

<b>Scrutiny Review Scope</b>	
<b>Proposed Title</b>	<b>Scoping Date</b>
Catch-Up/Recovery Premium Spend Review.	20 October 2021
<b>Criteria and reasons for selecting topic</b>	
To review how Blackpool schools have spent their Catch-up/Recovery premium funding from the government to consider if the funding has been utilised to ensure that children are able to catch-up any lost learning caused by the pandemic. In addition, to encourage and remind all local schools of the requirement to publish their spending information on their websites.	
<b>Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address?</b>	
Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.	
<b>What are the main objectives of the scrutiny?</b>	
To review how schools have used their Catch-Up Premium funding as well as their 2021/2022 Recovery Premium funding in order to determine if best use has been made of the available funds and if clear rationale can be provided as to the decision making process.	
<b>What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?</b>	
Assurance that sufficient criteria measures are in place to identify best use of government funding to assist pupils in catching up on lost learning as a result of the pandemic and to ensure future funding is utilised appropriately.	
<b>How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)</b>	
No general public involvement but appropriate school representatives and governors will be contacted for their views.	
<b>How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?</b>	
Ensuring efficient use of government Covid-19 funding.	
<b>What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?</b>	
Schools' published data on expenditure and the criteria used to allocate spending, where data has not been published as required it will be sought directly from schools.	
<b>What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.</b>	
'Catch-Up Premium Funding' and 'Recovery Premium Funding' Department for Education guidance publications for schools.	
<b>Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?</b>	
Paul Turner, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education, SEND and Early Years)	
<b>What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?</b>	
The Panel might wish to speak to headteachers and governors at schools to gather additional information. Views could potentially be sought via email should time/availability not allow them to attend the meeting in person or remotely.	
<b>What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?</b>	
A preliminary meeting is proposed to undertake analysis of the data presented. A follow-up meeting will then be held with school representatives.	

**Timescales / likely duration of enquiry**

Commencing December 2021 with a view to completion by the end of January 2022.

**Lead Scrutiny Officer**

Elaine Ireland

**Scrutiny Panel Members**

Cllr Paula Burdess  
Cllr Kim Critchley  
Cllr Martin Mitchell  
Cllr Rick Scott  
Ms Jo Snape