and woodlands through the creation of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and the application of conditions when granting planning permission. <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents</a></p> <p><b>Town &amp; Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 (Part VIII Sections 197 – 214)</b></p>

These regulations put into place procedures that enable Local Planning Authorities to make, confirm, vary and revoke Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and for processing applications for works to trees protected by TPO and notifications for trees protected by Conservation Areas under the Conservation Area General Regulations 1992.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/1892/contents/made>

#### **Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)**

This Act is primarily aimed at commercial forestry & woodlands, controlling the felling and subsequent replanting of trees; however, the felling of trees outside of woodlands is also controlled by the Act. A felling licence is required to fell 5 m<sup>3</sup> or more of timber in any one calendar quarter unless the work is part of an approved Forestry Commission scheme. Certain exemptions apply, which includes trees in domestic gardens and public open space, amongst others.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/10/contents>

#### **The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981**

This Act prohibits the intentional or reckless destruction of certain plants and animals including all wild birds, their nests, or eggs. For example, it is an offence to disturb bird-nesting sites and bat roosts. Offences committed under the Act are investigated and enforced by the Police.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>

#### **The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006**

The NERC Act places a duty on public authorities, including Councils and Local Planning Authorities to conserve biodiversity when exercising their functions.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

#### **Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994**

This regulation puts into place a European Union Directive that protects European protected species, such as bats and their roosting sites.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/2716/contents/made>

#### **Hedgerow Regulations 1997**

These regulations are made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995. They prohibit the removal of most countryside hedgerows (or parts of them) unless a hedgerow removal notice is submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the LPA consents to the removal. Removal includes acts which could result in the destruction of a hedgerow.

If the hedgerow is classed as 'important' in accordance with criteria set out in the Regulations, the LPA may prohibit its removal by issuing a retention notice within 42 calendar days from receipt of notification. The LPA can also require replacement of a hedgerow removed in contravention of the Regulations. These regulations do not cover hedgerows that form the boundary of a garden.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made>

#### **Highways Act 1980**

Section 154 of this Act gives the Council powers to deal with trees and vegetation considered to be a danger to highway users.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/154>

#### **Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976**

This Act gives discretionary powers to the Council to deal with dangerous trees located on private land. Trees are the responsibility of the person who owns the land on which they are growing. However, if a tree on private land becomes dangerous in a way that could harm someone else or their property and the owner does not appear to be doing anything about it, the Council can act to make the tree safe. This can be by serving a notice on the owner to make the tree safe or, in exceptional circumstances, the Council can deal with the tree themselves and recover costs from the owner. These powers are used as a last resort and are only intended for

situations when there is an imminent danger.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/part/I/crossheading/dangerous-trees-and-excavations>

#### **Health & Safety at Work Act 1974**

This Act places a duty on employers and employees whilst carrying out their work duties to take reasonable steps to avoid incidences that would be harmful to themselves or other people. This includes the prevention of the foreseeable failure of trees and tree surgery works undertaken by the Council.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents>

#### **The Occupier's Liability Act 1957 & 1984**

These Acts impose a duty on landowners and occupiers to take such care as is reasonable to see that visitors to their land, including those who do not have permission to be there, will be reasonably safe. Regarding trees, this means that the risks associated with them is as low as reasonably practicable.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/3>

#### **Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (Part 8)**

Part 8 of The Anti-Social Behaviour Act (2003) enables Local Authorities to investigate disputes between neighbours relating to the height of an evergreen hedge.

The Act requires the complainant to have taken initial steps to try and resolve the dispute amicably before involving the Council. The local authority is not required to mediate or negotiate between the complainant and the hedge owner but to decide whether the hedge is adversely affecting the complainant's reasonable enjoyment of their property.

When adjudicating on high hedge complaints, the authority has to take account of all relevant factors from both parties and ensure a balanced decision is made.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/38/part/8>

#### **Local**

Work will be needed across departments to ensure the following strategies consider the need to manage or mitigate tree loss.

#### **Blackpool Council motion of a climate emergency**

Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030

Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030

[www.blackpool.gov.uk/ClimateEmergencyDeclaration](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/ClimateEmergencyDeclaration)

#### **Blackpool Green and Blue Infrastructure:**

- New and improved parks and creative greening initiatives in the Inner Area, South Shore and the outer estates
- Increase tree canopy from 4% to 10%

<http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s40656/Appendix%20Green%20and%20Blue%20Infrastructure%20Strategy.pdf>

**Blackpool Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Blackpool 2016-2019:** this strategy aims to sharpen our focus on tackling the main drivers of Blackpool's health issues

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Health-and-social-care/Documents/HWB-Strategy-2016-19-final.pdf>

#### **Blackpool Council Core Strategy 2012 – 2027:**

Policy CS6 – Green Infrastructure: High-quality and well connected networks of green infrastructure in Blackpool will be achieved by Protecting existing green infrastructure networks and existing areas of Green Belt, Enhancing the quality, accessibility and functionality of green infrastructure, Creating new accessible green infrastructure, and Connecting green infrastructure with the built environment and with other open space.

Policy CS12 - Sustainable Neighbourhoods: Sustainable Neighbourhoods is to ensure future development and investment contributes to delivering sustainable communities, whilst focusing

regeneration and improvement in several identified priority neighbourhoods. The improvement of these neighbourhoods is fundamental to creating more sustainable communities.

<https://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s11068/Appendix%20ci%20-%20Word%20Adopted%20Version%20Final%20Dec%202015.pdf>

**Blackpool Active Lives Strategy (under development)**

Increasing activity levels among Blackpool residents through increasing sport and physical activity and encouraging active transport methods.

## Evidence Base

What evidence is there to justify the need for this strategy? How does this inform the strategic direction?

In order to maintain a safe and healthy tree stock, several legislations (as specified at 'Links with Council Plan and other Strategies, Policies or Plans') and documents enforce best Arboricultural practices such as:

- Management of the risk from falling trees or branches - [https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag\\_food/010705.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm)
- NTSG Managing trees for Safety – The publications helps to understand the issues around tree safety and comes to a balanced conclusion; one that ensures that trees, essential for the ecosystem and common good, can thrive in the UK, uncompromised by unnecessary safety management.

A number of organisations and charities have produced facts and figures in order to provide evidence of the benefits of trees, non-more so than the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission.

Related published research reports include:

- Trees or Turf? – Which aims to objectively re-assess the cost comparison of managing woodland landscapes over the traditional grassland spaces and provide a summary of the benefits of woodland within the urban environments?
- Trees Improve Urban Air Quality – Describes how trees remove poisonous and harmful gases from our urban environment and which are the best species for the job.
- Trees in our Towns - This report focuses on the role of trees, tree planting and green space in managing water in urban areas.
- The role of urban trees and greenspaces in reducing urban air temperatures - This Research Note describes the negative impact that elevated urban temperatures can have on human thermal comfort and health and how urban green infrastructure can help lessen this impact.

The Forestry Commission have produced several publications on the mental wellbeing that trees create within society e.g.

- Understanding the role of urban tree management on ecosystem services – Describes how Urban forests provide ecosystem services that contribute to human health, liveability and sustainability. The management of trees influences the delivery of these ecosystem services and thus helps determine the total benefit provided by an urban forest.
- NHS Greenspace in Scotland - Was developed in response to increasing evidence that public health can be improved using the outdoors for physical activity and contact with nature.
- Well-being for all? Social distribution of benefits from woods - <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/well-being-for-all-social-distribution-of-benefits-from-woods/>
- Woods for health - Aims to create new health promoting opportunities in our green environment, particularly trees, woods and forests, to improve the health and life expectancy of Scotland's people and reduce health inequalities in Scotland.

<b>Is additional research planned or necessary to shape the strategic direction?</b>	<p>Planned additional research will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desktop research of national, regional and intra-council plans and strategies to establish best practice and critical alignments.</li> <li>• Align the tree strategy to Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2019 – 2029.</li> <li>• British Standards 3998 and 5837 will shape the strategic direction regarding tree works (3998) and any proposed developments (5837).</li> </ul>
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## Stakeholder Engagement

<b>Which stakeholders will be affected and how can they influence the strategic planning?</b>	<p>The strategy will impact upon local residents, developers, community groups and private businesses. In order to engage with these stakeholders, workshops will be held before the document is drafted and following draft creation.</p> <p>The strategy will impact upon a range of internal stakeholders, who will be involved at all stages of the process.</p> <p>The strategy will be shaped by arboricultural best practice, legislation, health and safety, Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2019 – 2029, planning and climate/carbon offsetting research.</p>
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<b>Who will be consulted on the strategic direction and when will this happen?</b>	<p>Internal stakeholders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks Services</li> <li>• Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy working group</li> <li>• Highways</li> <li>• Active Lives working group</li> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Operational</li> <li>• Volunteer Sector</li> </ul> <p>External stakeholders will include and are not restricted to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England,</li> <li>• River Rivers trusts</li> <li>• Fylde Bird Club</li> <li>• Groundwork.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders will be involved in workshop before drafting commences to shape the direction of the strategy and again once a draft has been produced.</p>
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## Budget and Resources

<b>What finance or resources are required in order to deliver the defined activity?</b>	<p>The tree strategy requires regular monitoring of the tree population with any identified works and ad-hoc works been carried out by our internal tree team and covered by Blackpool Council's operational budget.</p>
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## Monitoring and Performance Measurement

<b>How will the strategy be monitored?</b>	<p>The tree strategy will be monitored by assessing tree works and removals, assessing development sites and through regular surveys throughout the 10 years. The strategy will be monitored on an annual basis to make sure that it is in keeping with up to date practice and current legislation.</p>
<b>How will performance be measured?</b>	<p>Trees will be assessed on safety and health through regular checks (open spaces, urban trees and existing/new trees on development sites) and tree work will be assessed against BS: 3998. Further tree assessments for developments will be assessed against BS: 5837.</p> <p>As tree health increases and tree population is increased, methods of data collection will be identified e.g. i-tree, which will be referenced, and action planned within the strategy. All data</p>

will be recorded and used to develop the following tree strategy.

## Risks

What are the risks that might prevent the activity from being delivered?

- **Political:** Change in government policy direction, Change in local political direction or approach, Lack of buy-in from other Council services and partners.
- **Economic:** Insufficient funding for wider measures to manage our tree stock.
- **Sociological:** Lack of behaviour change to adapt to any challenging measures to deliver a healthy tree population.

## Equalities

Is there any data or other reason to suggest that this strategy will have a disproportionately adverse impact on key protected equality groups?

None.

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Decision</b>	5 March 2020

## EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the revised Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To endorse the protocol and forward it to Council for approval, noting that it will first be considered by the Executive on 16 March 2020.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The protocol sets out the basis for a positive relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny.

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:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

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

### 5.0 Background Information

5.1 During 2019/2020 the Scrutiny Leadership Board has undertaken a review of the former protocol on Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet Member Relations. To carry out the review a workshop was held with the Scrutiny Leadership Board Members and Councillor Gillian Campbell, who attended the workshop on

behalf of the Executive. The workshop sought to draw out what Members would like to see form the basis of a protocol between the Executive and Scrutiny.

5.2 Following the workshop, a draft protocol was produced based on the comments made and considered informally by the Scrutiny Leadership Board with the attendance of the Leader of the Council at its previous meeting.

5.3 The revised protocol is attached at Appendix 5(a) and will be submitted to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 16 March 2020 before being submitted to Council for approval.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a): Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 There is no legal requirement to have a protocol, although it is considered best practice in the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 Not applicable.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Not applicable.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 Not applicable.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Not applicable.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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## **Part 5e**

# **Executive/Scrutiny Protocol**

<b>Executive/Scrutiny Protocol</b>	
<b>Effective from</b>	<b>Approved by Council on</b>
	<b>Revised Protocol adopted by the Executive on</b>

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Scrutiny must be located at the strategic heart of the authority and is a key element of the decision making process acting as a 'critical friend'.
- 1.2 This Protocol applies to all members of scrutiny committees, any Member who may sit on a Scrutiny Panel and all Members of the Executive.

## **2. Trust**

- 2.1 All Members should promote an atmosphere of openness at scrutiny committee meetings and should strive to ensure that questioning and debate takes place within a climate of mutual respect and trust.
- 2.2 Scrutiny Members need to trust that Executive Members are being open and honest.
- 2.3 Executive Members need to trust Scrutiny Members with information and to trust in their views.

## **3. Policy Development and Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

- 3.1 The importance of early input from Scrutiny into policy development is recognised. Scrutiny can act as a sounding board and a think tank in investigating issues coming up on the horizon, bringing in added value. Executive Members and Officers should draw to the attention of the relevant scrutiny committee any key policy that is being developed or is due for review to ensure timely input.
- 3.2 All policy development will be carried out in an informal setting with a report submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The Executive and relevant Director will consider the views of scrutiny members in the development of the policy and provide a response to the recommendations of scrutiny within 28 days or earlier should the report of the Executive require publication. The detail of the scrutiny involvement shall also be included within the body of the Executive report. The Executive/Full Council will continue to be responsible for approving and adopting policy.

- 3.3 Executive Members may wish to request views from Scrutiny Members on a decision before it is taken. The Executive Member will be responsible for circulating the details to the relevant Committee Members, through the Scrutiny Manager. Utilising this as an option does not exclude the decision from being subject to call-in, however, it will give the Executive Member the ability to consider different views and perspectives of a decision to be taken before it is taken.

#### **4. Holding the Executive to Account**

- 4.1 A key role of scrutiny is in holding the Executive to account for decisions taken and performance of services. In holding the Executive to account Scrutiny Members will:

- Consider decisions taken by the Executive, individually and collectively and items on the Forward Plan through formal scrutiny committee meetings;
- Review service performance and performance against policy and targets;
- Be prepared to ask searching questions that provide a constructive challenge;
- Be positive and respectful in their interactions with Executive Members;
- Represent the voice of the public;
- Listen to the responses provided and to assist the Executive in identifying areas for further consideration and improvement.

- 4.2 In return, Executive Members will:

- Be willing to be open, honest and engaged in providing a response to constructive challenge;
- Value the importance of scrutiny;
- Be supportive of the scrutiny process and invite and seek opinion from Scrutiny Members on decisions to be taken, where appropriate;
- Provide a positive contribution to scrutiny meetings;
- Attend meetings when invited to do so to answer questions and present information:
  - By way of a direct answer
  - By reference to published publications
  - By referring a matter to an officer in attendance, if they are not able to respond
  - If an answer cannot immediately be given, by providing a written answer within five working days unless it is not reasonable to do so. If considered unreasonable, an explanation as to why will be given.
  - A combination of the above four options.
  -

#### **5. Scrutiny Workplanning**

- 5.1 At the start of each Municipal Year, the scrutiny committees will hold a workplanning workshop. As part of this workshop the views of the relevant Executive Member(s) will be inputted. The advice of the Executive Member(s) will be sought regarding the priorities of the Council, areas of planned policy development and they will be asked to highlight any areas of conflict and instances where scrutiny may be invited to assist in work.

- 5.2 The Scrutiny Leadership Board will meet regularly with representatives of the Executive in order to ensure ongoing Executive input into workplans, liaison between Scrutiny Leaders and the Executive over Council priorities and targets and performance and to continue to build on the positive working relationship between the two functions.
- 5.3 Informal meetings will be held between the Scrutiny Lead Member and the Leader, and the Chairs/Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and relevant Executive Members to discuss upcoming issues, consider items for scrutiny and to ensure engagement and communication of ongoing work from both the Executive and Scrutiny.

## **6. Scrutiny Recommendations to the Executive**

- 6.1 Scrutiny Committees may make recommendations to the Executive on functions the Council is responsible for through a formal committee meeting or by way of a Scrutiny Panel Review Final Report.
- 6.2 Upon receipt of a recommendation from Scrutiny, Executive Members will:
- Give due consideration to any recommendations or views expressed;
  - Provide an explanation for the reasons why recommendations made by scrutiny have not been pursued.
- 6.3 Once approved by the relevant scrutiny committee, the views of the Executive Member on any recommendations will be sought within 10 working days and included within the report. The Chair of the Scrutiny Review will have the opportunity to meet with the relevant Executive Member(s) to discuss the recommendations and the response to those recommendations. The Final Report will then be submitted to the Executive for consideration. Should any of the recommendations not be approved or be only partially supported, the Executive will provide details of the reason why. Following approval of recommendations, the relevant scrutiny committee will monitor the implementation and impact of the recommendations.

## **7. Call-in**

- 7.1 Executive Members will be expected to attend any meetings of scrutiny committees at which a call-in request in relation to his/her area of responsibility is being considered. If the relevant Executive Member cannot attend the Leader or a Deputy Leader should attend in their absence. The purpose of their attendance will be to answer questions of fact not to present the item. The following procedure will take place where call-ins are being considered:
- i) The Member who called in the decision will speak first.
  - ii) The Chair will invite the Executive Member (decision maker) to respond.
  - iii) The Committee will then ask questions of the decision maker, who may ask a relevant officer to supply further information if necessary.
  - iv) The Committee debates the issue and votes on the outcome.



**8. Scrutiny Consideration of Confidential Decisions**

- 8.1 Scrutiny Committee Members have a right to access exempt information pertaining to decisions that have been taken in order to allow effective scrutiny. Should a Scrutiny Member wish to ask questions around an exempt decision at a public Committee meeting, the press and public will be excluded as per the Council's Constitution and the Executive Member will be expected to answer in an open and transparent manner. The exempt information will remain confidential and all elected members and officers who receive that information shall maintain that confidentiality in line with the codes of conduct for Elected Members and Officers.

**9. Ensuring Compliance with the Protocol**

- 9.1 The Scrutiny Manager (in her role as Statutory Scrutiny Officer) and the Director of Governance and Partnerships (in his role as Monitoring Officer) will be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol which should be used by Members to support the wider aim of supporting and promoting a culture of scrutiny. The success of the protocol will be determined by:
- Recognition of the value of scrutiny;
  - A clear record of constructive challenge;
  - Valuable scrutiny reviews that achieve outcomes;
  - An open and accountable decision making process.
- 9.2 An Annual Report will be submitted to Full Council each year with the aim of demonstrating the impact of Scrutiny and effectiveness of the Protocol.

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**Report to:** **SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD**

**Relevant Officer:** Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager.

**Date of Meeting:** 5 March 2020

## SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD WORKPLAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To review the work of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Scrutiny Committees and consider progress of the ongoing Scrutiny Reviews.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To approve the Scrutiny Leadership Board (SLB) Workplan, taking into account any suggestions for amendment or addition.

2.2 To monitor the workplans of the three Scrutiny Committees and consider any issues the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each Committee may wish to escalate to the SLB.

2.3 To receive any referrals from the Audit Committee for scrutiny consideration.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To ensure the Board is carrying out its work efficiently and effectively.

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? N/A

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

### 4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

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

## **5.0 Background Information**

### **5.1 Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan**

The Board's Workplan is attached at Appendix 6(a). The Workplan is a flexible document that sets out the work that will be undertaken by the Board over the course of the year, both through scrutiny review, informal meetings and formal, committee meetings.

Board Members are invited to suggest topics at any time that might be suitable for scrutiny review through completion of the Scrutiny Review Checklist which is attached at Appendix 6(b). The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny.

Consideration may also be given to appointing reviews stemming from previous committee items and referrals from Audit Committee.

### **5.2 Scrutiny Committee Workplans**

A key role of the Scrutiny Leadership Board is to co-ordinate the scrutiny function and keep a watching brief on the work of all the Committees. The three Scrutiny Committee workplans are attached at Appendix 6(c) for consideration by the Scrutiny Leadership Board.

Chairs and Vice Chairs will be asked to provide a brief overview of the work of their committee verbally at the meeting and to also provide a progress update on the following reviews:

- Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review
- Channel Shift Scrutiny Review
- Inclusion in Education Scrutiny Review

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 6(a): Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan

Appendix 6(b): Scrutiny Review Checklist

Appendix 6(c): Scrutiny Committee Workplans

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

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**Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan**

<i>11 July 2019 Informal meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Meeting with the Leader/Deputy Leaders to discuss Forward Plan of work and Policy Development</i></li> <li>2. <i>Committee and Board Workplanning</i></li> <li>3. <i>Refresh Executive/Scrutiny Protocol – start process</i></li> </ol>
<b>19 September 2019 Formal Committee meeting 6pm</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Statutory Guidance and actions for Blackpool</li> <li>2. Council Plan Performance Proposal including Council Plan</li> <li>3. Workplan Report covering SLB, Committees, Audit. Item will allow all Chairs/VCs to raise specific issues from their Committee, make referrals from Audit etc. Also include recommendations from committees and task groups.</li> <li>4. Channel Shift Scoping Document approval and establish members for review</li> </ol>
<b>29 October 2019</b> (immediately prior/after informal meeting)	<b>Scrutiny Review – Channel Shift</b>
<i>29 October 2019 Informal meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Workshop item on Executive/Scrutiny Protocol Development</i></li> <li>2. <i>Review Scrutiny Training and Development</i></li> <li>3. <i>Meeting with any senior officers/Executive Members if required</i></li> </ol>
<b>21 November 2019 Formal Committee meeting 6pm</b>	<b>CANCELLED – PRE ELECTION PERIOD</b>
<i>30 January 2020 Informal meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Meeting with the Executive (Leader and Deputies issued invites) to review forward plan of work and policy development</i></li> <li>2. <i>Consideration of Draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for comment</i></li> </ol>
<b>5 March 2020 Formal Committee meeting 6pm</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Executive/Scrutiny Protocol Approval</li> <li>2. Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Implementation</li> <li>3. Scrutiny and Social Media</li> <li>4. Workplan Report</li> </ol>
<i>2 April 2020 Informal meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Evaluating Budget Scrutiny</i></li> <li>2. <i>Meeting with any senior officers if required</i></li> <li>3. <i>Review Scrutiny Training and Development</i></li> </ol>
<b>21 May 2020 Formal Committee meeting 6pm</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Workplan Report</li> <li>2. Scrutiny Annual Report for approval</li> </ol>

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**SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST****Title of proposed Scrutiny:**

The list is intended to assist the relevant scrutiny committee in deciding whether or not to approve a topic that has been suggested for scrutiny.

Whilst no minimum or maximum number of 'yes' answers are formally required, the relevant scrutiny committee is recommended to place higher priority on topics related to the performance and priorities of the Council.

	Yes/No
<b>The review will add value to the Council and/or its partners overall performance:</b>	
<b>The review is in relation to one or more of the Council's priorities:</b>	
<b>The Council or its partners are not performing well in this area:</b>	
<b>It is an area where a number of complaints (or bad press) have been received:</b>	
<b>The issue is strategic and significant:</b>	
<b>There is evidence of public interest in the topic:</b>	
<b>The issue has potential impact for one or more sections of the community:</b>	
<b>Service or policy changes are planned and scrutiny could have a positive input:</b>	
<b>Adequate resources (both members and officers) are available to carry out the scrutiny:</b>	

Please give any further details on the proposed review:

Completed by:

Date:

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<b>Adult Social Care And Health Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2019-2020</b>	
6 February 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <b>Deprivation of Liberty Standards</b> key changes</li> <li>2 <b>Smoking Cessation</b> evaluation of initiatives and impact on smoking levels, has the council's priority been achieved</li> <li>3 <b>Fulfilling Lives</b> Success of the project and legacy planning for support for people with multiple complex needs</li> <li>4 <b>Integrated Care System</b> Strategy update</li> <li>5 <b>Healthy Weight Final Scrutiny Review Report</b> for approval</li> <li>6 <b>Drug Related Death Scrutiny Review Scoping Document</b> for approval</li> <li>7 <b>Approval of Joint Committee terms of reference</b>, and appointment of three Members to sit on the Committee</li> </ol>
Special Meeting – 25 March 2020	<b>Mental Health Services</b> to continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of changes in mental health service provision.
29 April 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <b>North West Ambulance Service</b> detailed annual performance report</li> <li>2 <b>Screening and Vaccination Uptake</b> to request NHS England attendance to consider uptake levels in Blackpool</li> <li>3 <b>Infant mortality and Maternity Services</b> covering preventable baby deaths</li> <li>4 <b>Integrated Care Partnership</b> development of the partnership, progress with the Strategy, also to cover commissioning reform case for change</li> <li>5 <b>Whole System Transfers of Care Scrutiny Report</b> review of remaining outstanding recommendations implementation, plus an <b>Impact Analysis of the Review</b></li> </ol>
24 June 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <b>Breastfeeding Support</b> to consider the support on offer and the impact on the number of mothers choosing to breastfeed.</li> <li>2 <b>Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group End of Year Performance</b> attendance requested from partners in ICP.</li> <li>3 <b>Healthwatch</b> Annual Report 2019/2020 and priorities for 2020/2021</li> </ol>
TBC September 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Director of Public Health's Annual Report</b></li> </ol>
TBC December 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <b>Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group Mid-Year Performance Report</b> attendance requested from partners in ICP</li> <li>2 <b>Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2019/2020</b></li> </ol>

<b>Scrutiny Review Work</b>	
9 September 2019	<i>Renal Dialysis Service Reconfiguration discussion. Outcomes from finalised reconfiguration to be received in early 2020.</i>
8 October 2019	<i>Head and Neck and Vascular Services and Stroke Improvement. Further update to be held in February 2020.</i>
19 November 2019	<i>Task and Finish Scrutiny review of Healthy Weight.</i>
26 November 2019	<i>Input into policy development of Drug and Alcohol Strategies.</i>
TBC 2020	Input into <b>Integrated Care Partnership Strategy</b> development.

2 March 2020	<b>Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Redesign.</b> Joint meeting to be held with Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee. To determine whether further review is required as per below.
20 April 2020	Scrutiny review of <b>Supported Housing</b> following agreement at the Committee meeting in January 2020.
13 June 2020	Scrutiny review of <b>Drug Related Early Deaths.</b> Numbers have increased in both young and older people that misuse substances. To also look at preventing drug use (uptake of Hope and Wish).
TBC	Scrutiny review of <b>one key theme identified from the ICP five year strategy.</b> Possible items include population health management, health inequalities, planned care and urgent and emergency care.
TBC	Proposed joint piece of work with Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee: <b>Child and Adolescent Mental Health</b> to include prevalence, performance of CAMHS, emotional health, looked after children and additional educational needs. Initial meeting to consider service redesign (as above) – further scrutiny work to be identified following the meeting.

<b>Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2019-2020</b>	
23 April 2020	<p><b>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement</b> - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p><b>2. Children's Social Care Improvement</b> – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p><b>3. Education/SEND</b> – To receive an overview of results data.</p> <p><b>4. Pan-Lancashire Partnership</b> – To receive an update on the new safeguarding partnership arrangements.</p>
18 June 2020	<p><b>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement</b> - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p><b>2. Children's Social Care Improvement</b> – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p>
TBC	<b>Special meeting</b> dedicated to young people with representatives of the Corporate Parent Panel, Blackpool Families Rock and Headstart invited to attend.
10 September 2020	<p><b>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement</b> - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p><b>2. Children's Social Care Improvement</b> – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p>
19 November 2020	<p><b>1. Youth Offending Team Improvement</b> - To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p> <p><b>2. Children's Social Care Improvement</b> – To receive an update in relation to key performance indicators and any risk areas identified.</p>

<b>Scrutiny Review Work</b>	
January 2020	Scrutiny review of <b>Inclusion in Education</b> to include issues faced by parents of children requiring an in-year school place, schools' admissions procedures to ensure pupils are offered a suitable place in a timely manner and the associated impact on the number of children being placed within the Pupil Referral Unit.
TBC	Scrutiny review of <b>Partnership Arrangements</b> focusing on monitoring the outcomes of the new partnership arrangements implemented in September 2019, with an emphasis on Early Help provision.
2 March 2020	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Redesign. Joint meeting to be held with Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. To determine whether further review is required.

<b>Future Items</b>	
June 2020	Analysis of impact of SEND Strategy – as agreed by Scrutiny Leadership Board September 2019.

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<b>Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2019-2020</b>	
22 April 2020	<p><b>1. Tourism Performance Update</b> - To include a representative of a Blackpool Tourist attraction and details of Business Tourism.</p> <p><b>2. Illuminations Report</b> with a view to determining whether to pursue a more in depth review.</p> <p><b>3. Town Centre Regeneration Update</b> – To include information on the progress and forecast for current and planned regeneration projects. To consider value for money and cost to the council. To also include reference to the Council purchase of the Houndshell.</p> <p><b>4. Strategic Leisure Assets</b> – To include information on the overspend reported within the service.</p> <p><b>5. Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Review Final Report</b> to consider and approve the findings of the review</p> <p><b>6.</b> Report back from input into <b>Adopt an Alley Policy</b> held on 11 February 2020 and the <b>Active Lives Strategy</b> held on 27 February 2020.</p> <p><b>7. Draft Air Quality Strategy</b> – <i>To feed into the development of the strategy</i></p>
TBC June 2020	<p><b>1. Provisional Revenue Outturn</b></p> <p><b>2. Treasury Management Outturn</b></p> <p><b>3. Leisure Services</b> to update on annual performance of the leisure centres and maintenance of facilities, to cover financial performance of the service.</p> <p><b>4. Parks and Green Environment</b></p> <p><b>5. Engagement of Consultants Annual Report</b></p>
TBC September 2020	<p><b>1. Car Parking Performance</b> to include performance, financial information, spend on maintenance</p> <p><b>2. Tourism Performance</b> - To include a representative of a Blackpool Tourist attraction and details of Business Tourism.</p>
TBC December 2020	<p><b>1. Waste Services and Street Cleansing</b> update on domestic waste collection new company performance, however, focus on services still provided by the Council such as street cleansing to prevent duplication with the work of the Shareholder’s Advisory Board</p>
<b>Scrutiny Review Work</b>	
11 September 2019	Task and Finish Scrutiny review of <b>Community Safety Partnership</b> looking at the performance of the partnership in 2018/2019 and priorities for 2019/2020.
Commencing 23 September 2019 <i>Ongoing</i>	Full scrutiny review of <b>Housing Strategy/Homelessness</b> . To have a look at the impact of strategy and policy on homelessness levels and prevention of homelessness.
18 September 2019	Input into policy development - <b>Libraries Ambition Plan</b>
27 February 2020	Input into policy development <b>Active Lives Strategy</b> (formally <b>Sports and Physical Activity Strategy</b> )
11 February 2020	<b>‘Adopt an Alley’</b> – input into policy development
TBC	In a day review of the <b>Illuminations</b> impact and sustainability. Future plans.

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**Report to:** **SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD**

**Relevant Officer:** Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

**Date of Meeting:** 5 March 2020

## SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update on the work undertaken by scrutiny members on the review of Community Engagement Policy.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the update and identify any further work to be undertaken on the proposed Community Engagement Policy.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Leadership Board has an overview of ongoing work.

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

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

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

### 6.0 Background information

6.1 Councillors Wilshaw, Farrell, Galley, Walsh, Hobson, Hunter, O'Hara and Wing were appointed by the three scrutiny committees to carry out a piece of work on the development of the Community Engagement Policy. At the meeting, Councillor Galley was appointed Chair. Due the cross cutting nature of the subject it was considered that a cross-committee approach would be most beneficial and to report back to the

Scrutiny Leadership Board on the work undertaken.

- 6.2 Ms Chloe Shore, Community Engagement Partnership Manager informed the Panel that an audit had been undertaken in 2018 which had produced a number of recommendations around community engagement including the introduction of a policy/strategy to cover why and how to carry out engagement activity. She advised that once a policy had been produced it would be followed by a toolkit in order to aid delivery.
- 6.3 The Panel discussed the draft policy in detail and spoke about how to ensure that departments were adhering to the policy. It was noted that the policy would require embedding and cascading through the organisation. A project plan would be put in place to that end. Each department would be responsible for its own community engagement with an expectation that they would track the engagement undertaken.
- 6.4 The barriers to engagement were also considered such as being physically able to attend venues or requiring childcare. It was also considered important to build trust with residents and ensure there was a valid reason for change which could be communicated effectively.
- 6.5 The role of the Councillor in engagement was discussed and Members felt it was very important. The 'feedback loop' was also considered important with it being essential to communicate back to residents what had happened since they inputted into the consultation/engagement activity etc. It was also considered important to better communicate the good work that the Council undertook and the improvements and differences made to lives in Blackpool. Contact with members of the public should be communicated in a way that made sense, had realistic timeframes and managed expectations.
- 6.6 Social media was also considered and the Panel agreed to ask that the Scrutiny Leadership Board look at the use of social media for scrutiny. It was also noted that the scrutiny public speaking procedure required review. The link between community engagement and the ongoing Channel Shift Scrutiny Review was also noted and it was agreed that any relevant recommendations be fed in as appropriate.
- 6.7 The Panel endorsed the policy and recommended that the strategy be incorporated into the policy as one overarching document, to be circulated back to the Panel by email prior to formal approval.

**It was also agreed:**

- 1. That the revised Policy/Strategy document be circulated by email to the members of the Panel for final comments.**

2. That any recommendations of the Channel Shift Scrutiny Review relating to community engagement be fed into the policy.
3. That the use of social media to promote scrutiny and encourage public engagement be considered by the Scrutiny Leadership Board.
4. That the implementation of the policy be reviewed by the Scrutiny Leadership Board 12 months after being rolled out.

6.1 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Legal considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Human resources considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Equalities considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Financial considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Risk management considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Ethical considerations:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Background papers:**

15.1 None.

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