EXECUTIVE BOARD 12th October 2017

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

PORTFOLIO:

Mohammed Khan	Leader
Maureen Bateson	Children's Services
Damian Talbot	Leisure, Culture & Young People
Jim Smith	Environment
Phil Riley	Regeneration
Arshid Mahmood	Neighbourhoods & Prevention Services
Andy Kay	Resources
Mustafa Desai	Health & Adult Social Care
Dave Harling	Schools and Education

EXECUTIVE MEMBER John Slater **NON-PORTFOLIO** Leader of the Conservative Group

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ummaih Shah Youth MP, Aliyah Shah and Elle Walsh, Deputy Youth MPs

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1	Welcome & Apologies	
	The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan welcomed all present to the meeting.	
2	Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 th August 2017	
	The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 10 th August 2017 were agreed as a correct record.	Approved
3	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
4	Equality Implications	
	The Chair asked Members to confirm that they had considered and understood any Equality Impact Assessments associated with reports on the agenda ahead of making any decisions.	Confirmed
	Councillor Andy Kay advised that in terms of Agenda Item 9.1- Digital Strategy, that as the services were transformed, EIAs would be completed to analyse and understand the impact of change in delivery.	

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5	Public Forum			
	No questions from m	nembers of the put	olic had been submitted.	
6	Questions by Non-	Executive Membe	ers	
	questions/statement	s by Non-Execu	utive Board Procedure Rul ntive Members, the foll red, details of which are s	lowing
	Name of Non- Executive Member asking the question	Subject Area	Executive Member and Portfolio	
	Councillor David Foster	Darwen Car Park Charges	Councillor Phil Riley	
7	supplementary ques introduction of char The situation would that 83% of all parkin <u>Youth MPs Update</u>	ation arising and a ges at Railway R be monitored and ng spaces in Darw	esponse to the question dvised of the background load and Atlas Road, Da d reviewed and it was rep en were free to use.	to the arwen. ported
	 The regional Chamber on S Authority You from Youth C was extremel region particip 	Sunday 3rd Septer th Councils attend ouncils across the y positive and you	ad been hosted at the Cou mber where all 23 Local ed. Almost 150 young per Northwest attended. Feed ng leaders from across the lebates and discussions of	eople dback e
	allowed youn the Youthforia MP for Blackt	g people to stand f a steering group w	Ilso hosted the AGM which for election to be members ith Aliyah Shah, Deputy Yo was successful in being ele e.	s of outh
	on some visit summer, and September ar	s for the Off for Fu attended the Chilond was looking for	aureen Bateson and had I n activities delivered by YI drens Partnership Board in ward to attending the ent for Children in our Care	PS in า

October.

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 The annual Takeover event which would take place on Wednesday 29th November in the Windsor Suite at King Georges Hall. This year's theme was Mental Health. There would be 3 interactive workshops on Mental Health delivered by Lancashire MIND, Domestic Abuse delivered by The Wish centre, and Substance misuse delivered by Go2. 	
 In addition to this, the BwD Youth forum along with young people from Darwen Youth Club would be producing a short video around these 3 key issues to be shown at the Takeover Challenge. A video would also be produced with YPS to promote national youth work week in November. 	
 A fantastic turnout in the recent Make Your Mark Campaign with over 9000 votes compared to last years 6000. The top three chosen priorities were:- 	
1. Work experience hub for 11-18 year olds - BwD had recently successfully ran a careers event at the Cathedral where over 2000 young people attended to speak to various training providers and employers.	
2. Votes at 16 – The BwD Youth Forum were meeting with Kate Hollern MP to discuss her supporting young people with Votes at 16 in the forthcoming private members bill in November, they were also meeting with Jake Berry MP for Darwen and Rossendale.	
3. Mental Health – BwD Youth Forum would be hosting the Takeover Challenge on 29th November where 100 young people from across the Borough would attend along with key professionals.	
Finally, the Youth MP's would be going to London on the 10 th November for the Annual Youth MP sitting in the House of Commons where Ummaih would have the opportunity to debate on the top 5 issues of the Make Your Mark Campaign.	
Members of the Executive Board commented on the success of the recent Youthforia event and looked forward to the forthcoming Takeover Day.	
Public Health Annual Report	
A report was submitted which advised that the Director of Public Health had a duty to produce an Annual Report, which was traditionally a professional statement about the health of local communities and increasingly an important vehicle by which Directors of Public Health could identify local issues, flag problems and report progress. The report was publicly accessible and a key resource to inform local inter-agency action for health and wellbeing.	

The 2016/17 Annual Report for Blackburn with Darwen was set out in two parts;

8.2.1

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	 Health as a Social Movement describing the major cultural change required to address current health and wellbeing challenges and, 	
	2. The Integrated Strategic Needs Assessment (ISNA) Summary Review setting out the environmental and social context of Blackburn with Darwen as a place and associated impact on the wellbeing of the population.	
	The report made the following key recommendations for adoption by the Council and its partners;	
	 Recommendation 1 – Becoming a 'Changemaking' Place; Recommendation 2 - Work With Communities To Support The Growth Of Social Movements For Health; and Recommendation 3: Embed Social Movements In Practice. 	
	RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:	
	 Note the content of the Public Health Annual Report 2016/17;and 	Noted
	 Support the recommendations of the report including the approach to improving health and wellbeing by supporting social movements for health. 	Approved
8.3.1	<u>Fostering Service Quarterly Report – Quarter 1 April 1st to 30th</u> June 2017	
	A report was submitted which provided information to the Council's Executive Board on the management and performance of the Local Authority's Fostering Service.	
	The report covered for the first Quarter of 2017- 2018, from 1 st April to 30 th June 2017, and provided an overview of the Service.	
	RESOLVED - That the Executive Board notes the quarterly report which is available on the Council website.	Noted
8.3.2	Development of the NoW Regional Adoption Agency	
	Members received a report which advised that the Adoption NoW Regional Adoption Agency (the RAA) would create a single regional service operating across six Local Authority areas in partnership with Caritas Care and Adoption Matters.	
	The report set out the proposals for operational and governance processes of the RAA and the RAA would provide a flexible and resilient service that would allow for the sharing of best practice	
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	between members with the primary aim of improving services and achieving the best outcomes for children.	
	The RAA would provide a service which had the flexibility and resilience to adapt and manage the needs of children for adoptive placements, the supply of adopters to meet those needs and provide placement choice and high quality adoption support services. The RAA aimed to create a distinct regional agency, focusing on positive approaches to permanence; build on existing excellent practice and innovation; drive outstanding performance; and ensure that the voice of adopted children and of adopters shaped the service design and delivery.	
	The RAA's initial focus would be recruitment, assessment and training of adopters, improving family finding and matching, including maximising opportunities through concurrent planning and fostering to adopt and developing an improved range of post adoption support.	
	It was proposed that a Regional Adoption Agency Steering Committee be established to oversee and monitor the development and progress of the RAA.	
	RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:	
	 Notes the content of the report and agrees the proposals for the formal establishment of the Adoption NoW Regional Adoption Agency and the proposed creation of a Regional Adoption Agency Steering Committee; and 	Noted
	 Notes the development of the finance model for the RAA. 	Noted
8.4.1	Award of the Contract for the Management of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) 2017-2022	
	The requirement for the provision of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) service was a statutory duty on the local authority, acting in its capacity as a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). The report recommended the award of a 5 year contract to the highest scoring bidder.	
	The contract covered all aspects of day to day management of the Council's 2 HWRCs, plus arranging for the transport and disposal/recycling/recovery of all materials from the centres (with the exception of non-recyclable landfill and green waste, where the Council had existing contracts).	
	Two bids were received and evaluated by a panel of officers. Both bids were evaluated and scored according to the evaluation matrix.	
	RESOLVED – That the Executive Board approves the above 5 year contract awarded to the highest scoring bidder, taking into account price and quality.	Approved

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8.5	Leisure, Culture and Young People	
	Councillor Damian Talbot verbally reported on an event at Blackburn Library the previous day, which recognised the tremendous efforts of volunteers who gave 10,000 hours a year of their time in supporting the service.	Noted
	Under this item, the Leader made reference to the Kindness Matters campaign that had been recently launched, which was supported by Carl Fogarty and John McGee.	Noted
8.8.1	Closure of Council Charity: Harriet Holt Trust	
	A report was submitted that contained recommendations to address the issue of a dormant charity held by the Council, the Harriet Holt Trust and to seek authorisation to close all business, dealings and the accounts for the Trust.	
	The Council was the trustee/part trustee of five inactive charities/trusts that were no longer in operation or meeting the purpose they were initially set up to achieve. The five charities were:-	
	Harriet Holt Trust Common Goods Trust, Garstang Lecture Fund, Henrietta Kenyon Bequest, Poors Land Charity	
	Over the years these charities had gradually become redundant. This now unfortunately meant that whilst funds were available in each of the accounts the charities themselves were inactive. For most of the charities, the purpose for which they were set up had become obsolete therefore restricting spending of the monies held in the accounts. With others the reason for the inactivity had largely been due to a lack of presence of trustees to conduct business. As a result monies had remained in accounts for numerous years with accrued interest. Three of these charities were registered with the Charities Commission whereby annual accounts were submitted yearly being a resources strain on the Council.	
	Collectively there were sums of approximately £81,851 held in the accounts. Given this lack of activity it was now considered appropriate for the Council to consider options for utilising the dormant funds for good causes in the Borough.	
	Given the differing nature of each of the dormant accounts it was intended that separate reports would be presented for each charity.	
	The first account reviewed was the Harriet Holt Trust. The Harriet Holt Trust was not a registered charity. It had been clarified however that it was established for the benefit of blind people in Darwen. The funds	

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	were transferred from Lancashire County Council in the financial year 1998/1999 and since then the Council has accounted for the Trust.	
	In reviewing the history of this account, the Council made contact with the Charities Commission and Lancashire County Council to try to establish the Harriet Holt Trust's status as a charity or otherwise.	
	Following the advice of the Charities Commission it was recommended that given the absence of registration and the lack of a Governing Document that the Trust should be treated as an 'unincorporated charity'. This provided for the Council to apply to the Charities Commission, under the Charities Act 2011 to request a direction to be made in relation to this as a dormant account. There were currently monies in the sum of £7,717.55 held in the charity's account which have not been added to or drawn from for a number of years.	
	It had been identified that the Blackburn and District Blind Society provide welfare services to the blind and partially sighted within Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley. It was suggested a transfer of the funds from the Harriet Holt Trust to this Charity with a stipulation that the funds be used to provide welfare services to the blind and partially sighted in Darwen, would be reasonable.	
	RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:	
	That the Executive Board:	
	 a) Notes the background and options available to the Council relating to this Council's charity that has been dormant for a number of years; 	Noted
	b) Authorises the closing of the charity and the account of the Harriet Holt Trust;	Noted
	 c) To apply to the Charities Commission to make a direction as to the transfer of funds for a dormant bank account under the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 	Noted
	 d) And in doing so to enter into discussion/consultation with other charities that may be eligible to receive the funds from the Harriet Holt Trust, or as directed by the Charities Commission and; 	Noted
	e) Approves the distribution of the monies to such charity/charities who have been identified as having the same aims and purpose.	Noted
9.1	Blackburn with Darwen Digital Strategy	
	Members were advised that the Digital Strategy set out the Council's approach to addressing the challenges of delivering technology across the organisation, and ensuring that the maximum benefit was derived for the Council, its workforce, partners, customers and residents.	
	It was the Council's ambition that where possible, all services and	
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interactions should be capable of being delivered digitally, although it was recognised that not all customers of the Council's services may be able to use digital methods independently. To address this, the Council would adopt an approach of 'assisted digital'. The digitalisation of services would vary from service to service, and accordingly departments would need to consider where and how they would provide this digital assistance to their customers.	
Existing processes and practices would be reviewed to ensure the Council made best use of the technology available whilst also ensuring that digital services were delivered in user-friendly ways.	
The Strategy aligned with the 6 key priorities of the Council in order to make more efficient use of tightening budgets and to continue delivery of quality services to the citizens of the Borough. The strategy outlined four separate strands:	
Digital Customer,	
Digital Workforce,	
Digital Partners and	
Digital Borough	
The Council had been delivering digital solutions for a number of years and had endeavoured to ensure that these supported a common goal. However, there had been a realisation that a lack of dedicated resources to drive the programme had resulted in the pace of change being slower than required. In addition, the support for staff and services to change and the ability to measure the impact of change had also been missing.	
Given these constraints, a new assisted digital approach would be taken in order to co-design digital services with customers, staff and partners. This approach would also give the programme governance with Management Board acting as the sponsoring group and the Deputy Chief Executive chairing the Programme Board. Updates would be provided to Members through the Executive Member Resources reports. Any changes requiring decision would be made by senior officers, relevant Executive Members or Executive Board as required.	
RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:	
Notes the report and the attached Digital Strategy document.	Noted
Growth Programme Progress Update	
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council had an economic Growth Programme to support the long term financial sustainability of the Borough. To deliver this Growth Programme the Council had identified currently 176 sites across the Borough with projects planned to be implemented over the short, medium and long term.	

Delivery of these private and public sector projects would generate Executive Board Thursday 12th October 2017

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many benefits to the Borough, including:-

• Additional tax revenues to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy;

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• Accelerate economic activity to create employment opportunities for residents;

• Support growth and vitality in the town centres of Blackburn and Darwen;

• Generate financial benefits from strategic land receipts; and

• Extend the choice and range of new family housing to attract new residents into the Borough.

The Growth Programme identified sites across the Borough which utilised private or public sector land and cover employment, housing and town centre developments. The report provided a summary of progress to date following management changes implemented in February of this year with the introduction of strategic support from Capita.

In order to deliver the Growth Programme the Council had invested in a new Growth Team which promoted Council owned sites for development and worked with the private sector in bringing forward private sector sites. The Growth Team also lead on all strategic planning functions, leads the pre-app process for major applications and administered the Section 106 process.

A range of initiatives had been developed to support in delivering the Growth Programme, which included:-

- A programme and pipeline dashboard with 14 key programmes of work covering 176 projects across employment, housing and town centres;
- Procurement of a Contractor & Development Framework to be used for delivering a variety of projects covering construction, civil engineering and developments which will commence in January 2018;
- Implementation of new s106 procedures to rigorously test developer's viability appraisals. This will ensure the Council receives the correct amount of funding to support education, affordable homes, green infrastructure and highways;
- Programme for disposing key strategic housing and employment land; and
- Programme of strategic highways infrastructure delivery.

RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:

Notes the progress of the Growth Programme.

Noted

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9.3	Accommodation Strategy Update	
	An update was provided on the next phase of Council's accommodation strategy.	
	Since 2010 the Council had been downsizing, and as part of this, had been routinely reviewing its core accommodation sites to rationalise property and reduce costs.	
	The previous phase of the Council's accommodation strategy involved the refurbishment of 10 Duke Street that enabled the Council to vacate three leased properties; the Exchange, the Innovation Centre and the Beehive.	
	Earlier this year approval was granted for the refurbishment of Davyfield Road bungalow site to provide staff accommodation and emergency/civil contingency resilience in the event of a town centre building network failure.	
	The next phase related to the Council's staff accommodation sites of Blackburn and Darwen Town Hall's and Tower Block.	
	 As the Council's workforce has decreased so had the occupancy of the accommodation buildings, which currently stood at: Blackburn Town Hall (excluding second floor meeting space) – 59% occupied Darwen Town Hall (excluding meeting space) – 60% occupied Tower Block – 57% occupied Duke Street – 92% occupied 	
	There was scope for rationalisation to reduce costs and improve services.	
	The refurbishment of 10 Duke Street had already demonstrated how a building could be modernised to maximise space utilisation, reduce occupancy costs and improve services and productivity. The move to Duke Street allowed the Council to vacate three leased buildings; the Exchange, the Innovation Centre and the Beehive.	
	Detailed condition and structural surveys had been carried out on Blackburn Town Hall and the Tower Block. Both buildings were deemed to be structurally sound and recent stonework, window and roof restoration have rendered Blackburn Town Hall externally watertight. However, both required internal investment to bring them up to current standards and maximise available floorspace. Darwen Town Hall had not yet been surveyed. The data identifies that not all buildings were required.	
	The review would take account of the availability of office accommodation at the Bungalow at Davyfield Road depot. The Bungalow was currently being refurbished and would provide out-of- town accommodation for up to 120 staff from appropriate teams and touch down space for staff who needed to access a Council building	

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	without having to travel back into the town centre during peak times. The object was to ensure the building could provide for future agile working practices. The Bungalow's location on the edge of town ensured that the building could provide emergency/civil contingency resilience in the event of a town centre building network failure. The proposal was to undertake a piece of work that would look	
	critically at both the potential for, and cost of, internal modifications at the Blackburn and Darwen Town Halls to increase capacity and modernise the office accommodation. Subject to the surveys, a report on the Tower Block will then be brought at a later date.	
	RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:	
	a) Notes the next stage of the Council's accommodation strategy is commencing;	
	b) Notes the detailed feasibility reports and these concepts will be	Noted
	carried out for both Blackburn and Darwen Town Halls to ascertain the costs of refurbishing and remodelling the internal space of the facilities, to help support the business case; and c) Note that further reports will be brought at a future date.	Noted
		Noted
9.4	Roe Lee Land Disposal	
	Members were reminded that Executive approval was granted in January 2017 to prepare and offer for sale, the Council owned Roe Lee site for housing development. An options appraisal identified informal tender as the preferred route for disposal. An informal tender exercise was conducted during June and July to dispose of the site.	
	The report outlined the outcome of the Informal tender for the Council owned Roe Lee site and sought approval to appoint the recommended preferred bidder for the site.	
	Following an evaluation of all tenders, Tender number 1 was selected as the best. The selected bid met the criteria set down in the tender conditions. The offer represented the highest price following full evaluation of conditions of offer. Tender number 1 provided a good level of detail showing a scheme layout, house types, floor sizes and open space proposals which were in line with the Roe Lee masterplan.	
	For these reasons it was recommended that the Council accept the offer from Tender number 1 and appoint them as preferred bidder. The Bidder had provisionally accepted the conditions of sale and draft Heads of Terms in the tender documentation.	
	RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:	
	a) Notes the outcome of the informal tender exercise;b) Approves the appointment of the preferred bidder being 'Tender number 1';	Noted Approved
Executive B	c) Grants permission for Council officers to negotiate Heads of Terms	Approved

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	to finalise the terms of the disposal; d) Delegates authority to conclude negotiations, including terms of any land sale and contracts to the Director of Growth and Development and Director of Finance and IT in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Regeneration to approve the final heads of terms; and	Approved
	e) Authorises the Director of HR, Legal and Corporate Services to complete the necessary legal formalities.	Approved
10.1	Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 th September 2017	
	The minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 th September 2017 were submitted for information.	
	RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 th September 2017 be noted.	Noted
	PART 2 - THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS	
11.1	Roe Lee Land Disposal	
	Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 9.4, an additional report was submitted containing commercially sensitive information.	
	RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:	
	a) Notes the outcome of the informal tender exercise;b) Approves the appointment of the preferred bidder being 'Tender number 1';	Noted Approved
	c) Grants permission for Council officers to negotiate Heads of Terms to finalise the terms of the disposal;	Approved
	 d) Delegates authority to conclude negotiations, including terms of any land sale and contracts to the Director of Growth and Development and Director of Finance and IT in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Regeneration to approve the final heads of terms; and 	Approved
	e) Authorises the Director of HR, Legal and Corporate Services to complete the necessary legal formalities.	Approved
11.2	Award of the Contract for the Management of household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) 2017-2022	
	Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 8.4, an additional report was submitted containing commercially sensitive information.	
	RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:	
	Approves the above 5 year contract awarded to the highest scoring bidder, taking into account price and quality.	Approved
Executive	 Board	

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Signed at a meeting of the Board on the day of

(being the next ensuing meeting of the Board)

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed