

# **Council Forum**

**Thursday, 06 October 2016**

**18:00**

**Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall,**

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## **AGENDA**

### **PART I: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC**

- 1 Chief Executive to read the notice convening the meeting**
- 2 Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain**
- 3 Apologies for absence**
- 4 Minutes of the Council Forum meeting of 21st July 2016 3 - 8**  
**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 5 Declarations of Interest in Items on this Agenda**  
If a Member requires advice on any items involving a possible Declaration of Interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Phil Llewellyn at least 24 hours before the meeting.  
**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM 9 - 10**
- 6 Award of Civic Service Award to former Councillor Paul Browne**
- 7 Mayoral Communications**
- 8 Public Forum**  
To receive written questions or statements submitted by members of the public no later than 4.00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.
- 9 To consider motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**  
No motions have been received.
- 10 Acceptance of the Government's 4 Year Grant Settlement Offer 11 - 22**
- 11 Appointment of Independent Persons and Independent Members (Standards Committee) 23 - 28**

<b>12</b>	<b>Electoral Review 2016-17 - Council Size</b>	<b>29 - 34</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018</b>	<b>35 - 38</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Report of the Chair and Vice Chair of Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>39 - 40</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios</b>	
<b>15.1</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>41 - 44</b>
<b>15.2</b>	<b>Regeneration</b>	<b>45 - 46</b>
<b>15.3</b>	<b>Health and Adult Social Care</b>	<b>47 - 48</b>
<b>15.4</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>	<b>49 - 50</b>
<b>15.5</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>51 - 52</b>
<b>15.6</b>	<b>Leisure, Culture and Young People</b>	<b>53 - 56</b>
<b>15.7</b>	<b>Neighbourhood and Prevention Services</b>	<b>57 - 58</b>
<b>15.8</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>59 - 60</b>
<b>15.9</b>	<b>Schools and Education</b>	<b>61 - 62</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>DRAFT Year Planner 2017-2018 v2</b>	<b>63 - 66</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11</b>	

## **PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

### **PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

There are not items to be considered under Part 2.

Date Published: Thursday, 29 September 2016  
Harry Catherall, Chief Executive

**COUNCIL FORUM**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016**

Item 4

**PRESENT** – *The Mayor Councillor Akhtar H., (in the Chair), Councillors; Akhtar P., Ali, Bateson, Brookfield, Connor, Daley, Davies, Entwistle, Fazal, Foster D., Foster K., Gee, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood A., Mahmood Q., Marrow, McGurk, McFall, McKinlay, Mulla, Murray, Nuttall, Oates, Patel, Pearson, Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Roberts, Shorrock, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John., Slater Julie, Slater Neil, Smith D., Smith J., Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Taylor, Vali Whittle and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**12     Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

**13     Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Casey, Desai, Harling, Hollings, Johnson, Lee and Maxfield.

**14     Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and the Annual Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

Council received and confirmed the minutes of the Council Forum meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and Annual Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Council Forum meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April and the Annual Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May be agreed as a correct record.

**15     Notice of Motion**

The Chief Executive announced that one Notice of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12:

**HATE CRIME**

Item 4  
*“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.*

*Blackburn with Darwen Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.”*

The Motion was Moved by Cllr Mohammed Khan and seconded by Cllr Phil Riley. At this point Councillor Connor asked to Move an amendment to the Motion to read as follows:

*“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. Our council condemns such crimes and deplores the increase in intolerant behaviour towards people from overseas who live and work here. We are proud to live in a diverse and cohesive country and borough which has always made welcome those from other nation states”. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.*

*Blackburn with Darwen Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.*

*This Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the borough’s Members of Parliament to express our concerns.*

Following some debate and comments from some Members, Councillor Connor requested a revision to his amendment to only insert the last sentence:

*This Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the Borough’s Members of Parliament to express our concerns.”*

The Motion then read as follows:

*“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.*

*Blackburn with Darwen Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.*

Item 4

*This Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the Borough's Members of Parliament to express our concerns."*

Following some debate Councillor David Foster advised that his Group were content with the amended Motion, and Councillor Khan accepted the amendment to his original Motion, and the Council moved to the vote on the substantive Motion.

The amended Motion was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** – That the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the Borough's Members of Parliament expressing Members concerns as outlined in the substantive Motion.

## **16     Constitution and pay policy update**

Council received a report of the Director of HR, Legal & Corporate Services advising that the Constitution had been updated following changes in organisational structure previously noted and agreed, statutory changes, changes to the delegations following the structural changes and amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to officers in respect of planning applications as agreed by the Council on 1st October 2015.

Approval was also sought to adopt the revised terms of reference for the Audit and Governance Committee and agree the changes to the membership. The report also outlined the change to the Pay Policy agreed at Finance Council.

**RESOLVED –**

That Council approved:

- a) The amendments made to the Constitution to reflect the resolutions/decisions made at full Council since April 2015:
- b) The amendments made to the Constitution to reflect changes to the portfolios, the senior management structure, the delegations and legislative changes;

- c) The amendments to the terms of reference for <sup>Item 4</sup> Audit and Governance Committee set out in the Constitution.
- d) The amendment to the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee as set out in this report.
- e) The revisions to the Pay Policy.

## **17 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee**

A report of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee was presented to Council.

### **RESOLVED –**

That the report of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

## **18 Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios**

Council Forum received and considered reports of the Leader and Executive Member with Portfolios. These were considered as follows: Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention Services, Resources, Schools and Education, and Regeneration.

In moving his report, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, outlined his hopes that the new Chancellor and Central Administration would continue to help and support Combined Authorities in the North West.

The Executive Member for Children's Services, Councillor Maureen Bateson, in submitting her report, made reference to the Investors in Children award the Children's Services had received indicating that the team was one of only a few in the country to have received this accolade.

Councillor Jim Smith, the Executive Member for Environment, thanked Environmental Investigation staff for the number of successful prosecutions that had taken place, advising Members that cameras would be pro-actively used in the forthcoming weeks to support further prosecutions. He also wished to thank the 300<sup>th</sup> litter picking volunteer.

Item 4

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Prevention Services, Councillor Arshid Mahmood was asked if there was a possibility of commissioning the Council's CCTV services on a commercial basis to other boroughs.

**RESOLVED** – that the reports of the Leader, Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention Services, Resources, Schools and Education and Regeneration be noted.

## **19     Corporate Plan 2016 – 2019**

Members were advised that in 2012, Policy Council agreed the Corporate Plan for 2013-2015 and Policy Council 2013 reaffirmed the six corporate priorities that drive the Council's business and ensure that improved outcomes are achieved for residents.

It was further explained that in December 2014, Policy Council agreed to continue to deliver the six strategic priorities and portfolio priorities for one further year (2015/16) and in December 2015, Policy Council again re-affirmed the Council's top six corporate priorities and agreed the adoption of four new long term strategic themes that will be distilled into every portfolio to complement the corporate priorities.

The report submitted outlined the Corporate Plan 2016-2019 and requested its approval at the Council Forum.

**RESOLVED** – That Council Forum adopt the Council's Corporate Plan, its summary and technical appendices for 2016-2019.

## **20     2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) update.**

A report was submitted which provided an update on the 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/20 and which presented information for consideration and decision on proposed to achieve the remaining savings for 2016/17.

The following charges were proposed to contribute to the required budget savings:

- Introduction of charges for green waste collection.
- Introduction of alternate weekly residual waste collection.

- Revisions of the Blue Badge parking arrangements.
- Changes to car park charges at Witton Country Park and the reintroduction of charges for Council owned car parks at weekends.

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The report submitted also provided an update on the ongoing workforce review.

Members debated at some length several elements of the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. In the absence of any alternative budgets/ strategies being proposed, Council voted on the Medium Term Financial Strategy update.

## **RESOLVED –**

That Council Forum

1. Noted the financial assumptions on which the 2016/17 budget and MTFS is based.
2. Noted the reduced projected level of reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 outlined in the report.
3. Approved the introduction of charges for green waste as outlined in section 5.1 of the report.
4. Approved the introduction of alternate weekly collections as outlined in section 5.2 of the report.
5. Approved the revision to blue badge parking arrangements as outlined in section 5.3 of the report.
6. Approved the introduction of car parking charges at Witton Country Park and the removal of free weekend car parking on council owned car parks as outlined in section 5.4 of the report.
7. Noted the actions taken to ensure delivery of the workforce related savings required for 2016/17 as outlined in section 5.5 of the report.

## **21 Questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11.**

Council noted that no questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 11.

Signed at a meeting of the Council  
on the                      day of  
(being the next ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR



## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

**Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.**

**Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.**

MEETING: **COUNCIL FORUM**

DATE: **6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)





**REPORT OF:** Executive Member for Resources

**LEAD OFFICERS:** Director of Finance and IT

**DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 4 YEAR GRANT SETTLEMENT OFFER**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As part of the December 2015 Spending Review, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) made an offer to councils to take up a 4 year funding settlement for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

To accept this offer an email confirmation must be sent to DCLG by 14<sup>th</sup> October including a link to an Efficiency Plan; the Secretary of State has not issued any guidance on what an efficiency plan should contain but has stated that it must cover the full 4 year period.

The Government does not expect the production of the plan to be a significant burden on councils and has said that it should be simple and straightforward, drawing together existing corporate plans and strategies. The plan can be linked to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) provided it can articulate how provision of a greater clarity around funding can deliver further savings to produce a balanced budget.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is recommended;

1. To accept the Government's 4 year funding offer as it will create certainty over a significant part of the Council's future resources and will allow the Council to develop and deliver against the MTFS
2. To submit the MTFS, approved by Finance Council on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016, as its Efficiency Plan in order to satisfy the conditions of acceptance of the 4 year funding settlement for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

**3. BACKGROUND**

As part of the 2016/17 Spending Review and Local Government Settlement, an offer was made to all Councils of a 4 year funding settlement up to 2019/20.

The purpose of this offer is to help local authorities to achieve a greater certainty in their funding over the period, to strengthen financial management and to provide stability to enable more proactive planning of their service delivery.

The offer made by the Government is as follows:

"On 9 February we provided summaries and breakdown figures for each year to your s151 Officer. From those figures the relevant lines that are included in the multi-year settlement offer, where appropriate, are:

- Revenue Support Grant;
- Transitional Grant; and
- Rural Services Delivery Grant allocations.

#### Item 10

In addition, tariffs and top-ups in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 will not be altered for reasons related to the relative needs of local authorities, and in the final year may be subject to the implementation of 100% business rates retention.

The Government is committed to local government retaining 100% of its business rate revenues by the end of this Parliament. This will give them control over an additional £13 billion of tax that they collect.

To ensure that the reforms are fiscally neutral local government will need to take on extra responsibilities and functions. DCLG and the Local Government Association will soon be publishing a series of discussion papers which will inform this and other areas of the reform debate.

The new burdens doctrine operates outside the settlement, so accepting this offer will not impact on any new burden payments agreed over the course of the four years.

The Government will also need to take account of future events such as the transfer of functions to local government, transfers of responsibility for functions between local authorities, mergers between authorities and any other unforeseen events. However, barring exceptional circumstances and subject to the normal statutory consultation process for the local government finance settlement, the Government expects these to be the amounts presented to Parliament each year”.

No guidance has been issued from Government on the format or content of these Efficiency Plans but it must cover the full 4 year period. The Government does not expect this to be a significant burden on Councils and intends it to be simple and straightforward, drawing together existing corporate plans and strategies. The plan can be linked to the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy but must demonstrate how this greater certainty of funding will deliver opportunities for further savings.

## 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

### 4.1 Financial Implications of Accepting the 4 year settlement

Over the past few years the Grant Settlement figure has been volatile and difficult to predict given the continuation in the government’s austerity programme; this has made budgeting and future service delivery planning difficult, especially over the medium to longer term.

The provision of indicative 4 year settlement figures in the 2016/17 funding announcement provided more clarity on which to base our MTFS and as such these were the figures that were incorporated into the MTFS presented to Finance Council in February 2016 for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

The following table sets out the details of the settlement for Blackburn with Darwen of which the Revenue Support Grant, which is set to reduce from £28.85 million in 2016/17 to £13.31 million by 2019/20, is included in the multi-year offer;

	2016/17 £'mill	2017/18 £'mill	2018/19 £'mill	2019/20 £'mill
Revenue Support Grant	28.85	22.30	17.84	13.31
Baseline Funding Level	40.79	41.59	42.82	44.18
Settlement Funding Allocation	69.64	63.89	60.66	57.49
Top-up funding	17.98	18.33	18.87	19.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87.62</b>	<b>82.22</b>	<b>79.53</b>	<b>76.97</b>

### 4.2 Efficiency Plan

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The impact of the above settlement is detailed in the MTFS; i.e. the reduction in resources, together with the

other financial pressures facing the council has resulted in a forecast funding gap of £48 million by 2019/20.

The MTFS outlines how the Council intends to close this gap through a combination of measures including;

- growth in the number of houses and businesses in the borough, Item 10
- through increases in income, Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept,
- through the short term use of reserves to address specific funding 'pinch points' and, most significantly,
- through a programme of savings plans which include the Workforce Review.

As such the MTFS forms the Efficiency Plan that would be submitted to DCLG if Council agrees that the offer should be accepted. (The MTFS paper is attached at Appendix A for reference.)

### **4.3 Risks**

In deciding whether to accept the 4 year offer or not, there are both advantages and disadvantages to consider;

#### **Advantages**

- The offer provides greater financial certainty as the funding received will not be less than that outlined in the final settlement (unless exceptional circumstances prevail) and it will not be subject to the usual yearly process of determining the local government finance settlement.
- As such this would provide greater financial stability and the ability to plan now for future years
- The Government has 'suggested' that if additional savings are required over the 4 year period, those Councils who have not signed up to the offer would be the first port of call for any grant reductions
- Further reductions are limited to those caused by 'exceptional' circumstances

#### **Disadvantages**

- Future grant allocations (i.e. beyond 2019/20) could be based upon the 'accepted' base grant level
- Despite accepting the 4 year settlement, further reductions could still be made due to the 'exceptional' circumstances caveat in the offer

The allocations stated in the 4 year offer are subject to the normal statutory consultation process for the local government finance settlement; however the Government expects these to be the amounts presented to Parliament each year.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Accepting the 4 year settlement offer will provide key funding level information which will be incorporated into the budget setting process for 2017/18 and in an updated MTFS. The budget process is the mechanism by which the Council allocates resources so that it can achieve its policy objectives agreed at Policy Council.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of the decision are outlined in the report above i.e. a reduction in RSG of £15.54 million (from £28.85 million in 2016/17 to £13.31 million in 2019/20). This reduction has already been factored into the Council's MTFS for 2016/17 to 2019/20 and is reflected in the budget gap of £48 million detailed therein.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has not previously been invited to decide whether or not to accept a particular payment arrangement for the Revenue Support Grant as such matters are normally determined by Central Government; nor has any guidance been provided as to how that decision should be reached.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council's Constitution set out the parameters of the decision making process in respect of the Council's budget. It is considered that this decision falls within the Council's

budget and policy framework, in that it affects future years finance and forms part of the Medium Term Budget Strategy; as such it is considered a matter to be decided by Full Council.

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### 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Council will continue to work closely with its staff and with Trades Unions to ensure that all savings proposals that impact on staff numbers, will be managed in accordance with both statutory requirements and the Council's change management and redundancy policies and associated guidance.

### 9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

All proposals where appropriate are subject to an Equality Impact Assessment before implementation.

### 10. CONSULTATIONS

The Council is committed to consultation with residents, businesses and partners and stakeholders.

### 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

### 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

<b>VERSION:</b>	0.01
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Louise Mattinson
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<b>DATE:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	Medium Term Financial Strategy (Report to Finance Council February 2016)
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## **APPENDIX A**

### **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016 to 2020**

#### **1.0 Purpose**

1. Robust medium term financial planning is essential in the current economic environment. Ensuring the ongoing stability of budgets allows managers to plan over the longer term for their services and ensures that resources are deployed in the most effective way to achieve greater efficiency and to align their resources with the priorities of the Council. In this way viable, effective services can continue to be provided to local people.
2. The purpose of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is to set the financial framework for the Council for the medium term (over the next 4 years), to ensure delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and major projects. This requires review and assessment of their impact on revenue budgets, the capital programme, levels of reserves and potential future council tax levels, based on funding projections and other financial and economic assumptions.
3. The MTFS forms a key link between financial and business planning, both reflecting and influencing the key plans of the Council, including:
  - Corporate Plan,
  - Asset Management Plan,
  - ICT Strategy,
  - Treasury Management Strategy,
  - Carbon Management Plan and
  - People Strategy
  - Growth Strategy
4. This MTFS aims to re-align scarce resources on key priorities which have been developed following public consultation as the Council remains committed to consulting with its residents, businesses, stakeholders and partners.

#### **2.0 Local Context**

1. The MTFS underpins the Council's Corporate Plan, which was agreed by elected members at Policy Council in December 2015, and sets out for residents, staff and partners, the Council's top priorities for the next four years and how the Council will continue to improve services and prepare for the ongoing and difficult financial challenges ahead.
2. The Council's six priority objectives for residents are:
  - Creating more **jobs** and supporting business growth
  - Improving **housing** quality and building more houses
  - Improving **health and wellbeing**
  - Improving outcomes for our **young people** – education and skills
  - Safeguarding the most **vulnerable people**
  - **Making your money go further** – supporting households in difficult financial times through efficient and effective use of council tax

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To support the delivery of these priority objectives the Council will be:

- **Working together** with residents, businesses and partners - developing local solutions via local problem solving
- Managing the **impact** of national reforms on residents and the Council –particularly around the welfare system, health services and educational provision Item 10
- Delivering **high quality services** by being a well-managed authority which is fit for the future, efficient and effective and continuing to use the best possible business models to deliver excellent services

The continuing reductions in government funding will affect the Council and the services that it provides to the public. The Council is however, committed to mitigating wherever possible the impact on front line services.

As a unitary authority there are many competing priority areas across the service portfolios. The challenge in this financial climate to deliver the strategy over the medium term will largely depend on the continued success of reprioritisation of services and realignment of resources (both between and within portfolios), to meet key priorities and to deliver efficiencies within the financial restraints imposed by central government. This may mean further re-engineering of the way in which services are provided or indeed, who provides them.

### 3.0 Financial Context

1. Through successive Autumn Statements and Spending Reviews the Chancellor has indicated that there will be spending cuts across public services until the public finances are in surplus. Local government in England is now five and a half years into a period of public sector austerity, which will continue until at least 2019/20 as outlined in the Chancellor's Autumn Comprehensive Spending Review in 2015 and confirmed in the Local Government Finance Settlement of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
2. This MTFS therefore has been prepared against the backdrop of a difficult economic climate which continues to impact upon businesses and citizens of the Borough, and which places pressure on Council services to respond. The Council's strategy, underpinned by the MTFS, is to help to support those in hardship whilst encouraging the growth of jobs and businesses.

### 4.0 MTFS – Key issues and assumptions

An updated, summary MTFS was presented to Council Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, based on assumptions and information available at that time but most significantly, prior to the receipt of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement which was announced later on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The Budget gap reported on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and the resulting impact of the settlement, is as follows;

	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
<b>MTFS Budget Deficit reported to Council Forum 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>29,900</b>	<b>35,300</b>	<b>38,800</b>
Increase in deficit due to decrease in Government Funding available following notification of settlement (i.e. further decrease over and above that already factored into MTFS assumptions at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015)	1,800	5,000	6,300	9,000
<b>Projected MTFS Budget Deficit</b>	<b>26,600</b>	<b>34,900</b>	<b>41,600</b>	<b>47,800</b>

Faced with a forecast deficit rising to almost £48 million by 2019/20, options have been developed to close the budget gap and are recommended for approval in Section 2 of the main report.



Whilst some actions have already been agreed, such as the Year 2 and Year 3 savings within the 3 Year Savings Programme agreed by Council in September 2014, others to deliver a balanced budget in 2016/17 are detailed earlier in the report.

Item 10

In preparing the MTFS for the financial years beyond 2016/17 through to 2019/20 however, various assumptions have been made, including the options proposed, and these are outlined below;

## **5.0 MTFS key issues and assumptions - Resources and Funding**

The key figures and assumptions included within the MTFS in relation to Resources and Funding levels are as follows;

### **5.1 Local Government Finance Settlement**

Within the Local Government Finance Settlement issued on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the government has provided an estimate of the settlement for the following 3 years – 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. Should a Council wish to accept and sign-up to the 4 year settlement, they have until 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to do so, by which time the monitoring arrangements for such an agreement will have been developed and be understood.

The indicative funding levels have been incorporated into the MTFS to produce a Summary of Resources for the 4 financial years 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 as follows;

<b>Resources</b>	<b>2016/17 £M</b>	<b>2017/18 £M</b>	<b>2018/19 £M</b>	<b>2019/20 £M</b>
Revenue Support Grant	28.9	22.3	17.8	13.3
Top Up	18.0	18.3	18.9	19.5
New Homes Bonus	1.8	1.8	1.1	1.1
Council Tax and Housing Benefit Admin Grant	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Business Rates related grants	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Education Services Grant (ESG)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Better Schools Fund PFI funding	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
<b>Total Government Resources</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>46.7</b>

### **5.2 Council Tax**

Despite maintaining Council Tax at its 2010/11 level for the past 5 years, given the withdrawal of Council Tax Freeze Grant, the Council is proposing to increase Council Tax in 2016/17 to assist in closing the budget gap. The proposed increases are;

- 1.99% in relation to general increases in the cost of Council services and
- 2.00% to meet the costs of Adult Social Care

The MTFS assumes that the same level of increases will be applied in each of the following 3 years.

### **5.3 Growth Agenda**

As detailed in the main report, the Council is committed to contributing to the delivery of the Local Strategic Partnership's 'Plan for Prosperity 2014 - 2020' for the Borough which will deliver 3,250 additional homes over the period and an extra 100,000sqm of new commercial floor space. This will in turn generate additional revenue for the Council in terms of additional Council Tax and additional Business Rates income.

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Within the budget for 2016/17 and the MTFS through to 2019/20, additional Council Tax and Business Rates income has been assumed as follows;

Additional Revenue;	Item 10			
	2016/17 £'000s	2017/18 £'000s	2018/19 £'000s	2019/20 £'000s
Council Tax and New Homes Bonus	-	720	1,905	2,711
Business Rates	-	115	160	300
<b>TOTAL Growth Income</b>	-	<b>835</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>3,011</b>

## 5.4 Business Rates

In respect of Business Rates, although the government will undertake a review of the distribution or 'needs' formula in the lead up to the proposed introduction of 100% Business Rates Retention, the MTFS has assumed that apart from the impact of growth as noted above, the current arrangements will remain in place over the period of the MTFS.

## 5.5 Education Services Grant Funding (ESG), Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Pupil Premium

In announcing the provisional settlement back in December, the Chancellor referred to the government's intention that all schools should attain academy status by the end of the current parliament. However, given that there is little information on this or on the timescale or phasing for schools within the Borough, this has not been reflected in the MTFS; it has been assumed that this funding will remain at the levels for 2016/17 for the remainder of the period.

## 5.6 Public Health

The MTFS assumes that any reduction in funding following the introduction of a new formula to redistribute funding across local authorities (currently out to consultation), will be offset by a corresponding decrease in expenditure. Therefore funding has been included in the MTFS for 2018/19 and 2019/20 at the rate confirmed for 2017/18.

## 6.0 MTFS key issues and assumptions - Expenditure

### 6.1 Pensions

The triennial actuarial valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme is due in 2016 and any adjustments to pension rates will be applied with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. However, in the absence of any information on indicative rates, it has been assumed within the MTFS that pension contributions will remain at the current levels.

### 6.2 Demand Pressures and Savings Options

Demand pressures which will impact on the Council throughout the period of the MTFS are referred to in the main body of the report, together with savings plans and options which are also detailed in Appendix C. The MTFS assumes delivery of the third year of the 3 Year Savings Programme in 2017/18.

It is also assumed that apart from delivery of the proposed savings options, any increase in demand and other cost pressures arising will be contained within the available budget.

### 6.3 Pay Awards

Future pay awards are not certain; as such a 1% pay award has been built into the MTFS for each of the next 4 years.

The MTFS also reflects the introduction of the new Apprenticeship Levy to be introduced from April 2017. Item 10

#### 6.4 Price inflation

Specific price inflation has been included in each year of the MTFS for items such as utilities, waste and agreed contract price inflation however for 'general consumables', price inflation, it has been assumed that this will be contained within or met from existing budgets and cash limits.

#### 6.5 Interest rates and borrowing

The MTFS reflects both the forecast interest rates (both on borrowing and investment) as outlined in the report on Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2016/17, and the extent and phasing of the Capital Programme in terms of both forecast expenditure and forecast capital receipts.

### 7.0 Four Year Financial Forecast - Summary

In light of the financial challenges faced by the Council, this has been a very difficult budget setting exercise to complete as the government's austerity measures have been extended beyond the initial period indicated and will now continue through to 2019/20.

Faced with a forecast deficit rising to almost £48 million by 2019/20, proposals and measures have been developed to address the budget gap over the period of the MTFS and can be summarised as follows;

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Total projected deficit following receipt of Local Government Finance Settlement (Feb 2016)</b>	<b>26,600</b>	<b>34,900</b>	<b>41,600</b>	<b>47,800</b>
<b>Updated projections to close the gap</b>				
MRP (capital repayment) Policy change approved at Council Forum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015	(1,600)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Revised assumptions and updated cost/income information including pay and price inflation, interest rates, council tax and business rates in respect of growth agenda etc.	(6,300)	(5,700)	(7,500)	(9,800)
Year 2 and 3 of Advanced Savings Programme agreed in September 2014	(6,700)	(10,200)	(10,200)	(10,200)
Commercial Strategy Savings (Increased fees & charges)	(500)	(1,000)	(1,500)	(2,000)
Workforce Review Savings	(3,000)	(9,000)	(13,000)	(13,000)
<b>Revised MTFS Budget Deficit subtotal</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>11,300</b>

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<b>Options recommended to Finance Council to close the gap</b>				
Proposed Council Tax increase - assumed general increase of 1.99%	(800)	(1,700)	(2,600)	(3,500)
Proposed Council Tax increase re Adult Social Care functions - assumed 2% increase	(900)	(1,700)	(2,600)	(3,600)
2016/17 Additional Savings Programme	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)
Use of Reserves – general and earmarked	(3,200)	(200)	-	-
<b>Proposed MTFS Budget Deficit Position</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>(900)</b>	<b>600</b>

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Taking into consideration the assumptions and figures referred to above and in the main body of the report, together with the savings options both agreed and proposed, the MTFS for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 is as follows;

### MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST 2016/17 TO 2019/20

#### Summary

	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	£ 000's	£ 000's	£ 000's	£ 000's
<b>Resources</b>				
Government (non-ringfenced) grants	61,638	55,183	50,605	46,623
Business rates retained locally	22,928	23,387	23,972	24,571
Council tax	44,080	45,833	47,656	49,551
Add collection fund surplus from 2015/16	359	0	0	0
Contribution from reserves	3,217	250	0	0
<b>Total resources</b>	<b>132,222</b>	<b>124,653</b>	<b>122,233</b>	<b>120,745</b>

<b>Net Expenditure</b>				
Portfolio cash limited budgets net of savings targets (3 year Savings Programme and those proposed in 2016/17 Budget paper)	106,774	96,374	91,934	91,434
Net income from support service recharges	(2,653)	(1,291)	(1,291)	(1,291)
Cost of capital investment	22,993	23,980	23,929	23,976
Central contingencies	4,681	5,729	6,556	7,049

Parish Precepts	182	182	182	182
Contribution to reserves	0	0	0	Item 40
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>132,222</b>	<b>124,974</b>	<b>121,310</b>	<b>121,350</b>
<b>BUDGET SHORTFALL / (SURPLUS)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>(923)</b>	<b>605</b>

Item 10



**REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Item 11

**TO: COUNCIL FORUM**

**DATE: 6th October 2016**

**PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: ALL**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

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**SUBJECT: Appointment of Independent Persons and Independent Members**

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## **1. PURPOSE**

To recommend to Council Forum formal appointment of the Council's 2 Independent Persons and 2 Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1. To approve the reappointment of our existing Independent Person Alan Eastwood for a further period of 4 years until the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

2.2. To approve the appointment of a second Independent Person Stewart Wright for a period of 4 years until the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

2.3 To approve the reappointment of our existing Independent Members of the Standards Committee Paul Fletcher and Dr Tassadaq Hussain for a further period of 4 years until the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

### **Role of Independent Persons**

3.1 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'), arrangements must be put in place for the appointment by the Authority of at least one Independent Person. Essentially this must not be a current or former member of the Council or a relative or close friend of either of the aforementioned categories.

The Independent Person(s) views must be sought and taken into account by the Authority before it makes any decision on a formal complaint against an elected Member that it has decided to investigate. The Independent Person's views may be sought by a member or co-opted member of the Authority if that person's behaviour is the subject of an allegation and may also be sought by the Authority in relation to an allegation it has not yet decided to investigate.

The appointment must be made by full Council, following a publically advertised recruitment process.

#### Item 11

Following the appropriate recruitment and selection process, on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012 Council Forum approved the appointment of Alan Eastwood as the Council's Independent Person for a 4 year period.

This term of office has now been completed and further appointment is required.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 the Standards Committee resolved that the Committee receive the report and authorise the Monitoring Officer to advertise for and recruit a new Independent Person and recommend to the Annual Council, their appointment at the Annual Council, their appointment at the meeting in May 2016.

Unfortunately this deadline could not be met.

Given the number of roles that the Independent Person may undertake the potential for conflict may arise. Accordingly, Council is recommended to appoint 2 Independent Persons. We previously had one. Having 2 will also provide resilience.

As previously, the appointments will be for 4 years, until October 2020.

Following a further open and full recruitment process, involving public advertisement and interviews by a panel, the Council is recommended to reappointment Alan Eastwood for a further term of 4 years and Stewart Wright for the same period, who will be a new additional Independent Person.

### **Role of Independent members**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 the Standards Committee was asked to review and agree arrangements for the appointment of independent members of the Standards Committee.

There were 2 options as follows:

- to recommend to Annual Council to keep the existing independent member arrangements to continue for a second term of 4 years, with 2 terms being the maximum for all independent members.

or

- to authorise the Monitoring Officer to advertise for and recruit 2 new independent members and recommend to annual council, their appointment.

The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to establish a Code of Conduct for Members. This provides the mechanism by which the Council can ensure that it maintains the highest standards of ethical behaviour from its Members.



On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012, at Council Forum, the Council adopted its Code of Conduct for Members. This is based on the Model Code approved by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities ('AGMA').

Item 11

Our Code of Conduct includes details of our arrangements to deal with complaints.

The Composition of the Standards Committee is set out as follows:-

-9 Councillors (politically balanced – currently 7 Labour and 2 Conservatives)

-2 People who are not a Councillor or an Officer of the Council (Independent members) co-opted onto the Committee without voting rights.

-2 Members of Parish/Town Council co-opted on to the Committee and without voting rights

Paul Fletcher and Dr Tassadaq Hussain. were appointed as Independent Members by the Standards Committee at their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013, following local advertisement, recruitment and selection.

Over their term of office the said Independent Members have been very committed and have developed valuable experience.

Whilst Councillor members on the Standards Committee are appointed annually, Independent members serve for four years.

In order to demonstrate independence, the following categories of persons are excluded from applying to be an independent member:

- Anyone who has been an Officer of the Council during the past five years;
- Anyone who has been a Member of the Council during the past five years: or
- A close friend or relative of an Officer or Member.

The Hearings Panel of the Standards Committee requires at least 1 Independent Member.

Members of the Standards Committee were requested to consider whether a second term could be completed by Independent Members, should they be willing to continue with their appointment. This would be consistent with, for example, the independent members of the Crime and Police Panel for Lancashire, who serve for 4 years with a maximum of 2 terms of office.

The Standards Committee resolved that it be recommended to the meeting of the Annual Council to keep the existing independent Members arrangements to continue for a second term of four years, with two terms being the maximum for all independent members.

Furthermore the Independent Members have agreed they would be willing to complete another term of 4 years.

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#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

It is important that the candidates appointed have the relevant skills and experience to successfully carry out their roles. Appendix 1 sets out a summary of the candidates' experience and background .

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Independent Persons and Independent Members as part of the standards regime, are responsible for embedding compliance with The Code of Conduct which is included in our Constitution. The Constitution sets out the governance framework for local authorities, which provides the foundations for any local authority that aspires to be effective, progressive and successful.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Independent Person is paid £35 per hour. Some authorities pay an allowance and some an hourly rate

An allowance of £287.10 is payable for independent members of the Standards Committee as set out in the member allowance scheme. Furthermore, they are entitled to reimbursement of the expense of attending meetings. This is provided for within existing resources.

Should the Independent Members sit for another term this would avoid the time and cost of administering the recruitment and training process.

#### **11.LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 28(7) provides that arrangements must be put in place under which allegations can be investigated and action taken which must include provision for the appointment of at least one independent person. The Localism Act 2011 does not limit the number of independent persons who can be appointed by an authority. The role of Independent Person(s) is set out at paragraph 3 of this report.

The Legal background to appointment of independent members is set out in the body of the report

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

In the last 12 months there has not been any significant activity involving the Independent Person from a costs perspective.

#### **8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recruitment process was subject to the Council's equal opportunities, recruitment and selection policies.

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## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

The recruitment process has been in consultation with the Standards Committee.

CONTACT NUMBERS: David Fairclough, tel: 01254 585642  
Sian Roxborough, tel: 01254 585252

DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

Item 11



Item 12

**REPORT TO:** COUNCIL FORUM  
**FROM:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**ON:** THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

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**REPORT TITLE:** Electoral Review 2016-17 Stage one – Council size.

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To agree a submission for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on Council size.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report contains a proposal on Council size which Council is invited to endorse. It is recommended that Council:

- Authorise the Chief Executive to formally submit the proposal on Council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- Agree an independent review of Member's Allowances during 2017/18 in readiness for a new Council shape and size from May 2018.

### **3. BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL 2016 PROPOSAL**

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has 64 elected Members in 23 wards. The proposal is to reduce the Council size to 51 Members in 17 wards at the local government election due in 2018. It is considered that this number will ensure appropriate levels of Governance, Scrutiny and Community Leadership for the Council from 2018 and allows for the Authority to continue to elect its Members by thirds.

Several factors have been considered in forming the recommendations including, policy developments e.g. Localism, Transformation, Combined Authorities and the possibilities of further shared services and or devolution of powers, outsourcing and service delivery changes, corporate plan commitments and of course a future of continued financial constraint due to deficit reduction.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 as a result of identifying electoral imbalances, the Council received a letter from the Commission outlining their plans for an Electoral Review Intervention of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as part of the LGBCE Electoral Review Programme for 2017-18 (attached as Appendix 1).

Subsequently, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 the Leader and Chief Executive met with the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) Chair; Professor Colin Mellors and Chief Executive Jolyon Jackson to receive a briefing on Blackburn with Darwen Borough

Council Electoral Review. As part of these discussions there was an agreement to bring forward the timetable for the Review by 12 months in light of the fallow year (2017). This rationale should support the conclusion of a Review during 2017, and an Order to be laid before Parliament and a whole Council election in May 2018.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July representatives from the Commission (Peter Maddison, Lead Commissioner for the Blackburn with Darwen Review and Richard Buck, a Review Manager) came to Blackburn and met with the Party Leaders, this was followed by a briefing for all Members: The Commission advised that they have to be satisfied that the number of Councillors proposed going forward must be sufficient to ensure that three specific functions can be carried out namely Governance, Scrutiny and Community Representation. A cross party working group of Party Leaders has subsequently met, receiving updates on detail and the process.

It should be noted that the Council cannot take its own decisions on size or warding arrangements and must submit its proposals to the LGBCE at every stage. The LGBCE will consider and determine the proposals based on its own assessment of relevant factors. The Council can however take a view on how often it holds Borough Council elections; and it is recommended that the current arrangements of elections by thirds remains unchanged.

### Timetable

Draft Council Size submission deadline	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Boundary Commission decision on Council size	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Consultation on warding	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016 – 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Draft recommendations on warding arrangements	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Consultation on draft recommendations	11 <sup>th</sup> April – 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Final recommendations	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Implementation*	Elections in 2018*

Members have been provided with a copy of the full Review timetable from which it can be noted that once the LGBCE publish its proposals on Council size, the Council will then be in a position to consider potential new ward boundaries. Whilst the Council will engage with all parties to work on one submission, it should be noted that this does not exclude individuals or political groups from putting forward their own ideas. At every stage the LGBCE will consult widely seeking the views of a range of stakeholders.

\* It is for Council to note that we will not implement the new warding arrangements until the elections in 2018. Any by-elections prior to that will take place based on current ward boundaries.

The last Review of electoral arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen took place in June 2001 with final proposals being submitted in November 2003. Since the change from a Committee system to a Leader and Cabinet model, (Local Government Act 2000), decision making by the Authority continues to be much more streamlined and the time spent in decision making has been hugely reduced.

Whilst consideration of both pre and post decisions for Scrutiny, Planning and Licensing averages two and a half hours, the length of Executive Board meetings are relatively quite short. Regular briefings on key policy are, and will be, planned for Members, which informs the decision making process.

## **5. BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL – PROFILE**

Blackburn with Darwen is a unitary authority covering an area of 13,701 hectares and serving a population of 146,800. The Borough comprises the two main urban areas of Blackburn and Darwen with a surrounding rural area of six parishes and a five ward Town Council. Blackburn with Darwen now has a diverse manufacturing and service economy and is also a recognised market and retail centre. The Borough has excellent transport links to Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester with the M65 bisecting the Borough from east to west. The Borough contains six parishes, but Blackburn urban areas are unparished. Blackburn town comprises 75 per cent of the borough's total electorate.

The electorate of the Borough is 102,353 (August 2016). The Council currently has 64 Members who are elected from 23 wards, 19 of which are relatively urban with the remainder being predominantly rural. Nineteen of the wards are each represented by three Councillors, three are each represented by two Councillors and one is a single-Member ward. The Council is currently elected by thirds.

To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, the LGBCE will calculate, in percentage terms, the extent to which the number of electors per Councillor in each ward (the Councillor:/elector ratio) vary from the Borough average in percentage terms.

At present, each Councillor represents an average of 1599 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 1619 by the year 2023 if the present number of Councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes over the past two decades, the number of electors per Councillor in seven of the 23 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the Borough average. For example; in Audley and Mill Hill wards, where Councillors represent 22 per cent more electors and 17 per cent less electors than the Borough average, respectively.

## **6. BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL – GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING**

The Council's proposals have been formulated having regard to the LGBCE's technical guidance on electoral Reviews which indicates a view will be taken on Council size for an Authority by considering three areas: Governance arrangements; Scrutiny functions relating to its own decision making and the Council's responsibilities to Outside Bodies; and the representational role of Councillors in the local community and how they engage with local people, conduct casework and represent the Council on local partner organisations. These areas are briefly explored in the following paragraphs:

### **Leader and the Executive**

The Council operates an "executive arrangement" under the Local Government Act 2000 which is reflected in the Constitution. Under these arrangements the Council elects the Leader for a four year term who then appoints Members to form the Executive Board. Under the Constitution the Executive Board may consist of up to 10

members, including the Leader and Deputy Leader. The current Leader has appointed eight Members to serve on the Executive Board, each with a portfolio. 12 executive Members have individual executive decision-making powers within their portfolios. Including the Leader of the Main Opposition Party the Executive Board is comprised of ten Members in total.

### **Scrutiny process**

Under the Local Government Act 2000 local authorities with executive arrangements must have provisions for Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Council created six Committees to undertake the Overview and Scrutiny function. In 2011 the Council chose to move to three Committees increasing membership to 17 and in 2013 decided to increase the number of Committees to four and reduce membership to 11 Members on each Committee. In this current setup the Committees meet six times a year agreeing a planned workload at the beginning of the municipal cycle and a rolling work programme which is reviewed at each meeting. Scrutiny conducts most of its detailed work through the formation of working groups/task and finish groups which consist of a smaller number of Members. The progressive approach reflects an ambition to continually review effective performance monitoring arrangements.

### **Planning & Highways and Licencing Committees**

These are formal committees of the Council with delegated functions and a quasi-judicial role.

Planning & Highways - there are 15 Members appointed to the Planning and Highways Committee which meets 12 times per year. The Committee has delegated powers to determine planning applications which do not fall within officer delegated powers. Under the scheme of delegations most planning decisions are now made under officer delegated powers. The powers and delegated functions of officers and the Planning & Highways committee are detailed in the Constitution.

Licensing - there are 13 Members appointed to the Licensing Committee which meets four times a year. The majority of licensing applications/matters (taxi matters, alcohol licensing etc.) are determined by officers under delegated powers, unless there are grounds to refer to either the General Licensing or Licensing Act Sub Committee. Fifteen meetings are planned for at the beginning of each municipal year. Licensing sub Committees comprise 3 Members appointed from the main Committee.

### **Representative Councillor**

The role of ward and community Councillor has changed dramatically. Technology does and will have a significant role to play in enabling Councillors to communicate with their residents and communities. Also many residents who traditionally would have approached their local Councillor to access information can now do so directly.

Since the last boundary Review in 2003 the use and availability of technology by Members in discharging their representational role has increased year on year. This has been particularly accelerated in the last two years where, as part of the Council's 'agile working', Digital First" and transformation programmes, the supply and use of computer tablets and the availability of the "Your Call" app have provided Members with tools to make their representative role more efficient and effective.



Whilst there is no 'one size fits all' for how Councillors discharge their representative role and notwithstanding the significant challenges some areas of the Borough face with deprivation, there is a drive to embrace and improve a Digital First approach: This is telling from the number of e-mails Councillors now deal with on a daily basis, the volume of calls and e-mails our customer service teams manage and that fact that much information is readily available online. The Council's call centre volumes demonstrate the convenience people now expect when dealing with enquiries, our winter gritting alerts continue to see increased subscriptions and our Your Call App empowers residents to digitally tell us what is important to them. All of this is complemented by the Council's neighbourhood management teams which give Members a community officer resource with whom to work in partnership.

### **Outside bodies**

There are 34 Outside Bodies, 8 Council Partnership Bodies 4 Combined Authorities and 4 Community Associations to which the Council appoints. This number however is pro-actively reviewed annually to ensure best application of resources – as the 2005-2006 figures demonstrate: We have already reduced from 49 Outside Bodies, 20 Community Associations and 18 Council Partnerships.

Council is advised that that the new warding arrangements will not be implemented until the elections in 2018. Any by-elections prior to that will take place based on current ward boundaries

Remuneration - It should be noted that Councillors have for a number of years voted to maintain a deliberately low level of remuneration in comparison to other authorities. With a shift in responsibilities necessitated from the reduction in the number of Councillors, a review of remuneration will be necessary. A review of remuneration was scheduled for March 2017, however Council are asked to endorse (subject to a final decision of LGBCE) an independent review of Member remuneration allowances in 2017/18 in readiness for a new Council shape and size from May 2018.

## **8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst the governance and decision making focuses on leadership, (both Council and community), underpinned by a scrutiny function it should be noted that there will be a significant increase in collaborative leadership in our 'Place'. With this in mind, Council are asked to note this direction of travel and acknowledge that a detailed review will be undertaken over the next 12 months to redesign a political structure that will be fit for purpose and fit for future to best serve the people of Blackburn with Darwen.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be a number of significant savings should the number of Councillors be reduced; both in the level of remuneration budgeted for, and a series of direct cost savings to the Council with fewer elected Members.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

1. The LGBCE is required to comply with certain rules when conducting a Review. Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, section 56

requires the LGBCE to conduct a Review of principal local authorities from time to time and recommend whether a change should be made to the “electoral arrangements” meaning:

- the total number of Members to be elected to the Council (‘Council size’);
- the number and boundaries of electoral areas for the purposes of the election of Councillors;
- the number of councillors to be returned by any electoral area (ward) in that area
- the name of any electoral area.

In making recommendations, under Schedule 2 of the Act the LGBCE must have regard to:

- the need to secure equality of representation;
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- the need to secure effective and convenient local government.

2. Any resolutions regarding the scheme of elections must be in accordance with the Part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

3. The review of Members’ allowances will need to be undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

## **11. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

A small team of Officers will be convened when required, to support the various stages and requirements of the Review and its consultations, ensuring compliance with the timetable outlined by the Local Government Boundary Commission England.

## **12. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

As an integral element to the process, Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken at various stages of the Review and its consultations.

## **13. CONSULTATIONS**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 the Commission consulted with all Members of the Council on the Review process. From 22<sup>nd</sup> November – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 the Commission will hold a public consultation on warding arrangements, followed by a public consultation on draft warding recommendations from 11<sup>th</sup> April – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Contact Officer: Ben Aspinall Lead Review Officer  
[Ben.aspinall@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.aspinall@blackburn.gov.uk)

01254 585191

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Background Papers: None.



Item 13

**REPORT OF:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**TO:** COUNCIL FORUM  
**ON:** 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016

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**SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018**

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## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Council Forum with an overview of the process and proposals for the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To agree in principle the Commission's initial proposals for Blackburn with Darwen Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018.

## **3. PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018**

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended, requires the four Boundary Commissions (one for each country of the UK) to keep the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies under continuous review, and conduct periodic reviews of all constituencies. In 2011 legislation was passed to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600. Under the law as it still stands, a new review by the Boundary Commissions must be completed by October 2018, reducing the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 (533 - 501 in England) resulting in an expected annual saving of £12.2M.

In proposing new boundaries, the Commissions must operate under the Rules for Redistribution in the Act, which set out, among other conditions, the number of constituencies that there should be, and the extent to which the size of the electorate in each constituency can differ within 5% from the electoral quota (average size of a constituency). The law requires that every new constituency (except four specified island constituencies) must have roughly the same number of electors: no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507. Initial proposals were published on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and information about proposed constituencies is now on the Boundary Commission for England Website.

### **Stage one – development of initial proposals**

Lancashire currently has an existing allocation of 16 constituencies with a reduction to 14 constituencies being proposed.

## **Stage two Consultation**

The Commissions are consulting on their initial proposals for 12 weeks, until 5 December 2016.

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## **Stage three – consultation on representations received**

The Commission are required to publish all the responses they receive to their initial proposals. This publication will mark the start of a four-week 'secondary consultation' period, likely to take place in spring 2017. People will be able to see all the comments on the website, and use the site to give the Commission their views on what others have said.

## **Stage four – development and publication of revised proposals**

Once the Commission have all the representations and comments from both the initial and secondary consultation periods, they will analyse those representations and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals. If they decide that the evidence presented to them persuades them to change their initial proposals, then they must publish their revised proposals for the areas concerned, and consult on them for a further period of eight weeks. This is likely to be towards the end of 2017. When they consult on their revised proposals, there will be no further public hearings, nor will there be a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others. People will be able to see all the Commissions revised proposals, and give their views on them, on their website.

## **Stage five – development and publication of the final report and recommendations**

Finally, following the consultation on revised proposals, the Commission will consider all the evidence received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining their final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a published report to the Government, who will present it, without amendment, to Parliament on behalf of the Commission. The legislation states that the Commission must report to the Government in September 2018.

## **Blackburn with Darwen proposals**

The Commission have proposed that the existing Blackburn constituency be slightly changed, by the inclusion only of the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen ward of Fernhurst. The existing Rossendale and Darwen constituency would be moderately changed by the loss of the Fernhurst ward to the Blackburn constituency and the inclusion of the Worsley and Greenfield wards (both Borough of Rossendale wards). The Commission considered that these changes resulted in a geographically better shaped constituency.

For illustrative purposes, from the publication ["Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the North West"](#) the relevant extracts for Blackburn and Darwen have been reproduced:

7. Blackburn BC			72,816
Audley	Blackburn with Darwen		5,595
Bastwell	Blackburn with Darwen	Item 13	4,883
Beardwood with Lammack	Blackburn with Darwen		4,445
Corporation Park	Blackburn with Darwen		4,666
Ewood	Blackburn with Darwen		4,360
Fernhurst	Blackburn with Darwen		4,125
Higher Croft	Blackburn with Darwen		4,818
Little Harwood	Blackburn with Darwen		4,511
Livesey with Pleasington	Blackburn with Darwen		5,289
Meadowhead	Blackburn with Darwen		4,107
Mill Hill	Blackburn with Darwen		3,721
Queen's Park	Blackburn with Darwen		3,918
Roe Lee	Blackburn with Darwen		4,450
Shadsworth with Whitebirk	Blackburn with Darwen		4,792
Shear Brow	Blackburn with Darwen		4,962
Wensley Fold	Blackburn with Darwen		4,174

49. Rossendale and Darwen CC			74,991
Earcroft	Blackburn with Darwen		2,943
East Rural	Blackburn with Darwen		1,462
Marsh House	Blackburn with Darwen		4,442
North Turton with Tockholes	Blackburn with Darwen		3,466
Sudell	Blackburn with Darwen		4,343
Sunnyhurst	Blackburn with Darwen		4,295
Whitehall	Blackburn with Darwen		2,964
Cribden	Rossendale		2,751
Eden	Rossendale		2,864
Facit and Shawforth	Rossendale		2,741
Goodshaw	Rossendale		3,159
Greenfield	Rossendale		4,325
Greensclough	Rossendale		4,274

## 5. CONSTITUTION POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Council Members and Chief Officers

Contact Officer: Ben Aspinall, Corporate Services

Item 13

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Background Papers: The Boundary Commission has a dedicated website where a comprehensive range of background papers may be accessed: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/publications>

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**COUNCILLORS:** Don Mckinlay  
Kevin Connor

**LEAD CHIEF OFFICER:**  
Denise Park

### **Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**

Since the last meeting of Council, the Committee has held a meeting to better understand the Council's workforce review programme. The Committee received a detailed presentation on how the workforce review was progressing and to see the challenges and difficult decisions that are having to be made, Members will continue to work with the Executive Member over the coming months looking at options open to the Council.

At the last meeting of the Committee, Members also received an update on the Council's budget position, and how departments were progressing against identified saving targets.

### **Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

At its first meeting, the Executive Member for Health and Adults requested that the Committee completed a Parliamentary Inquiry request for information submission to the financial sustainability of local authority adult social care and the quality of care provided. The written submission was endorsed by the Chair and Vice Chair and accepted by the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry on Social Care. This review is now complete.

At the Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Members received an overview from the Director of Adult Services and Dr Thornton from the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust on Dementia services to gain a better understanding of what it was and what support was available for residents of Blackburn with Darwen. It was agreed that Dementia would be an ongoing topic for the Committee in this municipal year.

Members also received a presentation on the background work on the Integration of Health and Care Services Sustainability and Transformation Plan 2020 and discussed what this meant for Scrutiny moving forwards.

### **Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**

The work of the Committee has continued to gather pace, at the last meeting Members considered the progress of the Council's growth agenda and Town Centre economies.

The Committee considered the challenges Council faced in trying to achieve its income targets through the growth agenda and what strategies were available to Officers. The Committee also looked at how the Council was looking to increase its Council tax base.

### **Children & Young People's OSC**

At its meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the Committee received two presentations from young people which outlined their personal experiences of the Care system and a social media research project on the impacts to Young People's mental health. Members agreed that Young People's mental health would be taken forwards as a topic for further scrutiny.

At this meeting the Committee also noted the Annual Review of the Participation of Young People, which reported how key priorities were met throughout 2015/16. Members agreed that a series of recommendations on the work completed so far would be brought to its next meeting to be approved.



## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN**

Item 15.1  
**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

### **LANCASHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY**

As Members will be aware, the request to form a Combined Authority for Lancashire was submitted in June and the shadow Combined Authority held its first meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The new Secretary of State for CLG has now written to confirm they are considering our proposals and will be in touch shortly to discuss the way forward. This is likely to be in the form of a draft Order being developed which will require written consent from each council to confirm that the Order can be laid before Parliament. We expect the Combined Authority to be formally established from April 2017. In the interim period Cllr Simon Blackburn, Leader of Blackpool Council has been elected as Chair of the shadow Combined Authority and Cllr Alistair Bradley, Leader of Chorley Council has been elected as Vice-Chair.

The shadow Combined Authority is now developing a Lancashire Plan which will set out a vision for Lancashire based on the five core themes – Skilled Lancashire; Better Homes for Lancashire; Connected Lancashire; Prosperous Lancashire and Public Services Working Together for Lancashire. Each of these themes will be underpinned by an action plan with clear timescales for delivery and political leads have now been agreed to oversee direction and delivery. I have been appointed as political lead for Public Services Working Together theme.

Public Services Working Together is a key theme for the Combined Authority and three work streams have been identified at this stage – One Public Estate/Property Board, Shared Services/efficiencies and considering better models for better collaboration across the public sector services.

An early action for the shadow Combined Authority was to submit a bid of upto £500k to the One Public Estate programme, having received a £50k award to develop the bid. The One Public Estate programme is an initiative delivered in partnership by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit and the Local Government Association, providing practical and technical support and funding to councils to deliver property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners. As part of the bid we are seeking funding for feasibility studies on a number of partner projects across Lancashire as well as officer capacity to deliver the programme. If we are accepted onto the programme we can continue to make further bids for funding as projects come forward.

Over recent months Leaders have been developing a proposal for devolution to the Lancashire Combined Authority, which could enable greater control, power and influence over a range of programmes and funding delivered in Lancashire. These include a Growth and Productivity Fund worth £900m, devolved funding for strategic transport and development; influence and/or control over employment and skills programmes and delivery; housing funding; growth funding and aligning investment activity. Officers continue to work with civil servants from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to highlight Lancashire's progress and position. However, we are in a queue as Government wish to focus on signing off devolution deals with those areas who have already started negotiations.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRANSFORMATION**

Item 15.1

Blackburn with Darwen Council is playing a key role in efforts to transform the health and social care system both on a local footprint and across Lancashire.

The Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme, which is aligned to and feeds into the regional change programme overseeing the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), continues to move forward at speed.

The Pennine Lancashire programme held its first engagement event at King George's Hall. The event was well attended. The programme's Case for Change, which outlines all the reasons why we need to change the system, was launched. The document contains some stark statistics about the health challenges we face here as well as the financial challenge we have to overcome.

There are two more formal events being planned across Pennine Lancashire and there will also be many other opportunities for people to get involved in the debate. The next formal event is being held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, Turf Moor, Burnley. It is vital residents do so as their views will help inform any options being developed. Again, I hope members will encourage their constituents to get involved.

People can get more information by visiting [www.togetherahealthierfuture.org.uk](http://www.togetherahealthierfuture.org.uk)

## **YOUR CALL ANNUAL REPORT**

The latest Your Call annual report has been published and is available on the Council's website. We put this report together to show what has been achieved by the campaign in the last year. Once again, I am really pleased to see so many people coming together to make the borough a better place.

This report shows residents from all walks of life, of all ages, from different parts of Blackburn with Darwen showing community spirit and doing different things that makes life here better. Nearly 9,500 people have taken part over the last 12 months, this means more than 29,000 people have been involved Your Call activities since it started.

We're in grim times in terms of the Council's budget but people are pulling together and fighting for this borough supported by councillors. The report is just a taste of some of the work going on. I know there are countless other examples of people taking part in Your Call activities.

The Council is not able to try to solve every problem Blackburn with Darwen faces on its own. But what we can do is work with residents, businesses, organisations and others to tackle issues.

## **YOUR CALL GOOD NEIGHBOURS AWARDS**

A special event to celebrate all those nominated as Good Neighbours took place in July. It was a truly awe inspiring event and I got to meet many people who go out of their way to make their communities better places. I believe it is extremely important to recognise those who do make Blackburn with Darwen a better place to live, work and visit.

We had a record number of entries this year, more than 70 and every nomination told the story of someone who goes the extra mile to help their neighbours. Truly, Blackburn with Darwen would be a worse place without them. Picking nine winners from everyone who was nominated was difficult because everyone nominations was deserving.

The winners were: Nathan Pugh, Jordan Bentley, Richard Westhead, Hannah Goldthorpe, WEGS Girl Group, Janet Pearce, Fatima Dhira, Dr Mohammed Naushad, Zara Hussain.

I want to thank the sponsors. This year, Community Integrated Care, Capita, Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group, McDonald's and Blackburn Rovers all supported the awards and the event. And once again, we run the awards with the help of Lancashire Telegraph, a sponsor and our media partner. We couldn't run the awards without these organisations supporting us.

## **HATE CRIME AND COHESION**

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2016 will take place 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October. It exists to raise awareness of and to support people who are victims of Hate Crime. The Borough is one of four areas across the County to host a Say No To Hate roadshow alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Lancashire Constabulary and partners. This event builds on the efforts we are already making to tackle hatred in this borough such as the Hate Crime Community conference February 2016 and the Hate Crime Motion agreed at Council Forum July 2016.

Other events planned include hate crime focus groups with young people, a two-day hate crime conference targeted at higher and further education, community awareness raising of hate crime and a social media *#saynohate* pledge campaign. These events involve all sections of the community to speak against acts of hate crime and foster community togetherness.

Item 15.1

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

**COUNCILLOR PHIL RILEY**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING**

**DIRECTOR: BRIAN BAILEY**

**DATE: OCTOBER 2016**

### **CATHEDRAL QUARTER**

The first tenants of the office at Cathedral Square, Govnet, an events conferencing and training provider for the public sector, have moved into the second floor and it is expected that there will be occupation of 3 floors by the end of the calendar year. Legal negotiations are progressing on one restaurant unit with strong interest in the other and Café Northcote and Premier Inn are trading well. Activities on Cathedral Square will form a key part of the Christmas promotional programme and a Christmas market day is planned.

### **PENNINE REACH**

The Pennine Reach project is now at an advanced stage with remaining traffic signals being validated and linked in with the Council's Urban Traffic Management and Control system. Furthergate works are due to complete with the Copy Nook / Higher Eanam junction planned to re-open in early October 2016. The Harwood Street / Furthergate junction's signals were switched on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016. A small number of bus shelters in Darwen Town Centre are to be upgraded with realtime information in October 2016. Bus Lane enforcement began in the borough on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 after a two week notice period to drivers and residents. A funding bid has been submitted to the Lancashire LEP under the Growth Deal initiative to support development of adjacent employment sites.

### **WAINWRIGHT WAY**

Work continues to dispose of the sites allocated for new employment use either side of the new link road. The closing date for submission of expressions of interest was Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Submissions will be reviewed and shortlisted parties asked to submit formal offers. To date there has been a very positive response to the marketing of development plots from a variety of developers.

### **DARWEN 3-DAY MARKET**

The works required to accommodate traders relocating from the 3-Day Market to the Annexe and main Market Hall have now started on site and should be completed by the end of October to allow traders to benefit from the pre-Christmas trading period. Most of the 3-Day traders (12 or 13) are likely to relocate. Regarding the redevelopment of the 3-Day market site, the Darwen Town Centre Partnership Board and Council officers are working to prepare a development brief for the site. The results of initial soft market testing with potential commercial developers and occupiers and the feedback from the stakeholder consultation carried out earlier this year will be considered as the development brief is prepared.

### **BLAKEY MOOR TOWNSCAPE PROJECT**

The project has now secured £1.5 million from HLF to be matched by the Council. Negotiations to acquire properties on Blakey Moor are progressing and an architectural research project with Blackburn University students started on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Once the HLF have issued a formal permission to start (expected October), property owners and businesses will be invited to a workshop to update them on eligible works and the grants application process.

### **COMMUNITY CLOTHING**

Community Clothing, the social enterprise launched by fashion designer Patrick Grant is due to open its first shop on Lord Street West at the end of September. The shop will provide a showcase for the Community Clothing brand, as well as a number of other high quality, British made products. The shop has been given a facelift with the help of a small property improvement grant from the Council, design expertise from DAG architects and labour from Bootstrap Enterprises and Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School. Plans are also underway to bring the upper floors back into use as a sewing skills academy as part of the Townscape Heritage Project.

### **BLACKBURN MARKETS REDEVELOPMENT SITE**

The Growth Board has approved a proposal to provide temporary car parking on the site in the short term to maximise income potential. As to longer term uses, GL Hearn property consultants have been commissioned and will be commencing an options review shortly. This will assess market demand from occupiers and developers, what uses might be acceptable and which will complement the existing town centre offer and planned future developments on other sites, and will report back on delivery options.

### **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND STREET LIGHTING**

The LED street lighting project is now virtually complete except for some special lamps that are still to be installed in town centres and conservation areas. This has already generated a major reduction in the Council's spend on energy for street lighting, with more to come as the dimming capabilities of the new lamps are optimised.

In relation to highways works Members will have seen that the resurfacing around Great Bolton Street and Town's Moor is now complete, which has meant a major improvement in the impression of this gateway into Blackburn Town Centre.

### **HIVE AMBASSADORS NETWORK LAUNCHED**

The Hive Ambassadors Network was launched in the new Hive Business Lounge at Ewood Park on Thursday 22nd September by the leader of the Council, Cllr Mohammed Khan, Khalid Saifullah, Chair of the Hive and Hive Steering Group members. Key businesses from across the borough were invited to pledge their commitment to working together to promote the prosperity of the borough after hearing about some of the key initiatives the Hive are delivering such as Hive Business School, Primary Engineer, the Manufacturing Excellence Group and the programme of business events.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI**

**DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**  
Item 15.3

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

#### **SHOREY BANK SOD CUTTING**

Work has now started on the new Shorey Bank housing scheme, with ground being officially broken at a sod cutting ceremony on 19<sup>th</sup> August by Cllr Khan, Jake Berry MP and Kevin Ruth from Together Housing Group.

The new £12.4m social care development will provide high quality care and increased services and accommodation for older people in Blackburn with Darwen. The 119-home development will include a 'Housing with Care' scheme comprising of 85 self-contained apartments, with on-site facilities including a residents' lounge, restaurant, hair and beauty salon and secluded gardens. The Housing with Care scheme will be available for people 50 years and over who have an assessed need for care. The scheme will be complemented by 34 two-bedroom bungalows also being built on the site for people over 50 years of age.

Staff from right across the Council – from Housing to Adult Social Care, Planning, Finance, Legal and Communications – have been involved in the project, working together and in partnership with the Together Housing Group and Keepmoat on its delivery. The development will be completed in spring 2018.

#### **LANCASHIRE MIND – FACING UP PROJECT**

Lancashire Mind's Facing Up project aims to increase the mental wellbeing of men in Blackburn with Darwen. The project provides safe environments for men to talk about their feelings and find out ways to improve their mental wellbeing. Facing Up received 5 years' funding from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Programme in October 2013.

The project is aimed at any man above the age of 16 regardless of situation. The project is run by a full time project coordinator and a team of passionate and dedicated volunteers. Half way through the project, Facing Up has reached over 2500 men in Blackburn with Darwen.

Facing Up's funded delivery continues until October 2018 and there are many ideas for future work to continue to tackle men's mental health and challenge stigma including targeting workplaces, outdoor 'eco therapy' and a Facing Up club where men who access the service can become champions of men's mental health and disseminate the tools they have learnt. To ensure a lasting impact of Facing Up the future work will focus on continuing to develop volunteers and Offload groups so they become sustainable beyond the funded project and exploring how to embed Facing Up's tools within partner organisations.

### **HEALTH**

#### **JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED**

Two Public Health funded programmes that encourage local people to turn their lives around by helping others have been recognised nationally. The Local Government Association has singled out Volunteering on Prescription, which engages people with mild to moderate mental health conditions, and Fast 4wd, which involves people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction and volunteers from the wider community, in a national best practice guide to social prescribing 'Just What the Doctor Ordered'.



Individuals are supported to become volunteers in areas that interest them, then pass on their advice and experience to others going through the tough situations they themselves have overcome. In Blackburn with Darwen, the guide explains, volunteering has been chosen as the focus for social prescribing in the belief it leads to more long-term benefits than other activities.

Social prescribing is a priority of developing health and social care work across the whole of Pennine Lancashire. In 2015, 92 people across the two programmes received training and 179 were engaged by the service. A total of 18,935 volunteer hours were generated, equal to £187,935 in monetary terms from £70,000 funding.

## **DIGITAL HEALTH**

State-of-the-art digital treatment and recovery programmes are now available for local people dealing with substance misuse or mental ill health.

Blackburn with Darwen Council and GO2 / Inspire integrated drug and alcohol prevention and recovery services for people aged under 25 and over 25 respectively, has launched Breaking Free Online. Access cards for Breaking Free Online, and information about the wide range of drug and alcohol interventions locally are available from GO2 / Inspire on 01254 495014.

The 'Big White Wall' is available 24/7 to provide online peer and professional mental health and wellbeing support to local people aged over 16. 95% of users have reported feeling better as a result and 73% shared something for the first time. A short film is available with more information at: <http://www.bigwhitewall.com/landing-pages/videohowitworks.aspx>

## **SEXUAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT**

New data reveals continuing improvement to the sexual health of Blackburn with Darwen residents, including:

- rates of syphilis and gonorrhoea among the lowest in the country.
- further reduction in teenage pregnancy rates, making Blackburn with Darwen one of the most improved authorities since records began in 1998.

Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) won the sexual health services contract for Blackburn with Darwen from April 2016, which includes provision of advice, information and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and contraception. The model of delivery also promotes healthy relationships, improved sexual and general health, with positive emotional wellbeing as a normal expectation for people of all ages. Advocacy and social care support are provided by a sub-contracted arrangement with Healthier Living to ensure support for those who live with diagnosed HIV. LCFT also oversee a contract with Brook, the young people's sexual health and wellbeing charity, to provide specific support for young people.



## **NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND OTHER CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION**

There has been a general rise in demand across Children's Services as a whole from Early Help (there are now over 400 CAFs), right through to the numbers of children in care. This is partly driven by more children and young people being assessed, but it is also focused on particular age bands, with the number of teenagers that the department is working with rising in particular. This group tends to have more complex issues and while we have our outstanding and nationally recognised Adolescent Support Unit, children entering care from this group are much more likely to go into more expensive agency placements and this is putting a pressure on commissioned placement budgets.

As at 26<sup>th</sup> September there are 366 children in care, 273 children subject to Child Protection Plans and 572 children with Child in Need plans. The number of open children's social care cases has risen to 1778, up from 1686 in July.

20 children have been adopted since April 2016, and 18 children are placed in adoptive placements.

## **BABY FRIENDLY INITIATIVE (BFI) AWARD**

The Children Centre network has achieved the prestigious Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) award, having worked over a number of years to evidence high standards of support for pregnant women, new mothers, babies and families.

The Baby Friendly Initiative was established by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation as a global programme to provide a practical and effective way for health services to improve the care provided for all mothers and babies. UNICEF assessors described the Children's Centre assessment outcome as "*robust and outstanding*" and commented that Blackburn with Darwen Children's Centres are "pioneers" being one of the first networks of Children's Centres to achieve the award in the UK.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING CONFERENCE**

The 2016 Corporate Parenting Conference took place on 17th September at Darwen Vale High School. The event brings Children in Care, their Foster Carers and Care Leavers together with Elected Members and Council Officers with 90 people in attendance. The purpose is to raise awareness of current issues for children in care and care leavers and discuss possible solutions and service improvements.

'Investing in Our Futures' was the title for this years conference and themes for discussion included education and access to employment and apprenticeships. 30 children in care and care leavers attended the conference with many sharing their experiences of being in care.

## **THE LIMES PROJECT**

The Limes Project, originally named 'Challenge to Care', is underway to provide intensive programmes for children and families to prevent the need for children becoming 'looked after'. All families in the programme are subject to child protection procedures and are at

a stage where conversations have taken place with legal representation about the potential for a child entering care.

The team, based at 'The Limes' in Darwen, delivers intensive support packages focused on home environments, routines and boundaries, relationships and family functioning along with addressing any unmet needs of parents.

A "Saturday Club" operates on alternate Saturdays mornings and children are provided with breakfast and lunch in addition to undertaking activities and direct work on wishes and feelings.

## **NORTH WEST LEAVING CARE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WIN**

The Blackburn with Darwen Leaving Care Football Team has won the North West Leaving Care Football Tournament, beating the hosts and previous winners from Wigan 5-0. In total 11 teams of care leavers participated from across the North West and the 8 young men aged 15 to 21 from Blackburn with Darwen were unbeaten.

Throughout the year the young men participated in weekly training and matches facilitated by The Foyer. Coaching is held all year round and as part of the programme healthy food options and conflict resolution is discussed.

## **LONG SERVICE FOSTER CARER AWARDS**

In September, 28 Foster Carers were acknowledged for their support and presented with long service awards at the Foster Carer Forum at Livesey Children's Centre. The awards and certificates were presented in recognition of their dedication to the children and young people of the borough which totals nearly 500 years between them - with 5 carers providing care for over 30 years.

## **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES FORUM**

I, along with Cllr McFall and Cllr Gunn, attended the launch of a forum for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in June. The first meeting was attended by 13 children and young people and their parents and carers, and the majority of children had complex needs and disabilities. The event focused on building relationships between the children and the staff that will be supporting them to express their views, choices and opinions.

The children were asked to build a wishing tree to share their aspirations and the majority of "wishes" were simple things such as cycling, having nails painted, enjoying arts and crafts and playing more team games.

The children were asked about current leisure opportunities, what type of activities they access and what they might like to do in the future. At the same time a similar exercise took place with parents and carers on their needs and aspirations.

A wealth of information was collated from the first meeting and a second forum is planned for October.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

Item 15.5

**CLLR JIM SMITH**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR- MARTIN EDEN  
DATE: 6 OCTOBER 2016**

### **TAXI – APPEAL AGAINST COMMITTEE DECISION DISMISSED**

A private hire driver's appeal against a decision of the Licensing Committee has been dismissed by the Magistrates' Court. The driver had sent inappropriate text messages to a 17 year old female passenger after taking her home from work. The Licensing Committee revoked his licence, and he appealed. The District Judge hearing the case decided that the Committee had acted properly.

This is the fourth appeal against a decision of the Licensing Committee this year; in 3 of the cases the Magistrates Court has dismissed the appeal and supported the Council's decision, with the 4<sup>th</sup> decision pending.

### **ALTERNATE WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

Preparations have been made for the introduction of the alternate weekly collection of rubbish and recycling within the borough, which is effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> October. A planned communications campaign has seen press releases distributed, bus stop posters installed, a promotional video, together with roadshows, radio messages about the service change and also of course the information packs provided to residents. The service will see the burgundy bin move to a collection once every 2 weeks, with the grey recycling bin emptied in the week between the burgundy bin.

### **PARKING CHANGES**

The Council has reintroduced parking charges at weekends from August 2016. Changes to the provision of blue badge parking has seen on-street parking be limited to 3 hours maximum, in line with neighbouring authorities. Further changes are planned, with a new temporary car park at Brown Street Blackburn planned this year, following the development of the bus station in the town centre.

### **RURAL REFUSE COLLECTION**

The refuse collection service from rural properties on a number of unmade and unadopted lanes are changing to a collection point service, because the costs of collecting waste and recycling from the 508 rural properties in the borough are approximately 8 times more expensive. It costs £130 to collect refuse from properties in rural areas compared to £16 in urban areas. To enable a collection in rural areas, the Council is offering to provide the collection point service, at or near, the adopted roadway. The environment officers have been working with residents and meeting with them to understand concerns that have been raised and put in measures to mitigate any problems where possible.

The Council are providing further help where needed such as providing extra bins, extra bin sacks, and changing the collection points if there are valid reasons why current arrangements aren't suitable. Where there are a number of properties using the same, new collection point, there is an option for residents to have larger communal bins, either 660 litre or 1,100 litre bins, provided free of charge. Where residents are in receipt of social care, they can apply to be added to the Council's assisted collection scheme.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN  
DATE: 6 OCTOBER 2016**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

#### **Leisure Inclusion**

The YPS Leisure inclusion project delivered a comprehensive summer programme of activities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The programme operated for 6 weeks from 25th July – 2nd September 2016 and offered full and half day provision based at Kaleidoscope Youth Centre. Activities at Kaleidoscope included dance & movement, cooking, arts & crafts, sports and games as well as sensory activities. Young people also participated in various trips and visits as well as outdoor and adventurous activities including water sports, climbing and mountain biking. Young people also had the opportunity to take part in a two night residential stay where they took part in a range of outdoor activities.

#### **Investing in Children Award**

Recently we were assessed, and successfully received the accreditation of 'Investing in Children' award. The assessor spent time speaking to young people and parents as well as reviewing the evidence we put forward. The assessor was impressed and extremely pleased, both parents and young people advocated for the service and felt we deserved the award. Evidence suggested we actively listen and act upon the views and choices of young people and shape the delivery of our service to meet the needs and desires of the young people we work with.

#### **NCS**

Young People's Services delivered, in partnership with SLYNCS, a five week NCS programme at Kentmere Residential Centre. The NCS programme included a variety of activities for young people age 15 -17 years, activities included orienteering, wild camping, raft building, problem solving and team building activities.

#### **Cedars Primary School**

The Positive Activities Team recently delivered an inset day for 75 teaching and support staff from Cedars Primary School. The day consisted of many problem solving activities including - build a structure, nightline and low ropes. The day was hugely successful and the school are interested in organising further activity days for their pupils.

## ARTS SERVICES

Item 15.6

Leeds & Liverpool Canal 200 years celebration - There are 2 arts events happening in mid October to mark the 200th anniversary of the canal:

- **Super Slow Way: A Rhapsody to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal** - King George's Hall 16th October 2016 4pm. This will be a unique celebration of the history, people and stories of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal through music and song, featuring a series of poems specially written by poet Ian McMillan and hundreds of Blackburn's voices! Come with us on a journey along the waterway that fuelled the Industrial Revolution and is now a place where time slows down. Featuring special performances from children from Blackburn's primary schools and the Blackburn People's Choir, alongside the award-winning Brighthouse and Rastrick Band. Audiences can expect stunning solo performances from the internationally recognised soprano Amanda Roocroft, cellist Jonathan Aasgaard and tabla player Kuljit Bhamra. Created by celebrated composer Ian Stephens, this is a truly unique combination of talent from across the region, marking the bicentenary of our beautiful waterway.

## MUSEUM

Blackburn Museum has been offered a grant of £58,500 from Arts Council England Resilience Fund to explore ways to make better use of the building and its spaces plus increase public access to the collections held by the Museum. The money will be put towards making architectural drawings for a connection between the Museum and the new Making Rooms building. Also the money will go towards redeveloping the Explorers Gallery into a study area for the Hart collection. This redevelopment is a response to the growing demand to research and display this important collection. As well as improving physical access to this collection the museum will work on making the information it contains more accessible to all interest levels. We are working with the University of London and Blackburn College and a group of other partners on this exciting project that will start from 1 October and last for 18 months.

A new regular event will be taking place at the museum. If you have ever found something or dug up an interesting object you can bring your discovery to the Museum and Art Gallery on Wednesday 21st September where Portable Antiquities Finds Officer, Stuart Noon, will be on hand to identify your finds and record the really old ones into the National database. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a national programme co-ordinated by the British Museum. It assists with the identification and recording of archaeological finds discovered by members of the public.

## Leisure

National Fitness Awards – Witton Park Arena has been shortlisted in the category of Best Rehabilitation Facility of The Year 2016, with the Awards Ceremony being held in December. The nomination recognises the successful, integrated rehabilitation and wellbeing work that is delivered within leisure. Through commissioned services from Public Health and the CCG specialist staff and training instructors deliver a range of targeted exercise sessions to support individuals who are referred for weight management

interventions; stroke, falls and cardiac rehabilitation programmes as well as the more recently introduced MacMillan Cancer exercise classes. Good luck to the team

**Memberships** - The summer promotion performed strongly contributing to a growth in membership numbers after a dip in July; 6935 in September vs 6482 in July. Retaining (and even growing) these levels will be crucial with the budget pressures and saving requirements for 2016-17 and therefore identified investment in the 3 sites as previously discussed will be critical ahead of the key New Year campaigns. Staff memberships are at their highest level with 735 supporting employee health and wellbeing. Focusing on our USP and differentiating ourselves from other local gyms a direct mail campaign for 50+ went out last week to c2000 people who have used us or been members. We'll monitor the effectiveness to inform future targeted promotions.

The summer events programme in Witton Park was a big success with many thousands of visitors attending the range of events and shows that took place. In July the family orientated "A Walk in the Park" fun day launched new information lecterns and marked walking/running routes in the park; over 4000 people enjoyed a fun, filled afternoon of activities and entertainment. August saw the return of the Royal Lancashire Show to the borough. The new committee of volunteers worked hard organising the 3 day event which saw significant infrastructure installed across the park. Despite the weather the show was successful with learning and feedback ready to be taken forward to plan for next year. The borough's parks hosted two popular Eid festivals; one at Witton and the most recent at Corporation Park. Organisers were pleased with both events and are already talking with officers for next year.

### **Venues**

KGH - The summer is usually quieter across the Venues however there were still a variety of events and shows taking place. Blakeys hosted a number of local charity and community events including a Blackburn Rovers Action Group meeting and a Folk Night in aid of the Corporation Park Supporters Group. KGH welcomed the return of TV cameras to film episodes of 'Dickinson's Real Deal' due to be broadcast late 2016/early 2017. A social media video was also shot for the 'S2S Festival' promoting their Oct 1st Dance night. Classics Subscriptions are still available with sales already higher than last year's total figure. There have also been a number of weddings in the main concert hall including 4 Asian weddings; bookings are already in the diary for next summer. Two strong shows are now on sale: Frank Bruno and Jools Holland.

Darwen Library Theatre's wide ranging summer programme has included four events as part of the Somme Commemorations with the wartime plays 'Talbot House' and 'Meet Tommy Atkins', the WW1-themed 'Afternoon Variety Show' and a concert by the Blackburn Peoples Choir. The summer season of live Glyndebourne Opera screenings continued with Wagner's 'Die Meistersinger' and Berlioz' 'Beatrice et Benedict' and The National Theatre's new season saw their productions of Deep Blue Sea and 3-Penny Opera beamed direct to



the DLT big screen. The monthly acoustic nights, the Film society, Afternoon Variety Shows and Comedy Club all presented well-received summer seasons. The high profile comedian Justin Moorhouse has just gone on sale.



## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PREVENTION**

**COUNCILLOR  
ARSHID MAHMOOD**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR:  
SAYYED OSMAN  
DATE: October 2016**

### **“Breaking the Cycle” to launch during the month of October.**

A project funded through the Big Lottery looking to further enhance our work with victims and perpetrators of Domestic Abuse is being formally launched this October. The programme which received an award of just under £500,000 over 3 years from the National Lottery will form part of our integrated domestic abuse service offer, adding significant capacity for the most complex and challenging families, allowing more sustained, long term support for those that need it. Blackburn with Darwen was chosen as the host for this new programme by Changing Lives, who are the recipients of the award, given our already outstanding partnership working in tackling domestic abuse.

### **Organised Crime Early Intervention Programme gathers pace:**

The Organised Crime programme – targeting those at risk of engaging in Organised Criminality across Blackburn with Darwen, East Lancashire and Preston has begun rolling out its early intervention service. Delivered through three providers; the Triangle Care Group who will be working with individuals and families, Resource Creatives working with school's on prevention and Lancashire Women's Centre's working with vulnerable young women at risk of exploitation and harm, the services will work on a one to one basis and in group sessions to mitigate the underlying reasons why people get drawn in to criminality.

For those that refuse to engage and are posing a risk to others they will be targeted through Operation Genga; the 'pursue' arm of the programme which is in the process of rolling out a new intelligence and targeting co-ordination system called PAM. This combines the intelligence products of the police, local authority, department of works and pensions amongst many other agencies, improving our collective ability to both target the right people and widens the scope of interventions and sanctions available to the group.

### **Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Event:**

The Community Safety team are working with the Police & Crime Commissioner on a Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Event taking place on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, to coincide with the launching of a new Crime-stoppers campaign, aimed at improving awareness and reporting.

Item 15.7

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**COUNCILLOR ANDY KAY**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
CHIEF OFFICER: DENISE PARK**

Item 15.8

### **Finance**

**Year End 2015-16** – The accounts were successfully closed on time and the external auditors have been reviewing the Council's accounts. The Audit Findings report identified no material misstatements that would require any adjustment to the financial statements, and Grant Thornton are expecting to issue an unqualified audit opinion to the accounts. At Audit Committee, Grant Thornton also acknowledged the scale of the financial challenge facing the Council, adding that, although funding has been significantly cut and the Council has to continue to make difficult decisions, we do have a plan and through our monitoring we will know where we're at in terms of delivery against the plan.

### **New Finance Management Information System**

The Finance team, supported by colleagues from IT are in the process of procuring a new Financial Management Information system for the Council. The introduction of a new system will create significant efficiencies in working practices and costs and will contribute to the Council's savings programme.

### **Council Tax, Housing Benefits and Business Rates**

#### **- Benefits**

To improve the on-line options for landlords, the Benefits team is introducing a 'Housing Benefit landlord portal' in early October which will enable those landlords who receive direct payments to self-serve any enquiry for Housing Benefit claims and payments. This module will free up a significant amount of officer time and assist with the required budget challenges. All landlords will be contacted and signed up to the portal and during November, production of manual payment schedules will cease.

#### **- Business Rates**

To incentivise moving to on-line solutions telephone opening times for Business Rates Customers will be reduced to 10 am – 3 pm from October. From November the telephone service will cease with a move to a fully digitised/on-line service including webchat facilities from the Business Rates website page.

### **Welfare Cap**

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has informed the Council of the initial list of 245 families who will be impacted by the revised Welfare Cap rates. The current cap is £500 per week (£26,000 per year) for couples, and £350 per week (£18,200 per year) for single people. From November the cap will reduce total welfare payments to £384.62 per week (£20,000 a year) for couples, and £257.69 per week (£13,400 a year) for single households.

Contact letters have been issued by the DWP to some of the families affected, the remaining ones will be contacted over the next few weeks.

With effect from 7<sup>th</sup> November the Council will be instructed to make an appropriate deduction to the Housing Benefit payment for the families identified. Initially those claimants who are already capped will be re-capped at the new lower level. From November 14<sup>th</sup> and for the following 12 weeks, newly-capped claimants will also be brought into scope.

Discussion are being held with other council departments to share details of the cases that are deemed most vulnerable. [Page 59 of 66](#)

### **Advice for All service**

Shelter, along with a number of partners are now providing advice services from the library. The provision of welfare and debt advice is being offered both through a drop in and appointment basis.

### **HR**

The HR team is continuing to support the major workforce reviews ongoing across all services. The project to implement and deliver full employee self-service utilising the Resourcelink system continues and remains on target for 2017. The department also continues to increase its external HR services offer and has been successful in increasing income to the Council.

### **Civil Contingencies**

#### **Severe Weather/ Flood drop in sessions**

Two drop in sessions were planned to assist residents and business to prepare for winter weather and potential flooding. The first was held in Darwen on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in the evening with the Environment Agency. All residents and business users were written to directly, but the actual attendance on the evening was disappointing although well attended by Members. The second event took place at Mill Hill Community Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, again in partnership with the Environment Agency. Members of the public (x5) attended this meeting; 1 from a local business at real risk of flooding and requiring “business continuity” advice and infrastructure/drainage advice (which is being provided); the other attendees were residents seeking flood prevention advice and guidance. An invitation was received to talk at a Community Group AGM which is also being followed up.

#### **Business Continuity Response and Planning**

Recently the Council experienced two ICT outages impacting on the Council’s business continuity. The first caused by an external contractor was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 (EU referendum day) which impacted all of the Council’s services. The Corporate Business continuity plan was activated by the Civil Contingencies Manager and with support from our network partners the full services were successfully back up and running by later that afternoon. This was a significant test of, and good outcome for, our Business Continuity response with particular mention for all those involved across services on the day. A number of actions had already been implemented by the time the second event occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016. Again this was effectively responded to by all departments and the Business continuity plan put in place meant services were disrupted for only a short time. A debrief will take place later this month to identify further areas for improvement and good practice.

#### **Community Risk Register Workshop**

The Civil Contingencies Service is hosting a workshop in November 2016 to progress identification of risk and potential hazards in the community as prescribed under the Civil Contingencies act 2004. This will be a multi-agency workshop with officers from a number of internal services, police, fire, ambulance and health officers including Lancashire County Council. The product of this workshop will enable the Council to undertake gap analysis in planning and preparing for response to emergencies and staff awareness.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: LINDA CLEGG <sup>Item 15.9</sup>  
DATE: 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

### PRIMARY ENGINEER PROJECT

Ten Blackburn with Darwen primary schools will be taking part in a Primary Engineer project pilot with training for teachers starting in October.

Primary Engineer is a series of programmes for both primary and secondary schools which aims to bring the curriculum to life through engineering. The programme uses a 'STEM by Stealth' approach to practical Mathematics, Science and Literacy through Design and Technology projects and is designed to fulfil the requirements of the new curriculum and link each school to local engineers who can provide a professional context for learning.

Two local engineering companies, Optima and Precision Polymer Engineering, are already on board to support the programme with additional firms expected to sign up.

The Hive is supporting with 50% of the funding required and schools are providing the remaining 50%. After the first year pilot, the plan is to upscale to include all primary schools across the borough and eventually secondary schools, through the Secondary Engineer programme.

### OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOMES

Schools within Blackburn with Darwen are strong with 85% of children attending a school judged by Ofsted to be good or better. No school in the borough is in an Ofsted category (special measures or serious weaknesses).

Of the 10 schools inspected in the 2015/16 academic year, all but two either maintained their previous judgement or improved on it - with four schools judged good and one rated as outstanding.

### PROVISIONAL EDUCATION RESULTS FOR 2015/16

- ***Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1***

The percentage of children with a good level of development at the end of reception is up 7% year on year and continuing to narrow the gap to the national average.

Phonics performance is at the national average with 81% of children working at expected levels.

At the end of Key Stage 1, 1% of children are above national average for the proportion of children at expected level or higher in each of Reading, Writing and Maths.

- **Key Stage 2**

The performance of schools that support some of our most deprived areas was truly outstanding this year and several of the schools achieved above national average levels of performance when they serve communities amongst the most deprived 5% in the country and serve communities that typically struggle to make good progress (White/UK children from deprived backgrounds).

Blackburn with Darwen is 1% beneath the national average at the Reading, Writing and Maths 'at expected level' measure, but 3% above the average for similar authorities. Maths performance is very strong and better than the national average and 6% above similar authorities.

- **GCSE Performance**

In 2016 a completely altered accountability framework was introduced and therefore it is difficult to analyse performance against the previous year in the absence of proper comparative data. However, from the one indicator that was common across the two years, A\*-C in English and Maths, we appear to have improved our overall performance by about 4%, which is against the rumoured national trend.

## **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE SCHOOLS PROJECT**

A Community Resilience Schools Project has been developed by the Civil Contingencies Team in conjunction with Schools and Education and the local emergency services. The scheme aims to raise awareness of emergency planning with Year 5 pupils and enhance self-resilience within the community.

Three schools took part in the initial pilots; St Francis' CE Primary School, St Michael with St John Primary School and St Barnabas & St Paul's Primary School. From October 2016 the project will be available to all schools.

As part of the project pupils take part in workshops including learning to keep calm in an emergency and making home safety plans and grab bags. Pupils also learn about the roles of the emergency services and the Local Authority in an emergency and discuss national and international emergencies such as floods and earthquakes.

## **HEADTEACHER NEW APPOINTMENTS**

A warm welcome to Headteachers and Acting Headteachers who have started in post this term; Michele Battersby (St Silas CE Primary), Paula Duckworth (Lammack Primary School), Christopher Dugdale (St Paul's CE Primary, Hoddlesden) and Vicky Brown (Avondale Primary).

The following Acting Headteachers are in post: David Cane and Fiona Beaumont (Darwen Aldridge Community Academy), Debbie Greenwood (St Aidan's CE Primary), Vicki Milne (Holy Trinity Primary), Gary Foster (St Paul's RC Primary, Feniscowles), Dave Hallam (Acting Principal, Darwen Vale High School) and Judith Draper (Wensley Fold CE Primary).

# Year Planner 2017-2018

Please note that all meeting dates are subject to change

29<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Please note that changes have been made to the dates of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

## YEAR PLANNER 2017

	May	June	July	August	September	October
Monday	1 May Day BH					
Tuesday	2 <b>DTC</b>			1 <b>DTC</b>		
Wednesday	3			2		
Thursday	4 Fallow Year Elections	1 <b>L</b>		3		
Friday	5	2 Half Term Ends		4	1 Eid al Adha Schools Reopen	
Saturday	6	3	1	5	2	
Sunday	7	4 Whitsun	2	6	3	1
Monday	8	5 Schools Reopen	3 <b>LSP Board</b>	7	4 <b>H&amp;A</b>	2
Tuesday	9	6 <b>DTC LASC SACRE</b>	4 <b>DTC</b>	8	5 <b>DTC LASC</b>	3 <b>DTC LASC SACRE</b>
Wednesday	10	7 <b>H&amp;A</b>	5 <b>H&amp;A</b>	9	6	4
Thursday	11	8 <b>EB</b>	6 <b>SC</b>	10 <b>EB</b>	7	5 <b>CF</b>
Friday	12	9	7	11	8	6
Saturday	13	10	8	12	9	7
Sunday	14	11	9	13	10	8
Monday	15	12 <b>C&amp;YP</b>	10 <b>C&amp;YP</b>	14	11 <b>C&amp;YP</b>	9
Tuesday	16	13 <b>AUD GLSC</b>	11 <b>L</b>	15	12	10
Wednesday	17	14	12 <b>R&amp;N</b>	16	13 <b>R&amp;N</b>	11
Thursday	18 <b>AC</b>	15 <b>PH</b>	13 <b>EB</b>	17 <b>PH</b>	14 <b>EB</b>	12 <b>EB</b>
Friday	19	16	14	18	15	13
Saturday	20	17	15	19	16	14
Sunday	21 Civic Sunday	18	16	20	17	15
Monday	22	19 <b>R&amp;N</b>	17	21	18 <b>L</b>	16
Tuesday	23	20 <b>HWB</b>	18 <b>GLSC</b>	22 <b>GLSC</b>	19 <b>AUD</b>	17 <b>GLSC</b>
Wednesday	24	21 <b>CI/T</b>	19 <b>CI/T</b>	23 <b>CI/T</b>	20 <b>CI/T</b>	18 <b>CI/T</b>
Thursday	25 <b>PH</b> Ascension Day	22	20 <b>PH</b> Schools Close – Summer Term	24	21 <b>PH</b> Rosh HaShannah	19 <b>PH</b> Diwali
Friday	26 School Closes – Half Term	23	21 Summer Term Starts	25	22	20
Saturday	27 Ramadan starts	24	22	26	23	21
Sunday	28	25 Eid al Fitr	23	27	24	22
Monday	29 Spring Bank BH Half Term Starts	26 <b>P&amp;CR</b>	24 <b>P&amp;CR</b>	28 August BH	25 <b>P&amp;CR</b>	23
Tuesday	30	27 <b>LASC</b>	25 <b>LASC</b>	29	26 <b>HWB</b>	24 <b>LASC</b>
Wednesday	31	28	26	30	27	25
Thursday		29	27 <b>CF</b>	31 Summer Term Ends	28	26 <b>SC</b>
Friday		30	28		29	27 School Closes
Saturday			29		30 Yom Kippur	28
Sunday			30			29
Monday			31			30 Half Term
Tuesday						31



# YEAR PLANNER 2017/2018

	November	December	January	February	March	April
Monday			1 New Years Day			
Tuesday			2 <b>DTC LASC</b>			
Wednesday	1		3			
Thursday	2		4 <b>SC</b>	1 <b>L</b>	1	
Friday	3 Half Term Ends	1	5	2	2	
Saturday	4	2	6	3	3	
Sunday	5	3	7	4	4	1 Easter Sunday
Monday	6 <b>LSP Board C&amp;YP</b> Schools Reopen	4	8 Schools Reopen	5 NNDR <b>P&amp;CR</b>	5 <b>H&amp;A LSP Board</b>	2 Easter Monday BH
Tuesday	7 <b>DTC</b>	5 <b>DTC GLSC</b>	9 AUD	6 <b>DTC LASC SACRE</b>	6 <b>DTC LASC</b> <b>HWB</b>	3 <b>DTC</b>
Wednesday	8 <b>R&amp;N</b>	6	10	7	7 <b>R&amp;N</b>	4
Thursday	9 <b>EB</b>	7 <b>PC</b>	11 <b>EB</b>	8 <b>EB</b>	8 <b>EB</b>	5
Friday	10	8	12	9 School Closes – Half Term	9	6 Easter Holidays End
Saturday	11	9	13	10	10	7
Sunday	12 Remembrance Sunday	10	14	11	11	8
Monday	13 <b>H&amp;A</b>	11	15 <b>H&amp;A</b>	12 Half Term Starts	12 <b>C&amp;YP</b>	9 Schools Reopen
Tuesday	14 <b>L</b>	12 <b>HWB</b>	16 <b>GLSC</b>	13 <b>GLSC</b>	13 <b>GLSC</b>	10 <b>GLSC AUD</b>
Wednesday	15	13	17 <b>CI/T</b>	14 Ash Wednesday	14	11 ASR
Thursday	16 <b>PH</b>	14 <b>EB</b>	18 <b>PH</b>	15 <b>PH</b>	15 <b>PH</b>	12 <b>EB</b>
Friday	17	15	19	16 Half Term Ends	16	13
Saturday	18	16	20	17	17	14
Sunday	19	17	21	18	18	15
Monday	20	18	22 <b>C&amp;YP</b>	19 Schools Reopen	19	16
Tuesday	21 <b>GLSC</b>	19	23 <b>R&amp;N</b>	20	20 <b>P&amp;CR</b>	17
Wednesday	22 <b>CI/T</b>	20 <b>CI/T</b>	24	21 <b>CI/T</b>	21 <b>CI/T</b>	18 <b>CI/T</b>
Thursday	23	21 <b>PH</b>	25 <b>CF</b>	22	22 <b>SC</b>	19 <b>PH</b>
Friday	24	22 School Closes - Christmas	26	23	23 Schools Close - Easter	20
Saturday	25	23	27	24	24	21
Sunday	26	24 Christmas Eve	28	25	25	22
Monday	27 <b>P&amp;CR</b>	25 Christmas Day	29	26 <b>FC</b>	26 Easter Holiday Start	23
Tuesday	28	26 Boxing Day	30	27	27 <b>LASC</b>	24
Wednesday	29	27	31	28	28	25
Thursday	30	28			29 Maundy Thursday	26 <b>CF</b>
Friday		29			30 Good Friday BH	27
Saturday		30			31	28
Sunday		31 New Years Eve				29
Monday						30
Tuesday						
Wednesday						

## YEAR PLANNER 2018

	May	June	KEY
Monday			<b><u>Council, Executive and Council Committee Meetings</u></b>
Tuesday	1 <b>DTC</b>		<b>AC</b> – Annual Council 6.00 pm
Wednesday	2		<b>FC</b> – Finance Council 6.00 pm
Thursday	3 Elections		<b>CF</b> – Council Forum 6.00 pm
Friday	4 Election Count	1 Half Term Ends	<b>PC</b> – Policy Council 6.00 pm
Saturday	5	2	<b>EB</b> – Executive Board 6.00 pm
Sunday	6	3	<b>PH</b> – Planning & Highways Committee 6.30 pm
Monday	7 May Day	4 Schools Reopen	<b>AUD</b> – Audit Committee 6.00 pm
Tuesday	8	5 <b>DTC LASC SACRE</b>	<b>SC</b> – Standards Committee 6.00 pm
Wednesday	9	6	<b>LASC</b> – Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee & <b>GLSC</b> General Licensing Sub Committee 4.00/6.00 pm
Thursday	10 New Member Induction Ascension Day	7	<b>L</b> – Licensing Committee 6.00 pm
Friday	11	8	<b>SACRE</b> - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 9.00 am
Saturday	12	9	NNDR – National Non Domestic Ratepayers Meeting
Sunday	13	10	ASR – Annual Scrutiny Review 6.00 pm
Monday	14	11	
Tuesday	15	12 <b>AUD GLSC</b>	
Wednesday	16 Ramadan	13	<b><u>Overview and Scrutiny Committees</u></b>
Thursday	17 <b>AC</b>	14 <b>EB</b> Eid al Fitr	<b>P&amp;CR</b> – Policy & Corporate Resources 6.00 pm
Friday	18	15	<b>H&amp;A</b> – Health & Adults 6.00 pm
Saturday	19	16	<b>C&amp;YP</b> – Children & Young People 6.00 pm
Sunday	20 Civic Sunday Whitsun	17	<b>R&amp;N</b> – Regeneration & Neighbourhoods 6.00 pm
Monday	21	18	<b>CI/T</b> – <b><u>provisional</u></b> dates assigned for Call Ins or Member Training if needed
Tuesday	22	19 <b>H&amp;WB</b>	
Wednesday	23	20 <b>CI/T</b>	<b><u>Partnership Meetings:</u></b>
Thursday	24 <b>PH</b>	21 <b>PH</b>	<b>LSP Board</b> – Local Strategic Partnership Board 5.30 pm
Friday	25 Schools Close – Half Term	22	<b>H&amp;WB</b> – Health & Wellbeing Board 5.30 pm
Saturday	26	23	
Sunday	27	24	
Monday	28 Spring Bank Holiday	25 <b>H&amp;A</b>	
Tuesday	29	26 <b>LASC</b>	
Wednesday	30	27 <b>R&amp;N</b>	<b><u>Other Meetings: These Meetings are open to the Public</u></b>
Thursday	31 <b>L</b>	28	<b>DTC</b> Darwen Town Council 7.00 pm
Friday		29	
Saturday		30	Other:
Sunday			<b>Page 66 of 66</b>
Monday			BH – Bank Holiday      Blackburn with Darwen School Holidays
Tuesday			