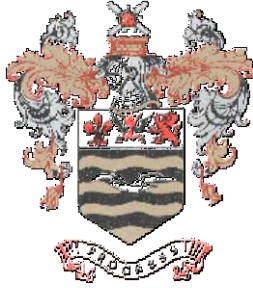


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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 12 September 2023

To: The Members of Blackpool Council

Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Blackpool Council** to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Blackpool on Wednesday, 20 September 2023 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business specified below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lewis".

Director of Governance and Partnerships

Business

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 28 JUNE 2023

(Pages 1 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 June 2023 as a true and correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive official announcements from the Mayor.

4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT (Pages 5 - 46)

To consider the following portfolio reports to Council from each Cabinet Member and the Combined Fire Authority report:

- a) Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture
- b) Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance
- c) Cabinet Member for Young People and Aspiration
- d) Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
- e) Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods
- f) Cabinet Member for Levelling Up – People
- g) Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
- h) Cabinet Member for Climate Change
- i) Cabinet Member for Levelling Up – Place
- j) Combined Fire Authority report

Members are reminded that:

- Each Executive Member* has up to three minutes to present their portfolio report (a green light will indicate there is one minute remaining, red for when the time is up). There will then be an opportunity for questions/comments.
- There will be three minutes per question/ comment from any Councillor on anything within the portfolio and no limit to the number of times a Councillor can ask a question.
- There will be no set overall maximum time for each report to be debated although the Mayor will decide when a suitable time has elapsed and move to the next report.

* or Combined Fire Authority representative

5 HONORARY ALDERMEN (Pages 47 - 50)

To consider, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether to make arrangements for a Special meeting of Council to confer upon recently retired councillors, who, in line with the criteria agreed by Council and wish to be put forward, to receive the title of ‘Honorary Alderman’.

Venue information:

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

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Jenni Cook, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477212, e-mail jennifer.cook@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

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Present:

Councillor Campbell (in the Chair)

Councillors

Baker	Ellison	Jones	M Smith
Bamborough	Farrell	Marshall	S Smith
Boughton	Flanagan	B Mitchell	Taylor
N Brookes	Galley	C Mitchell	Thomas
P Brookes	Hobson	D Mitchell	Walsh
S Brookes	Hoyle	Roberts	Warne
Burdess	Hugo	Roe	Webb
Cartmell	Humphreys	D Scott	Williams
Cooper	Hunter	Mrs Scott	Wilshaw
Critchley	Jackson	Sloman	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 May 2023 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed condolences to the family and friends of Harold Elletson who had passed away the previous week. Mr Elletson had served as the Blackpool North MP from 1992 to 1997 and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the early stages of the peace process.

The Mayor also announced the sad death of Russ Weaver, former Head of Neighbourhood Management and previously Chief Superintendent of Blackpool Police and passed on condolences to his family and friends.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023

The Mayor offered congratulations on behalf of the Council to the two Fylde coast residents who had been awarded honours in the King's Birthday Honours list namely:

- John Child, former Managing Director of the Sandcastle Waterpark, who had been awarded the Member of the British Empire for services to tourism, people with disabilities and to the community in Blackpool
- Civil Servant Gill Andrew, manager of the DWP Job Centre in Fleetwood, who had been awarded the Order of the British Empire medal for public and charitable services in Fleetwood.

The Mayor also announced that Charlotte Foster from Blackpool Polar Bears Swimming Club had won a silver medal in the 25m freestyle at the Special Olympic World Games in Berlin.

Finally the Mayor advised members that Bev Robinson OBE, Principal and Chief Executive of Blackpool and the Fylde College would be leaving after eleven years' service, and on behalf of the Council, thanked her for her services to education in the town and wished her well for the future.

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Mr Ian White addressed Members on the subject of empty properties and the potential for these to become problematic when used to house cannabis farms in terms of risk anti-social behaviour, crime and public health.

Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council responded to Mr White on the matter and advised that the Council worked closely with the Police in this area who had a lead responsibility and also explained that an Empty Property Strategy was being developed and would be considered by the Council's Executive later in the year.

Note: Councillor Williams left the meeting following consideration of the item.

5 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the report from the Chair of the Audit Committee in relation to work undertaken during the previous municipal year. Reference was made to important role of the Committee and thanks were expressed to Councillor Galley, the former Chair.

Motion: Councillor Roberts proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

'To receive the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/2023'.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

6 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, Councillor Galley, presented a report to Council on scrutiny achievements during 2022/23 which highlighted the work of the committees during the year and individual scrutiny reviews.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023

Reference was also made to the recent review of scrutiny undertaken by North West Employers which had reported favourably on key achievements and had identified opportunities going forward.

The Council noted its thanks to former councillor Mrs Callow in her role as Chair of Scrutiny Leadership Board.

Motion: Councillor Galley proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

‘To receive the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023’.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

7 EXECUTIVE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Members considered proposals for revisions to the Council’s procedural rules in relation to presentation of Executive Member reports and Combined Fire Authority reports at full Council meetings, following the matter being raised at the cross-party Constitution Working Group and subsequent agreement by Council that these should be reviewed.

Motion: Councillor Taylor proposed (and Councillor Galley seconded):

1. To adopt a revised a Procedural Standing Order for Council meetings to replace Council Procedural Standing Order 11 as attached at Appendix 7(a) to the council report and for this to be effective from the ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 20 September 2023.
2. That the Group Leaders review the revised process within the next 12 months and report back to Council should any change be required, as set out in paragraph 5.9 of the Council report.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

8 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council received the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the full review of the Members Allowances scheme which had been undertaken following the all-out local election in May.

Debate took place on the scheme including the proposed uplift and a number of views were expressed.

Motion: Councillor Taylor proposed (and Councillor N Brookes seconded):

1. To agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and to adopt the proposed new Members’ Allowances Scheme.
2. That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to update the Members’ Allowances Scheme accordingly.’

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023

Prior to voting, five members of the Council requested that the vote on the motion should be recorded. The voting was as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Bamborough, Boughton, N Brookes, P Brookes, S Brookes, Burdess, Cartmell, Critchley, Farrell, Flanagan, Hobson, Hoyle, Hugo, Humphreys, Hunter, Jackson, Jones, Marshall, Roe, M Smith, S Smith, Taylor, Thomas, Webb – **total 24.**

Against the motion: Councillors Baker, Cooper, Galley, B Mitchell, C Mitchell, D Mitchell, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, M Scott, Sloman, Walsh, Warne, Wilshaw - **total 14.**

Abstentions: Councillor Campbell – **total 1.**

Motion carried: The motion was therefore carried.

9 HONORARY ALDERMEN

Members considered a proposal, following discussions between the two political group leaders, to defer the item.

Resolved: To defer the item to allow for further discussion on civic honours.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 6.46 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Tel: 01253 477127
E-mail: lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk

Executive Member Report to the Council
20 September 2023

AGENDA ITEM 4(a)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE – COUNCILLOR LYNN WILLIAMS

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Tourism and marketing services
- Tourism-based regeneration
- Arts and culture
- Illuminations
- Built heritage
- Planning and land use
- Corporate Services (ICT, HR, Customer First, communications)
- Financial management

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Tourism Performance Update

After an exceptional start to the tourism season in May and the first part of June, on the back of a prolonged spell of good weather and an additional Bank Holiday, visitor numbers have since become more volatile. This is predominantly due to the poor weather over the school holidays in July which has particularly impacted on visitor numbers at outdoor attractions.

The cost-of-living crisis is potentially also a factor, although Blackpool has repeatedly scored extremely well in national surveys on affordability. In a survey carried out by Travelodge at the start of the season, Blackpool was named among the top five staycation destinations alongside Cornwall, Devon, the Isle of Wight, and Whitby. Blackpool was also placed third in UK-wide research carried out by holiday rental company Airbnb showing the places experiencing the biggest spike in bookings this summer. In the latest survey, carried out by finance specialists, RIFT, Blackpool and the Lake District came joint top in league table of the UK's most affordable staycation destinations, based on factors including the cost of family days out and accommodation.

Once again, there has been a significant investment of more than £1m in events and destination marketing for the 2023 season. This includes a repeat of the "Only In Blackpool" marketing campaign developed in partnership with Merlin Entertainments and other resort partners, which included TV and video on demand advertising in Scotland and England, radio

and social media. The TV advert, which ran from mid-June to the end of August again featured resort ambassador, Nigel C Gull.

The major events programme began in August with the return of the two-day Air Show Weekend. With the Red Arrows and Typhoon display teams performing on both days and with the added bonus of a Spitfire and replica Red Arrow within the Air Show village, the event once again attracted record crowds. Mobile phone data shows that the footfall on the Promenade was more than 350,000 across the two days, outperforming what was a spectacular turn-out last year. The Air Show was followed by the annual Ride The Lights and the Switch-On event which this year included a Nickelodeon float parade along the Golden Mile. That was followed by a free-to-access celebration with family entertainment, fireworks and a light projection show on The Blackpool Tower. Singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor performed live on the headland before switching on the lights to trigger a four-month season.

This year's Illuminations display includes three exciting new installations – a reimagined Spitfire Island (on Gynn Square) designed by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, and two new tableaux, one by Dr Chila Kumari Singh Burman, MBE, the other by Canadian-born Bruce Alfred who specialises in Native American art. It is the first Illuminations display to be designed by a North American artist and one of the first to be developed using 3D printing technology. The Tower Festival Headland will also see the installation of a Hollywood-inspired illuminated 'BLACKPOOL' sign. All of these new features were built at the Lightworks manufacturing facility.

The forthcoming autumn and winter season will see the return of World Fireworks, Lightpool Festival and seven weeks of Christmas By The Sea running from mid-November to January 1.

Theme 2 – Budget 2023/24

2023/24 is the 13th year of consecutive budget cuts for Blackpool Council and Local Government finances across England are in a fragile state, with at least 23 local authorities reported in the media recently for challenges with their financial standing and there are many others who are known to be struggling. As a result of this climate the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities launched the Office for Local Government (Oflog) in July this year, whose purpose is to increase transparency, foster accountability, and use data to further improve performance and help identify problems at an earlier stage.

The first external financial monitoring report for the council for the current financial year was presented to the Executive on 11 September. The key financial headlines for Blackpool Council as at month three are:

1. The main demand-led pressures are in children's social care, adult social care, and home to school transport. These are common factors across many upper tier local authorities. At month 3 we were showing an adverse project outturn of £5.7m. Though early signs in month 4 show improvements on this position.
2. Earmarked revenue reserves at £32.0m.

3. Ongoing work with the Safety Valve Programme of the Department for Education is making significant inroads to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant's medium-term financial plan, whose deficit should have reduced from £2.8m to £1.6m by 31/03/24 and breakeven by 2024/25.
4. The new business critical systems of TechnologyOne Financials and Midland HR i-Trent now fully live and functionality being employed to improve strategic financial planning whilst delivering processing efficiencies.
5. The backlog of external audits of the Council's statements of accounts being addressed with 2020/21's having been approved at Audit Committee in July, 2021/22's expected to be approved at November's meeting and 2022/23's expected in March 2024.

Local Government is under pressure financially across England due to demand for social care and significant inflationary pressures, but in the context of those challenges, Blackpool is in a relatively stable position.

Theme 3 – Devolution

Latest position to be presented by the Leader of the Council at the meeting.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

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DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE – COUNCILLOR IVAN TAYLOR

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Relationships with all the Council wholly owned companies and the shareholder lead Cabinet Member
- Relationships with partner organisations:
 - Blackpool Tower complex and associated buildings (Merlin)
 - Hounds Hill Shopping Centre
- Corporate strategy development and research
- Governance
- Contracts, policy and purchasing

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Blackpool Tower Investment

Since acquisition by Blackpool Council in 2010, the steel structure of Blackpool Tower has benefitted from an ongoing renewal programme, which has addressed a considerable number of requirements including partial lift pit and lift shaft steel replacement, installation of new access ladders and platforms, the replacement of a range of individual steel members and connection details, and repainting.

Whilst the Tower is in good condition overall it is necessary to protect this iconic asset for the town and indeed the country from deterioration. This is inevitable due to the age of the structure and historically some maintenance shortfall under previous private ownership, in addition to the geographical location of the Tower and the associated exposure to adverse weather conditions that the Irish Sea can bring.

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

The works currently identified are likely to require a programme duration of between at least five to seven years and will cost over £10m. A significant part of this work will include repainting the Tower. Modern paint systems and materials mean that the expected lifespan of the paint system will now exceed 20 years which will reduce the need for a “Forth Bridge” approach to repainting the structure. The phasing of the works is designed to minimise the operational and visual impact of necessary temporary access structures such as scaffold and encapsulation materials, whilst maximising efficiency of the works and minimising cost. Scheduling of the works is a continual planning and programming process.

The works currently identified as required include:

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

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

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

Theme 2 – Houndshill Update

The Houndshill Centre has seen a number of new tenants over recent months with new stores from Skechers, Muffin Break, Bob and Berts and of course the fit out for the Fraser’s, Flannels, Sports Direct, Game and Evans Cycles with an opening in the next few months. Work is progressing on other new brands and tenants, with more opening due in the coming 12 months.

The shopping centre has continued to grow its performance post COVID and is one of the strongest shopping centres in the UK compared to other towns of a similar size.

The Phase 2 Houndshill extension has now completed the base-build and the Cinema fit out will commence shortly to create The Backlot Cinema and Diner. This multiscreen cinema with one of the largest IMax screens in the country will open in the Spring and alongside it the operators will deliver an exciting new diner on the ground floor to complement the Cinema offer.

This exciting development continues the strategy of making the town centre a diverse and interesting offer for shoppers and leisure seekers alike increasing footfall and viability of the retail offer. This, coupled with the significant increase in the offer elsewhere in the town centre including Abingdon St Market, improved conferencing facilities and an increase of almost 3,000 office workers in the Civil Service Hub and over 3,000 students will deliver a sustainable and thriving domestic hub for the town and the surrounding area. A place of aspiration, inspiration and imagination

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ASPIRATION – COUNCILLOR KATH BENSON

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Schools under LA control, community schools
- Children with Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- LEA support to academies and voluntary aided schools
- School place planning, organisation and buildings
- Education diversity and support units/service e.g. Pupil Referral Units
- Youth Services
- Youth Employment and Education

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – The Platform

As mentioned in the Levelling Up - Place report the Platform supports young people aged 16-24 into work or education. The capital work to set up the centre was funded by the Council through the Towns Fund. With high youth unemployment in the town this work is critical for our local residents.

Since opening and to the end of July we have helped 787 young people with 220 of those entering training and 221 getting a job. We are now working with 164 young people to help them with a similar outcome. Work continues to re-engage with customers who have previously disengaged from the service with customers being offered an outreach appointment before they leave on the system. All customers that have left were invited to the Career Event on the 18 August.

Activities in July:

A workshop with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) took place at The Platform. There were discussions around how things are working and how the two organisations can work better together moving forward. Agreements include:

- Increasing the number of DWP staff within The Platform.
- The Platform completing outreach sessions at the Job Centre Plus (JCP).
- Introducing The Platform scheme and colours to the youth area of the JCP.
- Exploring the layout of The Platform to better utilise the space.

- A dedicated work coach at the JCP for the Initial Evidence Interview.
- Possibility of the Initial Evidence Interview taking place at The Platform.
- Dedicated inboxes created for communication between the organisations.

The Latest Princes Trust Explore course has begun its delivery from The Platform, along with the continued delivery of the Skills Construction Traineeship in construction.

The Princes Trust Team 86 delivered by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, attended The Platform where we supported them with mock interviews.

Infusion Research created a new online feedback form for The Platform and this was rolled out in July. This has been created to provide improved feedback and to be more accessible to customers.

The Youth Hub Coordinator met with Merlin to discuss and help shape their offer for young people, including the offer for Care Leavers. Merlin have agreed to create and ring-fence three jobs for Care Leavers, and all Care Leavers that apply for a job will receive two free attraction tickets and a guaranteed interview. A specific point of contact in both organisations has been agreed to help with communicating applications and gathering evidence.

Activities in August:

The Platform team ran a Careers Event on 18 August 2023. Over 15 different organisations attended, offering education training and employment. All previous customers and all the young people on Blackpool Council's NEET tracking list were invited to the event.

The Princes Trust Get Into NHS interviews were conducted from The Platform on 30 August.

In all 40 events were held during August including training courses, drop ins, meet the employer sessions, Job Search/CV writing, further education information sessions and more.

Further events information is available online.

Theme 2 – Youth Provision

The Youth Investment Fund has granted just under £1.7m to help improve youth facilities in Blackpool. The money has been awarded to create a new, larger, purpose built youth club on the site of the existing Blackpool Boys and Girls youth club in Talbot and Brunswick. The expansion of the building will allow for more youth work activities, youth provision and opportunities for young people from the local area with the completion date expected to be autumn 2024.

As part of the Youth Provision Partnership, Blackpool Council and Blackpool Boys and Girls Club Centre submitted a joint application to the Youth Investment Fund for the redevelopment and expansion of the Talbot and Brunswick Youth Centre on Gorton Street, Blackpool.

The new Blackpool Boys and Girls Club Centre will be a much-needed addition to the Talbot and Brunswick community. It will provide young people with a safe and supportive space to learn, grow, and develop their talents.

The redeveloped and redesigned youth centre will offer a range of youth work activities and opportunities, and the new centre will include a games room, space for sports, a kitchen area, and the opportunity to develop an e-Sports area.

Blackpool Council set up the Youth Provision Partnership, made up of key agencies from across the youth sector and those who work with young people and residents. It was set up following research carried out in 2022 by the National Youth Agency, in partnership with Youth Focus North West and the result is an ambitious plan to grow youth provision for children and young people all across Blackpool with an investment of £225k from Blackpool Council.

The investment has already started with the appointment of a Youth Services Manager, with the aim of improving the quality and consistency of youth provision across the town, through a collaborative and coordinated approach to developing, prioritising and co-producing provision for and with young people. A Grants Funding Manager will seek to identify, apply and secure funding to support the partnership delivering in the third sector, in conjunction with a dedicated Training and Quality Manager to support workforce development. The team will be completed with a Youth Engagement Officer leading on involving and engaging young people across Blackpool, taking a co-production approach to developing and shaping youth provision.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE – COUNCILLOR NEAL BROOKES

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Adult provider services including Commissioned services for adults
- Adult social care assessment and support
- Adult respite, day services, Care at Home, supported living and residential services
- Adult safeguarding
- Reablement and intermediate care
- Health integration including funding and services delivery
- Regulated care sector/ inspection/ quality monitoring
- Adult mental health, learning disability, frail older people and physical disability services

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Reducing Pressure across the Health and Care System

Blackpool Council's Adult Services department has established a positive reputation over many years for working collaboratively across the local health and care system from a position of 'doing the right thing' for the residents of Blackpool. The department wants to build on the delivery of vital services to take advantage of further collaborative opportunities across the health and care system. These include:

1. Falls pick up

Blackpool Council's Vitaline service has successfully provided a 'falls pick up' response for over 20 years. This model has been expanded into Care Homes, and links in with our community health partners urgent crisis response service and North West Ambulance Service (NWAS).

Between April – July 2023, Vitaline dealt with:

- 791 people who had fallen at home, of whom 674 were successfully 'picked up' and remained at home with no further support required from NWAS.
- 49 people who had fallen in a care home, of whom 34 were successfully 'picked up' and NWAS was stood down
- 17 instances of people with an urgent care request to ensure they received the medical care they required at home.

The average response time for Vitaline is 17 minutes when responding to a fall alert or a welfare visit, in comparison to a potential wait of several hours at times of significant pressure for the Ambulance service.

By focusing resources proportionate to the level of need, Vitaline has had a demonstrable positive impact on the health and care system, reducing the number of ambulances dispatched and then subsequent conveyance to Accident and Emergency. Furthermore, the outcomes for the people receiving a coordinated response make their lived experience typically more positive, with far less time waiting for a response, reduced risk of deterioration and less likelihood of conveyance to hospital, with reductions in hospital admissions. For frail older people in particular, admissions to hospital can result in increased risk of developing further acute health conditions as well as loss of independence, physical ability and confidence following discharge.

2. Urgent homecare, reablement and bed-based intermediate care

The service works with Community NHS Services to provide care at home and residential services for people who need it as an alternative to hospital admission, or to speed up the hospital discharge process. This is particularly valuable at times of high demand, as it reduces the stress on the wider system.

3. Community health and care services responding to additional North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) calls

Not all 999 calls require an emergency response or an ambulance, which means NWAS may not always be the most appropriate response. This has led to health and care partners considering a 'divert' model similar to falls pick ups. Health and care partners would have access to the digital platform where calls/responses are held, and could respond to needs in line with their work. The Council has a 24 hour response centre in Vitaline that has established links to different health and care partners, which offers a starting point for developing an approach. Once the STRATA digital platform covering NWAS and Vitaline has been developed and is delivering on falls pick ups, it can be further expanded to cover the 'divert' model.

4. Mental Health and Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) Service

Blackpool Council undertakes the duty of providing the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) functions for Blackpool. There has been an increase in referrals and demand over several years, which has led to the introduction of a third Duty AMHP during the daytime. In addition, there is now a Duty Manager role to provide guidance and support to Duty AMHPs as well as attending a daily bed management meeting with the local NHS trust. The increase in demand is also reflected in the number of out of hours assessments carried out by the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) under the Mental Health Act. Contributing factors to the current position across Mental Health Services, nationally, regionally and locally, include overstretched

resources in community secondary mental health services and sufficiency challenges for inpatient beds.

Blackpool Council's AMHP Service and Community Mental Health Teams work hard to mitigate the impacts of the demand challenges. We are actively engaged in Mental Health Transformation work with regional health and care partners and Lancashire South Cumbria Foundation Trust who provide a significant proportion of the mental health support services to Blackpool residents. A long-awaited 'single front door' Integrated response Service (IRS) plus a new street triage service are due to start by the end of September.

There will continue to be difficulties going forward as the potential impacts of the national policy of Right Care, Right Person are understood. Blackpool Council is actively engaged with health and care partners about how things can be done differently and engagement with the Police, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and other Council departments to understand the opportunities to help manage and potentially mitigate some of the impacts of the Right Care Right Person National Policy, ensuring that Blackpool continues to do the right thing for its residents through positive and effective collaboration.

5. A bespoke respite and short breaks service - Coopers @ Ambleside

Coopers @ Ambleside opened in 2022 following an initial registration with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Developed in partnership with NHS England, the service for adults with learning disabilities/autism has now received its first full on site CQC Inspection, resulting in a "GOOD" rating across all areas. Well done to all the staff.

Theme 2 – The role of Place Based Partnerships in delivering local care

The NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria has announced plans to delegate decision-making down to the four 'place-based partnerships', which will improve outcomes for patients and help tackle health inequalities across the region. The Place Integration Deal moves resources and decision-making closer to our local communities and recognises the critical role of all organisations that support people to live healthier lives. It will mean that most day-to-day care for individuals and families will be delivered in local neighbourhoods, and will also reduce inequalities by ensuring that decision making and spending on public services is as close to people and communities as possible. In conjunction with Lancashire and South Cumbria's Integrated Care Board, partners are considering how this will work, what the arrangements need to be in order to take this forward and crucially, what this means for Blackpool.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, STREET SCENE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR PAULA BURDESS

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Public protection including environmental protection, Trading Standards, licensing, food control, health and safety, housing and planning enforcement
- Community safety, CCTV, security and civil enforcement
- Highways and traffic management
- Street lighting
- Integrated Transports Services including adults, children and Rideability Community Transport Services and school crossing patrol
- Parking services
- Private Sector Housing Licensing/ Selective Licensing
- Street cleansing including trade waste, Household Waste Recycling Centre, Local Environmental Action Team and building cleaning

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty which came into effect on 31 January 2023, is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.

The Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area. The authorities involved are, Police, Justice (Probation Service and Youth Offending Teams), Fire and Rescue, Health, and Local Authority. The Duty requires each authority area to have a published Serious Violence Duty Strategy and Strategic Needs Assessment by 31 January 2024.

The nine crime categories that are included under serious violence are as follows:

1. Homicide
2. Assault resulting in injury

3. Aggravated burglary
4. Knife crime
5. Rape
6. Domestic abuse and violence
7. Gun crime
8. Robbery
9. Child exploitation (sexual and criminal)

The Duty outlines three key performance areas that the government will monitor the effectiveness of the Serious Violence Duty on:

1. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged 25 and under.
2. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims ages 25 and under.
3. A reduction in all homicides and especially those that are non-domestic and among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

The statutory partners already meet regularly through the Community Safety Partnership and the Serious Violence Duty strategy and accompanying action plan will be monitored through the existing partnership. There are a number of other strategies that link in and contribute to the Serious Violence Duty including, the Domestic Abuse Strategy, the Blackpool Children, Young People and Families Partnership Plan, and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Prevention Strategy. A collaborative approach to develop the Serious Violence Duty strategy is being taken to ensure contribution and ownership from all partners given the broad nature of the performance measures outlined by Central Government. Through the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership, work is underway to develop a multi-agency Serious Violence Duty Strategy for the town. The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network is supporting this work with a workshop involving key stakeholders planned for November to finalise the draft strategy ahead of the January 2024 deadline.

Theme 2 - CCTV/Pubwatch and next phase of work around civil contingencies

On 13 September 2021, the Executive agreed the investment of £2m into the replacement of the core CCTV system and the relocation of the control room to Municipal Buildings. After further consideration of the facilities at Municipal Buildings, a new option was developed to provide and accommodate a state-of-the-art facility in a different location which future proofs the services. The new facility in the South Shore area is in the final stages of development as Blackpool's new CCTV Security Control Room and Incident Coordination Centre for major events and dealing with emergency situations.

As the UK's number one seaside resort, it is important that Blackpool has a comprehensive and robust CCTV system, playing an important role in public safety and confidence particularly in accessing the Town Centre during the night-time economy.

The new CCTV Security Control Room is now complete, and provides a facility second to none and appropriate in terms of improving public safety. The move/switch from the current CCTV room at the old police station on New Bonny Street to the new facility at South Shore will be mid-October. This can happen even though all the new cameras are not all in place yet. All camera poles on the new system have the movable camera on the top of the pole. In total, the system is being expanded from 92 cameras to 346. Each pole will have a moveable camera and four statics; 360 vision. Over 100 speakers are being fitted to columns which add to the effectiveness of the system by giving operators the potential to 'warn and inform' the public of an emergency.

The new Incident Coordination Centre, which is adjacent to the CCTV Security Control Room and will work in tandem with it, is in the final stages of completion. The Council is engaging with partners including the emergency services and counter-terrorism policing to provide a facility that will support a Council or multi-agency response to an emergency/major incident, and also provide a facility for managing major events. This venue will be a place where multi-agency partners will be able to co-locate to gain shared situational awareness, building a joint understanding of risk and communicate together in order to coordinate resources, to protect the public, and save lives. The Incident Coordination Centre will provide a more modern facility for training in relation to emergencies and support the coordination and management of key events for the town.

Work will be undertaken to enhance CCTV staff and volunteer training, so that they have increased skills to further their support to the emergency services and others, such as the pub-watch and shop-watch networks in responding to emergencies. The council are supportive of the National Protective Security Authority and will aim to ensure that preparedness and training are aligned to meet what is published in their guidance in order to provide a proportionate and effective responses to security incidents including terrorism. This will be achieved with the ongoing proactive and collaborative approach by the council working with others such as Lancashire Constabulary, Counter Terrorism Policing, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, the Northwest Ambulance Service, and others. The approach will support the Council and other category 1 responders meet their statutory obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act and others in meeting potential legislative requirements in the forthcoming Protect Duty which will be known as Martyn's Law.

Following completion of the project, other cameras and areas will be risk assessed in order to establish whether further cameras are required in Blackpool, which will be discussed and shared with Scrutiny before this phase commences.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

CABINET MEMBER FOR LEVELLING UP: PEOPLE - COUNCILLOR JO FARRELL

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Public health and health protection
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Harm reduction
- Domestic abuse
- Leisure services including leisure management, Active Blackpool, Community Sport, PE and schools' sports and outdoor pursuits
- Libraries
- Housing options and homelessness
- Decent Homes
- Housing related support and sustaining private sector tenancies
- Catering
- Equality and diversity
- Adult Learning
- Getting People into Work including Positive Steps and Business Growth Prosperity
- Relationship with Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus
- Social Value
- Welfare benefits and Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Adult Learning (Blackpool Learning Rooms 2022 to 2023)

Blackpool Learning Rooms, formerly Adult Community and Family Learning, priority is to help residents aged 19+ develop a range of skills that can help them and their families in their everyday lives. Blackpool Learning Rooms are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and currently deliver person-centred programmes in IT, Employability, Health and Well-Being, Family Learning, Cooking, English and Maths.

Adult Community and Family Learning moved into the Healthworks building in May 2021 to make the Service accessible to more residents, and also to strengthen partnership working with Positive Steps into Work and the Department for Work and Pensions. In September 2022 the newly renovated and branded Blackpool Learning Rooms were officially opened, located on Floor 1 of Healthworks and have provided bespoke accredited courses for 182 Positive Steps

into Work clients so far. To date 20% of these clients have gone on into work, with the expectation that this will increase.

Courses continue to be delivered in schools, libraries and community centres in the heart of our communities. Specific qualifications are delivered to enable residents to be work-ready and guarantee interviews for those that complete in partnership with employers.

In the 2022/23 academic year Blackpool Learning Rooms has continued to build on the success of pre-pandemic years by delivering learning to 1,274 individual residents, of whom 674 have progressed onto further learning opportunities. 86% of residents that attended accredited courses (264 learners) achieved their qualification. In June 2023 towards the end of the first full academic year in Healthworks, Blackpool Learning Rooms maintained its OFSTED overall 'good' rating and also achieved 'outstanding' in the behaviors and attitudes section of the inspection which acknowledged both staff and learners attitudes to learning.

Blackpool Learning Rooms delivers a Supported Internship Programme, Project Search, for learners aged 16-24 with Education Health Care Plans. These learners are given the skills and work experience to progress them at the end of their 12 month programme into work. Now in its tenth year at Blackpool, the success rate is almost ten times above the national average of 6% of learners with learning difficulties in to paid employment at 65%.

Blackpool Learning Rooms is currently leading on the new Government-funded Multiply programme which is aimed at helping adults who do not have Maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent) to improve their numeracy skills. Work is being undertaken alongside a number of training providers and Blackpool College to deliver this programme which is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Theme 2 – Cost of Living Crisis

Although increases in inflation may be starting to slow, locally the crisis is far from over, which is reflected in the support funding available. In the six months prior to 31 March 2023, the government provided £1.745 million, with a further £400,000 from the Council and NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board. In addition, Blackpool has been allocated further Household Support funding of £3.4 million from the Government for the financial year 2023/2024, with further funding coming from Public Health budgets.

Support schemes have been developed to help households that are struggling with the rising costs of gas, electricity, water, food and wider essentials. These schemes include:

- Support for families normally receiving school meals support through the holidays, where families receive £15 per week of supermarket vouchers.
- Short term financial support is available to residents struggling with household energy costs. An award of £200 will be made to households of two or less, or £300 for

households of three or more. Payments are usually made direct to the energy provider and will be credited to the residents account with their utility provider.

- The Discretionary Support scheme, subject to criteria, is available for residents that need wider short-term emergency support e.g. essential furniture and kitchen items.
- An online directory of local support organisations that can help people with cost of living issues is available on the FYI Directory and the Council’s website.
- A free phone support service is available Monday – Friday 10 am – 3 pm, to help people find the support they need, including those with difficulty accessing the internet.
- The Blackpool Together Partnership has been formed with our local voluntary sector, and community organisations have been invited to apply for funding for a wide range of innovative projects that will support people struggling with the cost of living.
- There are now over 30 active projects supporting people with food, cost of energy and wider essentials. These projects include:
 - Welcoming places where people can get something to eat and take part in activities
 - Lunch and tea time clubs, including support at weekends
 - Community laundrettes and drying facilities
 - Shower facilities
 - Help with emergency essentials for cooking, heating and clothing
 - Targeted help for people with disabilities, special needs and children with SEND
 - Help with emergency essentials and the cost of utilities
 - Help for those struggling with the cost of removing excessive household waste
 - Information and tips to reduce household bills
 - Cookery classes and tips for buying food on a budget
 - Community pantries and food distribution points
- The offer will be extended during the winter when demand is likely to be higher, including:
 - Publicity campaigns, including Your Blackpool newspaper, social media, leaflet drops
 - Community outreach events from a range of organisations, including debt management and help with checking eligibility for benefits
 - An extension of the warm hubs programme outside of 9-5 and at weekends
 - Extension of the advice and information offer to target those struggling with cost of rent and mortgage costs
 - Continued consultation with our Blackpool Together Partnership to assess demands and changes to planning due to fluctuations in prices and evolving situations

At the present time it is unknown if Government funding will continue after 31 March 2024 and any allocated funding must be spent by this time. The Council will continue to investigate other funding opportunities and develop other support mechanisms going forward.

Other services also support this agenda. In particular the Blackpool Eco Coaches service provided by Groundwork via the Council’s UK Shared Prosperity Funding will launch town-wide in autumn, following a successful project delivered via European Regional Development Fund funding on Grange Park. Based at Palatine Library with the Cosy Homes in Lancashire project, it will focus on practical measures to reduce energy use, and therefore bills, which also reduces carbon emissions.

Theme 3 – Holiday Activity and Food Programme

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme is a government funded programme for children who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals (Reception to Year 11). The Council works with local providers to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food programme to eligible pupils across Blackpool to provide a wide range of activities, health and nutrition information and free healthy meals each day to the participants.

Children in Blackpool face particular high levels of poverty, with 38.56% of children living in income deprived households. Given these high levels of deprivation, children in Blackpool are particularly vulnerable to holiday hunger and learning loss during the school holidays. The Schools, pupils and their characteristics: Academic Year 21/22 report highlights there were 8,269 pupils known to be eligible for free school meals across primary and secondary schools.

The Grant requirements from the Department for Education for the Holiday Activity and Food funding only requires local authorities to deliver a free holiday provision to children eligible for benefits related free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week for just 6 weeks; four weeks in the Summer holidays and a week's provision in both the Easter and Christmas holidays. As detailed in another report, the growing need to support children in Blackpool during all school holidays has led Public health to fund the Holiday Activity and Food in the remaining school holidays meaning our provision currently covers all school holidays, 11 weeks per year. The extra funding for this provision is from reserves that Public Health has carried forward from previous years.

Public Health is responsible for coordinating the programme and has worked tirelessly to create a new open framework allowing us to build a consortium of Providers that meets the Department for Education and Blackpool Council's requirements for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. There are now ten contracted providers on the frameworks, namely, Blackpool Football Club Community Trust, Active Blackpool, Park Rangers, The BoatHouse Youth, Boys and Girls Club, House of Wingz/Skool of Street, Magic Club, Groundworks @The Grange, Blackpool Carers Centre, and Dealmaker Lt, who have worked extremely hard to increase their provision.

The new framework of provision and partnership working has been extremely successful in increasing the reach and commitment to supporting eligible children. For example, in summer 2022, our six week Holiday Activity and Food programme, supported 1,460 unique eligible children but by Easter 2023, the provision was able to support 1,285 unique eligible children in just two weeks, with over 1,160 places available each day. The Council has also been successful in increasing the SEND specific offer, with 3 providers now offering camps for those with mild to moderate additional needs across the town and one providing a summer residential stay. This summer 2023, the largest and most varied Holiday Activity and Food programme was offered,

with over 1,500 places available per day, at 34 clubs in 28 locations spanning the length and breadth of the town.

Whilst attendance throughout the Holiday Activity and Food provision is predominantly primary aged children, the provision is beginning to see an average of 20.5 % of attendances from the secondary aged cohort. Providers have taken their clubs out to the areas where this age group gather, offering activities to engage them and at times better suited to their needs such as evenings. More clubs have also been provided in areas of higher anti-social behaviour, with great take-up.

Overall our Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme has grown not only in both reach and size of provision but also the quality of the activities and food offered. The Holiday Activity and Food provision provides all participants with at least one healthy nutritious meal per session with all food provided of school food standard. Work was undertaken with a new provider, Dealmaker Ltd, at Christmas to create recipes for a low-energy “Dish Up” Recipe box initiative. Each box containing ingredients and instructions to make one meal for a family of four that could be cooked using a kettle or microwave, making meals accessible during the Cost of Living Crisis. In total 1,804 boxes were delivered to 902 Holiday Activity and Food families across the town, encouraging participants and their parents to make healthy, nutritious quick and easy to cook recipes together at home as a family. The partnership is both collaborative and reactive and strives to achieve the best for participants. In 2022/23 the programme reached 19.4 % of the Free School Meal HAF Cohort. The Council aims to increase this figure by promoting the programme, increasing the existing provision and also increasing the number of providers.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member’s portfolio.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES - COUNCILLOR JIM HOBSON

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Children's social care and targeted intervention services
- Care leavers
- Early help
- Fostering/adoption/permanence planning
- Children's commissioning
- Family Hubs
- Early Years

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Delivering sustainable change through Family Safeguarding Funding

Family Safeguarding is a whole family approach to working with children and families that supports parents to create sustained change for themselves and for their family. This approach fits with the Blackpool Families Rock approach. Following a successful bid, the Department for Education awarded £764,000 to implement the Family Safeguarding Model, with a view to an anticipated “go-live” date of April 2024. The model will support key elements of the Children's Social Care improvement plan.

The Family Safeguarding Model is part of wider work to transform Children's Services that includes delivery of Family Hubs and a revised Early Help system. It seeks to embed domestic abuse, substance and alcohol misuse, and mental health specialists within children's social work teams to work with adults. This will help to address long-standing high levels of demand for statutory services by stimulating better frontline practice and cultural change.

After an “inadequate” rating for Children's Social Care in 2018, improvement work led to OFSTED rating services overall as “Requires Improvement” with “Good” for children in care and care leavers. Recommendations within the report are as follows:

1. A multi-agency response to children suffering domestic abuse or long-term neglect, and to those children with complex needs.
2. Work with partners to strengthen their contribution to early help and neglect.
3. Sufficient placements to meet children's assessed needs.
4. The timeliness of meeting children's dental and emotional needs.

There are also two key areas for consideration from the OFSTED report relevant to the Family Safeguarding model:

1. The practice model needs to be strengthened in order to better support families where domestic abuse, neglect and mental health issues are present.
2. The practice model needs to clarify the expectations and role of partners with a shared narrative.

A key strength noted by OFSTED and other inspectorate bodies working with Blackpool has been the emerging collaborative approach evident from Blackpool Families Rock. Working alongside families, parents, children and young people has revolutionised how we identify the need for, and support change in families to make the environment safer for children.

Working with partners to develop a whole family, multi-disciplinary approach to safeguarding children achieves better outcomes for children and their families. It will:

- Transform the support offer provided to families in Blackpool particularly in relation to neglect and domestic abuse.
- Drive culture change and further improve social work practice to reduce the long-standing challenges with numbers of children being placed on child protection plans and becoming Looked After.
- Support the next phase of the improvement journey to “Outstanding”.

The main aim is to deliver better, sustainable outcomes for children and families, but it is also expected that it will reduce high intervention and placement costs. Blackpool Children’s Services, in partnership with the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice, plan to deliver the following key work between September 2023 and April 2024:

- Launch multi-disciplinary teams once 75% of adult specialist workers are in post.
- Building on trauma informed and motivational interviewing training with the delivery of targeted motivational interviewing and change workshops (launched once 75% of the Strengthening and Supporting Families teams have attended targeted workshops).
- Set up the Family Safeguarding Workbook (Workbook is an assessment tool for multi-disciplinary practitioners).
- Adopt the Family Safeguarding group supervision method, which involves all practitioners as opposed to Children’s Staff alone.
- Ensure clear governance and accountability is set up across the new teams.

In terms of benefit realisation, outcomes, outputs, and measurable objectives have been identified and will form the basis of monitoring what success will look like as part of Family Safeguarding adoption for Blackpool. Local Authorities that have adopted family safeguarding have seen significant reductions in rate of Public Care proceedings alongside the improved offer to families.

Theme 2 – Family Hub and Start for Life Offer

In the Autumn Budget 2021, the Government announced around £300m investment into the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, covering 75 upper tier local authorities in England. Blackpool was invited to take part in the programme, which is jointly overseen by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education.

Family hubs are for families with babies, children and young people from birth until they reach the age of 19, or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The programme emphasises the importance of the first 1001 days (from conception to age two) for laying important foundations for children's emotional and physical development and ensuring parents and carers can give their children the best possible start in life. Family hubs bring together multiple organisations in a 'one stop shop' with the aim of making it easier for families to access the right help and support at the right time. There is a key requirement for family hubs to make services and information available digitally for parents.

Services that are focused on supporting Families in the first 1001 days are known as the Start for Life Offer. The vast majority of the funding is focused on the development of parenting support, home learning environment/speech and language, infant feeding, parent infant relationships and mental health, parent and carer panels, and publishing the offer. The wider range of services family hubs should have available are funded through existing funding streams such as council budgets, public health grants, and Integrated Care Board funding streams. Family hubs are tasked with working with partners to deliver these in family hubs, or to have strong links to services to be able to support families to access the support.

Between April 2022 and March 2025 Blackpool will receive £2.8 million for the development of Family Hubs and the Start for life offer. There are three Family Hubs in Blackpool: North Family Hub (formerly Grange Park Children's Centre), Central Family Hub (formerly Talbot and Brunswick Children's Centre), and South Family Hub (at Palatine Leisure Centre). These were launched in July 2023 and are open to all children and families in Blackpool. There are also a number of additional sites that we are working with, including our former children centre sites and because we protected our children's centres, when many local authorities were closed we are in a good position to build upon this investment.

The Start for Life Offer is mostly in place, with the new funding used to enhance or extend existing commissions lead by Public Health or A Better Start, or the introduction of new services where gaps were identified. Funding has also been used to create Family Hub teams, employed by the council to deliver the range of groups and activities and respond to family's needs as they come to the hub. There is more work to do on developing the digital aspect of Family Hub delivery but work is underway to do this.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE - COUNCILLOR JANE HUGO

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Climate change
- Energy and environment
- Flood and water management
- Coastal defence schemes and sea water quality
- Strategic waste management
- Parks and green environment
- Life Events (including cemeteries and crematorium, registrars and Coroner's support)

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Increasing recycling through our Waste Strategy

Work is ongoing to prepare for central government's Resources and Waste Strategy and the Environment Bill. After delays due to Brexit and the pandemic, a new timeline for delivery of the main elements has been produced. These relate to the introduction of a separate weekly food waste collection, packaging reforms including Extended Producer Responsibility, introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme (all 2025), and delivery of universal free garden waste collections, and the consistency of recyclable materials (timescale to be confirmed).

In order to deliver these strategic aims and objectives, Blackpool Council and ENVECO have assembled two Waste and Environment Project Delivery Groups, one focused on the circular economy activities as listed above and the other around climate change. The council has also constituted a Waste Services Strategic Board to develop a governance framework and maintain oversight of the project delivery groups.

The project groups will focus on the review of kerbside collections in the first instance, including separate food waste collections, a review of the paper/card collection methodology, green waste collections and the deposit return scheme, including on-street bin provision.

Whilst the challenges to deliver on these strategic ambitions do carry risk and uncertainty, particularly around issues such as funding and procurement, there is also the opportunity to make step-changes to services in order to increase recycling and improve services to residents, businesses and visitors. These could include options like providing a bin for paper and cardboard which will increase clean material capture rates, separate trade waste food

collections and potentially recycling other waste streams such as textiles and small electrical items at the kerbside. Consideration also needs to be given to impact that a deposit return scheme may potentially have on the composition and amount of recyclable materials presented for collection at the kerbside.

The Lancashire Waste Partnership also continues to work co-operatively across the county to ensure a coordinated response to implement the necessary changes. Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council have developed a waste processing strategy which outlines how the two major waste processing plants would be used in the medium-term to achieve these improvements. Lancashire Renewables, the waste operating company jointly owned by Blackpool and Lancashire County Council is already in the process of making the required changes to the waste processing operations in order to meet these challenges at the two facilities. Located in Thornton and Leyland, these modifications include the installation of anaerobic digesters and percolators which, in the process of treating food waste, would generate electricity as a by-product – enough to power both plants, realising significant savings on energy.

The aim of the outline waste processing strategy for Lancashire is to achieve the best environmental and social outcomes possible from the waste management, within the realistic processing, financial and carbon options available.

Theme 2 – A co-operative approach to developing Heat Networks

Blackpool Council and its project partner, Community Broadband Network have been successful in securing Innovate UK Fast Followers funding to progress studies around the non-technical barriers to the deployment of a heat network at scale in Blackpool. Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency and only awards funding to projects which are considered to further collective knowledge on tackling some of society's key challenges.

In the UK approximately 40% of energy consumption and 20% of greenhouse gas emissions arise from the heating and hot water supply for buildings. Although most focus of late has been on reducing this through measures such as air source heat pumps, the Government is looking to Local Government to designate new heat network zones by 2025. Essentially a central heating system which covers multiple properties, they deliver cost effective, low carbon heat in the form of hot water or steam, from one or more centralised heat sources to the end user through a network of insulated pipes. These are then connected to individual properties, with user controls allowing the heat to be varied and hot water to be drawn much like a central heating system. Although they are more common in continental Europe, there are thought to be over 2,000 heat networks and communal heating schemes of various sizes in the UK, serving 200,000 dwellings and 2,000 commercial and public buildings.

The Climate Change Committee has estimated that around 18% of UK heat could come from heat networks by 2050, making them a key part of the pathway to decarbonising heat. Benefits include reduced Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions reductions for the UK, fewer heating sources

which require maintenance, and potentially lower costs in the long term. However, installation is disruptive, the technology is unfamiliar to many in the UK, and clear legal agreements are needed around maintenance and development responsibilities.

The opportunity in Blackpool is to use the Ethically-Powered Data project to deliver a significant scale heat network at the Enterprise Zone. The project seeks to use ultra-fast transatlantic internet links and proximity to renewable power sources to deliver data processing centres on the Enterprise Zone at Blackpool Airport. By specifying that the data centres should use liquid immersion technology, the heat which is currently considered a by-product of data processing can be captured and re-used for heating. As the use of this heat would displace carbon emissions incurred by electricity or gas heating, the heat network would be operationally net carbon negative, making a hugely significant contribution to climate targets.

Part of the funding is to be used to consider how a co-operative model, along the lines of the one used for Blackpool's Fibre Network, could deliver further advantages to those involved in developing and using the heat network. Other opportunities exist to explore heat networks in Blackpool, particularly around businesses and the visitor economy, but these need to be considered in light of the potential impact on highways and whether stakeholders favour the advantages of heat network solutions. In time, a decision will also be needed on whether to adopt Heat Networks as a default option for major new developments. The InnovateUK project is due to run until the end of June 2025, during which time it will seek other funding sources for the delivery of the scheme.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR LEVELLING UP: PLACE - COUNCILLOR MARK SMITH

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Economic development based regeneration including growth and prosperity
- Enterprise Zones
- Town Deal, Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funding
- Asset management/ Council owned properties
- Strategic housing
- Strategic transport management
- Building Services
- Business Improvement District

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 – Civil Service Hub Progress and Multiversity

Following the necessary legal agreements being signed and approval for the project to proceed, the Council's development partner Muse Places appointed Vinci Construction to carry out the construction works for the new Civil Service building in the town centre. Subsequent to the demolition of the existing buildings on King Street and the enabling works, Vinci formally started the construction contract in April this year. The construction activities to date have progressed well. The construction of the shear cores is complete, and the erection of the main structural steel elements has started. The contract is on programme and scheduled to complete during the first quarter of 2025. All construction work is currently within budget.

The Multiversity project is continuing to progress with further acquisitions having been agreed by voluntary negotiation with support being provided to tenants and residents. The next stage will be a Compulsory Purchase Order to be considered by the Council in the Autumn. A design team for the next phase of the work has been appointed and will be working on submitting a planning application later this year.

Theme 2 – Community Renewal Fund Update

The Community Renewal Fund was launched in March 2021 to help level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need. The fund was open to public, private and third sector organisations. Projects were to align with one of the following investment priorities:

- Investment in skills
- Investment for local business
- Investment in communities and place
- Supporting people into employment

Blackpool Council was given lead authority status which involved being responsible for developing a shortlist of potential projects up to a maximum of £3 million, and overseeing the portfolio of selected schemes. The council was also responsible to bid for project funding through this process by the 18th of June deadline.

The council received a total of 27 bids, seeking £7,434,520 of Community Renewal Fund support. An extensive evaluation process was undertaken using an independent consultant (Ekosgen) and a working group involving council officers, Town Deal board and Town Deal Investment Panel members. Further to this, a bid was submitted and Blackpool Council was successful in securing funding for four Community Renewal Fund projects, out of a total of twelve shortlisted, to the value of £778,638 (including £15,268 programme management fee).

A summary of the four projects and their performance are outlined below. All four were required to provide project evaluation reports provided to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

1. Ready for Work delivered by Inspira Cumbria Ltd. (£125,628)

Ready for Work provided one-to-one and one-to-many support to 18–24-year-old economically inactive or unemployed persons through job searching and life skills support with the objectives of those supported gaining places in education, training or employment. The project underperformed, and as a result Inspira’s funding was reduced by £9,025.87. The number of unemployed people supported was 44 against a target of 45, and the number of people in education/training following support was 17 against a target of 45. Some outputs were not achieved at all e.g., no people were engaged in life skills support, although the project did achieve additional results of supporting 10 people into paid employment (10).

2. The Youth Hub/ ‘The Platform’ delivered by Blackpool Council (£443,824)

The Platform worked to support young people (16-24) in the town to access jobs and training and to make the jump from school or unemployment into work smoother and easier. This project achieved and exceeded all its contracted results under budget by £13,634.29. The number of people in education/training following the support was 127 against a target of 75. 393 unemployed people were supported against a target of 300.

3. Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalysts delivered by Lancaster University (£180,579)

This project targeted to improve economic growth and prosperity in Blackpool by targeting innovative sectors to provide one-to-one and one-to-many support to local “innovation driven businesses” resulting in the development of innovation plans and knowledge transfer activities. The project achieved all but one target, but this was offset by exceeding three others and so was paid out all funding in full. 15 organisations and businesses were engaged and participated in the project, with 15 innovation plans formed and enacted against a target of 15. Ultimately this methodology provided the foundation for a number of subsequent projects, one of which is detailed in the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment’s report.

4. The role of Digital Museums and archives in culture-led regeneration delivered by the University of Central Lancashire (£13,339).

This project provided tangible insights into how digital museums and archives could affect local pride, can be exploited by local communities, improve social cohesion and strengthen collaboration. The project experienced underperformance issues and a sanction of £435.63 was applied against its original allocation. 14 organisations and businesses engaged and participated in the project against a target of 19, whilst the number of innovation plans developed because of their support was 2 against a target of 5.

Grant payments were dependent upon the receipt of satisfactory interim and final reports. The Council received £755,522.71 overall (£740,254.71 for project specific activity spend and £15,268 in management fees). A total of £23,095.79 was not claimed against the original funding application due to funds not being defrayed by the Youth Hub, and funding retained against the University of Central Lancashire and Inspira led schemes where they did not achieve all outputs. All four projects were signed off as completed in September 2022.

Lessons have been learnt from the Community Renewal Fund programme especially around the process for dealing with any sanctions and ensuring timely claims returns. These lessons have influenced programme management of the current Shared Prosperity Fund, Levelling-Up Fund and Town Deal programmes.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member’s portfolio.

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COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS BAKER, HUGO AND JACKSON

This report updates the Council on the work of the Combined Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is made up of 25 Councillors (19 representatives from Lancashire County Council, three from Blackburn with Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met on three occasions, 20 February, 24 April and 26 June 2023. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of those meetings and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 20 FEBRUARY 2023

1. Chairman's welcome and introduction

On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman acknowledged the bravery and commitment of Lancashire Firefighters who were amongst those deployed to Turkey as part of the UK's International Search and Rescue Team following the recent earthquakes in Southern Turkey and neighbouring Syria. Members noted that 77 firefighters from across the UK went to Turkey (including 4 dogs) who were deployed really quickly; with 6 of the Firefighters and 2 dogs from Lancashire. The dogs had been crucial to scent live casualties and the team effected successful rescues.

The Chairman presented the Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer to the Authority, Mr Keith Mattinson with a clock in recognition of his long service, dedication and hard work. The Authority applauded Mr Mattinson and extended their best wishes to him for the future. Members had been involved in running the recruitment process last year and Mr Steven Brown would be starting in the role at the end of the month.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Rick Scott who had replaced Councillor Tony Williams on the Authority from Blackpool Council.

2. Pay policy statement for 2023/2024

In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 a pay policy statement for 2023/24 was considered and approved. The pay policy published data on senior salaries and

the structure of the workforce and demonstrated the principles of transparency. The pay policy statement set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its chief officers; the remuneration of its lowest paid employees; and the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and that of other employees who were not chief officers.

3. Financial strategy including revenue budget 2023/24 - 2027/28

The Financial Strategy encompassed: the Treasury Management Strategy, Reserves and Balances Policy, the Capital Strategy and Budget and the Revenue Budget.

The Authority considered and approved a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2023/24 of £68.183m. The Authority considered and approved council tax options for 2023/24 which met the requirements to deliver a balanced budget and maintain an adequate level of reserves and determined a £5.00 increase (6.4%, 10 pence per week) resulting in a council tax of £82.27 for a Band D property.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 24 APRIL 2023

1. Chairman's Welcome And Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Mr Steven Brown as the new Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer to the Authority.

2. UK's International Search and Rescue Team - Deployment To Turkey

Group Manager Mark Warwick and Crew Manager Lindsay Sielski attended to provide a presentation to Members on the UK's International Search and Rescue Team (ISAR) deployment to Southern Turkey which had been discussed at the last meeting.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) had been a member of UK International Search and Rescue (ISAR) for a number of years and had been deployed to many countries to provide humanitarian support to unexpected disasters. This incident was a quick, same day deployment to Turkey following a huge earthquake on the morning of 6 February 2023. The team consisted of 77 firefighters from across the UK, 4 dogs, structural engineers and medical teams. There were around 6,000 ISAR personnel attending from across the world to help, working alongside local people who provided intelligence and aid. LFRS had 6 firefighters who were part of the UK ISAR team. These volunteers were vaccinated, had undergone rigorous and ongoing training (on processes and equipment) to gain specialist

knowledge and skills to operate in hazardous conditions and were available to respond at short notice on behalf of the Government Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

On arrival the team set up base, electronic communications were down and moving around the collapsed buildings and rubble was a challenge. In addition, Turkey continued to be hit by thousands of after-shocks with risk assessments needing to be fluid. Senses were overwhelmed by dust and people in disarray. The dogs were a great asset and did not let the team down. They were able to cover large areas of ground which reduced the risk to firefighters and they were able to find signs of life to provide those searching with information to assist with digging locations.

The Authority applauded the efforts of the highly motivated and dedicated ISAR teams.

3. Operational Incidents of Interest

Members noted the increased likelihood of lithium-Ion power sources finding their way into waste recycling plants which thereby increased fire risk. This issue was a challenge for the industry given lithium-ion batteries emitted toxic gasses, were unstable when damaged and could auto-ignite. Battery packs used in electric vehicles were large however, incidents were often from smaller batteries such as used in e-cigarettes, e-scooters and many other household devices. Many waste sites screened waste to identify the presence of power sources and sift them out however the prevalence from a myriad of appliances which used them resulted in some finding their way into the system. This was a national issue which required end-to-end analysis to improve processes together with support from the Fire Sector and Environmental Agency to reduce fire risk.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 26 JUNE 2023

1. Combined Fire Authority Annual Meeting

The meeting held 26 June was the Authority's Annual Meeting and Members appointed County Councillors D O'Toole and J Shedwick as Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority respectively for 2023/24.

2. Composition Of The Combined Fire Authority

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2023/24 included 2 new Members, Loraine Cox from Lancashire County Council and Graham Baker from Blackpool Council.

3. Safety During Hajj Campaign

The Authority was advised that the Service expected thousands of Lancashire residents to travel for Hajj (an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia). Therefore, a unique safety-focused UK initiative had been developed with partners (Lancashire Constabulary, Public Health Blackburn with Darwen Council, Lancashire County Council Public Health and The Lancashire Council of Mosques) to produce information that supported people to enjoy the experience and remain safe during and after their journey back home to Lancashire.

An overview of the 'Safety During Hajj Campaign' was presented for information. It was noted that the campaign included a 45-minute presentation which added to religious and cultural information developed by scholars to integrate fire safety information and broader safety information such as what to prepare beforehand, health information and how to keep safe in unfamiliar surroundings amongst a huge volume of people in the locality. The presentation had been delivered to 12 places within Lancashire and 58 organisations across the western world with positive feedback received.

CC Shedwick had attended a Hajj Safety launch event on 2 June 2023 at the Jamia Masjid Ibrahim UK Islamic Mission in Burnley which was opened by Lord Wajid Khan (Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hajj and Umrah). He commended ACFO Charters, and Mr Patel, Community Safety Advisor for leading this initiative. The presentation delivered at the event was very informative and well received.

ACFO Charters and Mr Patel later attended a live show on Pendle Radio where people were able to dial in. There had been a lot of interest including from organisations with callers from across Europe (France, Belgium and Spain) and from people who had arrived in Mecca.

4. Annual Safety, Health And Environment Report 2022/23

The Authority noted that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance.

In March 2023 the auditor from British Assessment Bureau carried out a surveillance audit against health and safety standard ISO 45001:2018 and environment ISO 14001: 2015. The scope for both standards was 'The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire'. This broad scope encompassed all Service activities with audit visits to Service HQ site, Service Training Centre, four fire stations that operated different duty systems and to a number of supporting departments. Continued certification was granted without any (minor or major) non-conformance.

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2023

HONORARY ALDERMAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Following deferral at the last Council meeting, to consider, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether to make arrangements for a Special meeting of Council to confer upon recently retired councillors, who, in line with the criteria agreed by Council and wish to be put forward, to receive the title of 'Honorary Alderman'.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to hold a special meeting of Council to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' of the Borough of Blackpool under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to three former councillors:

- Don Clapham
- Gary Coleman
- Allan Matthews

the time and date of this to be agreed by the Mayor.

- 2.2 That the Group Leaders continue to meet to review the Civic Honours available in Blackpool and report back to a future meeting on any recommended changes.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To recognise long-serving councillors who have made an exceptional contribution to the Borough and their community during their time in office.

- 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 recommendations in this report meet all the Council's priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At the meeting of the Council on 25 November 2015, the Council agreed to adopt the award of Honorary Alderman of the Borough under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and it also agreed the process and criteria for such conferment.

5.2 The title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough, but who are no longer serving Members. There is no specific definition of 'eminent services', it being left to the discretion of the Council to assess and recognise any individual's contribution to the activities of the Council and the borough.

5.3 Whilst the award of Honorary Alderman of the Borough does not convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities, Honorary Aldermen support the office of Mayor and are invited to attend certain civic ceremonial events. A minimum of 15 years' service as a councillor was agreed as part of the criteria in November 2015 and that they had stood down prior to an election, as opposed to losing their seat at an election. The former councillors put forward have all served more than 15 years.

5.4 It would be expected that an Honorary Alderman would be invited to certain civic events, act as ambassador for the Council and promote civic pride within the borough. Honorary Aldermen would also be entitled to a car park permit and if appropriate use of a tram/ bus pass, operated by the Transport company.

5.5 In accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, nominees must receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting convened for that purpose and this report is to agree that a special meeting be set up for such purposes.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to confer the award of Honorary Alderman.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 There are no Human Resource considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 Badges of office will be purchased which can be met from within the current civic revenue budget. If the recommendation is approved then these will be ordered in time for the Special meeting.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There are no risk management considerations.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The conferring of such an award recognises the dedicated service the nominee will have made to the borough of Blackpool.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the Mayor and Group Leaders regarding this report and the holding of a special meeting. Consultation has also taken place with those former councillors who stood down at the last election and this report recommends a special meeting be arranged for those who wish to receive the award. Former Councillor Simon Blackburn does not wish to be considered for the award. The item was deferred at the last Council meeting however since that time former Councillor David Owen has also withdrawn from the process. No other former Councillors meet the criteria set out in paragraph 5.3.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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