

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Thursday 9th November 2017
Meeting Room A, Blackburn Town Hall – 6pm

AGENDA

Information may be provided by each Executive Member relating to their area of responsibility

Part 1: Items for consideration in public:

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 12th October 2017 (Pages 3-15)

3. Declarations of interest (Page 16)

If a Board 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

4. Equality Implications

The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they have considered and understood any Equality Impact Assessments associated with reports on this agenda ahead of making any decisions.

5. 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.

6. Questions by Non-Executive Members

To receive written questions on any issue submitted by Non-Executive Members no later than 4.00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

7. Youth MP'S Update

To receive an update from the Youth MP's along with any issues they would like to raise.

8. Executive Member Reports

Verbal updates may be given by each Executive Member

8.1 Leader (Chair of the Executive Board)

8.2 Health & Adult Social Care

8.3 Children Services

8.4 Environment

8.4.1 Equipped Play Assets Strategy 2017-22 (Pages 17-56)

8.5 Leisure Culture & Young People

8.6 Neighbourhood and Prevention Services

8.7 Regeneration

8.7.1 Darwen East Development Corridor (Pages 57-71)

8.8 Resources

8.9 Schools and Education

9. Corporate Issues

9.1 Quarter 2 Corporate Capital Monitoring Report (*Pages 72-93*)

9.2 Quarter 2 Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report (*Pages 94-101*)

9.3 Blackburn with Darwen Designation as a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough
(*Pages 102-108*)

10. Matters Referred to the Executive Board

11. Part 2: The Press and Public may be excluded during consideration of the following items:

11.1 Darwen East Development Corridor.

**Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
November 2017**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

12th October 2017

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

Mohammed Khan
Maureen Bateson
Damian Talbot
Jim Smith
Phil Riley
Arshid Mahmood
Andy Kay
Mustafa Desai
Dave Harling

PORTFOLIO:

Leader
Children's Services
Leisure, Culture & Young People
Environment
Regeneration
Neighbourhoods & Prevention Services
Resources
Health & Adult Social Care
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

	Item	Action
1	<u>Welcome & Apologies</u> The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan welcomed all present to the meeting.	
2	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th August 2017</u> The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 10 th August 2017 were agreed as a correct record.	Approved
3	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
4	<u>Equality Implications</u> 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. 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.	Confirmed

	Item	Action						
5	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p>No questions from members of the public had been submitted.</p>							
6	<p><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></p> <p>In accordance with Part 4 of the Executive Board Procedure Rules for questions/statements by Non-Executive Members, the following questions/statements had been received, details of which are set out below:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 510 1252 797"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="336 510 625 645">Name of Non-Executive Member asking the question</th> <th data-bbox="625 510 887 645">Subject Area</th> <th data-bbox="887 510 1252 645">Executive Member and Portfolio</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 645 625 797">Councillor David Foster</td> <td data-bbox="625 645 887 797">Darwen Car Park Charges</td> <td data-bbox="887 645 1252 797">Councillor Phil Riley</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Councillor Phil Riley provided a response to the question and supplementary question arising and advised of the background to the introduction of charges at Railway Road and Atlas Road, Darwen. The situation would be monitored and reviewed and it was reported that 83% of all parking spaces in Darwen were free to use.</p>	Name of Non-Executive Member asking the question	Subject Area	Executive Member and Portfolio	Councillor David Foster	Darwen Car Park Charges	Councillor Phil Riley	
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	<p><u>Youth MPs Update</u></p> <p>The Youth MP and Deputy Youth MPs verbally updated the Executive Board as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional Youthforia event had been hosted at the Council Chamber on Sunday 3rd September where all 23 Local Authority Youth Councils attended. Almost 150 young people from Youth Councils across the Northwest attended. Feedback was extremely positive and young leaders from across the region participated in valuable debates and discussions on key issues affecting young people. • The recent event in Blackburn also hosted the AGM which allowed young people to stand for election to be members of the Youthforia steering group with Aliyah Shah, Deputy Youth MP for Blackburn with Darwen was successful in being elected as the Lancashire representative. • Elle had been shadowing Cllr Maureen Bateson and had been on some visits for the Off for Fun activities delivered by YPS in summer, and attended the Childrens Partnership Board in September and was looking forward to attending the Celebration of Achievement event for Children in our Care late October. 	Noted						

	Item	Action
8.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:- <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Finally, the Youth MP's would be going to London on the 10th 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.</p> <p>Members of the Executive Board commented on the success of the recent Youthforia event and looked forward to the forthcoming Takeover Day.</p> <p><u>Public Health Annual Report</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The 2016/17 Annual Report for Blackburn with Darwen was set out in two parts;</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>1. Health as a Social Movement describing the major cultural change required to address current health and wellbeing challenges and,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The report made the following key recommendations for adoption by the Council and its partners;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:</p> <p>1. Note the content of the Public Health Annual Report 2016/17;and</p> <p>2. Support the recommendations of the report including the approach to improving health and wellbeing by supporting social movements for health.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>
<p>8.3.1</p>	<p><u>Fostering Service Quarterly Report – Quarter 1 April 1st to 30th June 2017</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The report covered for the first Quarter of 2017- 2018, from 1st April to 30th June 2017, and provided an overview of the Service.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board notes the quarterly report which is available on the Council website.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>8.3.2</p>	<p><u>Development of the NoW Regional Adoption Agency</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	

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	<p>between members with the primary aim of improving services and achieving the best outcomes for children.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>It was proposed that a Regional Adoption Agency Steering Committee be established to oversee and monitor the development and progress of the RAA.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Notes the development of the finance model for the RAA. 	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.4.1	<p><u>Award of the Contract for the Management of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) 2017-2022</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Two bids were received and evaluated by a panel of officers. Both bids were evaluated and scored according to the evaluation matrix.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board approves the above 5 year contract awarded to the highest scoring bidder, taking into account price and quality.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Approved</p>

	Item	Action
8.5	<p><u>Leisure, Culture and Young People</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.8.1	<p><u>Closure of Council Charity: Harriet Holt Trust</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:-</p> <p>Harriet Holt Trust Common Goods Trust, Garstang Lecture Fund, Henrietta Kenyon Bequest, Poors Land Charity</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Given the differing nature of each of the dormant accounts it was intended that separate reports would be presented for each charity.</p> <p>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</p>	

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	<p>were transferred from Lancashire County Council in the financial year 1998/1999 and since then the Council has accounted for the Trust.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>b) Authorises the closing of the charity and the account of the Harriet Holt Trust;</p> <p>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</p> <p>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;</p> <p>e) Approves the distribution of the monies to such charity/charities who have been identified as having the same aims and purpose.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>9.1</p>	<p><u>Blackburn with Darwen Digital Strategy</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>It was the Council's ambition that where possible, all services and</p>	<p></p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Customer, • Digital Workforce, • Digital Partners and • Digital Borough <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Notes the report and the attached Digital Strategy document.</p>	
9.2	<p><u>Growth Programme Progress Update</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Delivery of these private and public sector projects would generate</p>	Noted

Item	Action
<p>many benefits to the Borough, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional tax revenues to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy; • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A range of initiatives had been developed to support in delivering the Growth Programme, which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Notes the progress of the Growth Programme.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	Item	Action
9.3	<p data-bbox="336 69 847 107"><u>Accommodation Strategy Update</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 143 1123 221">An update was provided on the next phase of Council's accommodation strategy.</p> <p data-bbox="336 255 1326 374">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.</p> <p data-bbox="336 407 1331 568">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.</p> <p data-bbox="336 602 1299 763">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.</p> <p data-bbox="336 797 1315 875">The next phase related to the Council's staff accommodation sites of Blackburn and Darwen Town Hall's and Tower Block.</p> <p data-bbox="336 909 1299 987">As the Council's workforce has decreased so had the occupancy of the accommodation buildings, which currently stood at:</p> <ul data-bbox="368 999 1326 1182" style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p data-bbox="336 1216 1251 1294">There was scope for rationalisation to reduce costs and improve services.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1328 1321 1512">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.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1545 1310 1843">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.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1877 1310 2060">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</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:</p> <p>a) Notes the next stage of the Council's accommodation strategy is commencing;</p> <p>b) Notes the detailed feasibility reports and these concepts will be 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</p> <p>c) Note that further reports will be brought at a future date.</p>	<p></p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>9.4</p>	<p><u>Roe Lee Land Disposal</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:</p> <p>a) Notes the outcome of the informal tender exercise;</p> <p>b) Approves the appointment of the preferred bidder being 'Tender number 1';</p> <p>c) Grants permission for Page 13 of 108 to negotiate Heads of Terms</p>	<p></p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

	Item	Action
	<p>Signed at a meeting of the Board on the day of</p> <p>(being the next ensuing meeting of the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Localities and Prevention Director of Environment and Leisure
DATE:	9 November 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Environment	Neighbourhood and Prevention Services
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All	
KEY DECISION:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

SUBJECT: Equipped Play Assets Strategy 2017-22

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The number of equipped play assets across the borough has grown significantly over the years and since 2010 the Council's resources have reduced, meaning decreased budgets to invest in maintaining and renewing facilities. Coupled with this the Council has had to deal with increasing demands to respond to damage from vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

The Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022 provides a comprehensive review of play assets their classification, locations and accessibility. Review of the condition, risk rating and usage of the facilities identifies the strategic priority sites for Blackburn with Darwen in the form of Destination Equipped Area for Play (DEAPs) and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAPS) to channel resources for improving the quality of play assets for the Borough. The review also identifies areas in the borough that would benefit with a strategic NEAP/DEAP equipped play facility. The strategy defines the borough's minimum standard of equipment for DEAPs in order for them to be classed as 'Destinations' for families and young people to travel to.

The next stage will lead to the implementation and development of the subsequent action plan in line with the strategy. As part of the implementation of the strategy and future action plan, consultation on the future development of the sites may be required to ensure health and safety is prioritised and the quality of equipped play assets are managed effectively across the borough according to the strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

2.1 Note the Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022

2.2 Delegate authority to the Director of Environment & Leisure and Executive Member for Environment to implement the Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022.

2.3 Approve the use of capital receipts from decommissioning of play assets to be recycled and used to fund the implementation of the strategy. A joint action plan to be developed with the Council's Planning functions to ensure improved alignment of Section 106 funding.

3. BACKGROUND

Parks, playgrounds and playing fields play a vital role in building healthy neighbourhoods, contributing to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of local people.

Local Authorities have been hit hard by Government cuts to public sector spending. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has had to manage unprecedented and severe reductions in funding from Central Government each year since 2010. The Council is forecast to face further financial challenges over the next four years, with increasing pressures of an ageing population coupled with significant reductions in central government funding. This places pressure on revenue budgets as well funding available for capital investments in buildings and facilities. Due to constraints in funding, the Council must complete a review of all areas of spending; this includes the costs of maintaining free outdoor play assets for the benefit of the local community.

The number of play assets across the borough has grown significantly over the years. In the past the council has had budget capability to review, renew, replace or even decommission play areas in consultation with its communities, stakeholders and elected Members. In most cases, due to the lack of funding, some of the facilities are in a poor state of repair and will require significant capital investment to make them safe for continued use. In order to improve the quality of play assets in the borough a review has been commissioned to ensure strategic management of equipped play facilities across the borough according to national standards.

The Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022 has been developed from a comprehensive review of current provision that has considered the distribution, condition and use of every equipped play area within Blackburn with Darwen. The aim of the strategy is: *"To have a series of well-equipped, well-maintained play areas in the right locations for the young people of Blackburn with Darwen for which the Local Authority has the resources to sustain"*.

Utilising guidance from the 'Fields in Trust' and 'Play England' Standards, the play assets have been categorised as:

- **LAP** (Local Area for Play): A small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live;
- **LEAP** (Local Equipped Area for Play): An area of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live;
- **NEAP** (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play): An area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children, but with the play opportunities for younger children as well.
- **DEAP** (Destination Equipped Area for Play): These are play spaces within key sites that are aimed at attracting family and similar groups for a longer visit. They will tend to be larger than neighbourhood sites, have car parking facilities, a greater variety of fixed equipment, and access to facilities such as cafes and public toilets.

Categorisation and mapping allowed identification of the coverage and accessibility to the equipped play assets across the borough. Review of the condition, risk rating and usage of the facilities supported the identification of NEAPs and DEAPs as the priority strategic sites. The review also identifies areas in the borough that would benefit with a strategic NEAP/DEAP equipped play facility. The strategy defines the borough's minimum standard of equipment for DEAPs in order for them to be classed as 'Destinations' for families and young people to travel to.

The Strategy identifies priorities for the Council to manage equipped play assets in a way which utilises the limited resources available to invest in improving the quality of strategic sites to meet the needs of the local community to improve standards across Blackburn with Darwen. The review highlights LEAPs and LAPs sites have fewer pieces of equipment, serve smaller catchments, are generally of a lower standard due to vandalism, some attract anti-social behaviour and the majority are overlapped by NEAPs and DEAPs.

All of the Council equipped play assets are managed by the Environment Department who will undertake implementation and development of the subsequent action plan of the Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022. As part of the implementation of the strategy and future action plan, consultation on the future development of the sites may be required to ensure health and safety is prioritised and ensures quality of equipped play assets are managed effectively across the borough according to the strategy.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

- The Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022 provides a methodical approach to management and allowing the prioritisation of investment in strategic sites that improve the quality of equipped play facilities across the borough.
- The strategic sites identified will ensure that the borough has adequate play facilities across the Blackburn with Darwen, in line with national guidance.
- A number of equipped play facilities in the borough are in a poor condition due to vandalism and are a hot-spot for anti-social behaviour, causing concerns for health & safety. In the main they are overlapped by strategic sites and serve smaller catchments.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The Council has a health and wellbeing responsibility to ensure there is adequate play provision for its communities.
- The Council has to ensure that it safeguards its communities from harm. Damaged play assets pose a risk of injury. Other play assets that have become magnets for anti-social behaviour also present risks of young people being drawn into negative peer pressure or behaviour.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- This report recommends that Capital receipts from decommissioning of play assets are recycled and used to fund the implementation of the strategy and that a joint action plan is developed with the Council's Planning functions to ensure improved and better alignment of

Section 106 funding.

- Any revenue costs associated with the implementation of the strategy will be met from within existing portfolio resources.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- There is a variety of legislation covering the provision of playground equipment. This includes the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 as amended, with specific regard to the duty of care. The Occupier's Liability Act requires that people can expect to be reasonably safe when using a playground. Greater care is required where children are concerned.
- The manufacture, installation, inspection and maintenance of playground equipment and impact absorbing surfacing is regulated by British and European Standards BS EN1 176, BS EN 1177. Government and safety organisations such as ROSPA also publish guidance on playground safety.
- The Equalities Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against disabled persons in connection with the provision of facilities and services. A strategy and action plan for reviewing, risk assessing and managing our play equipment areas will demonstrate a system of monitoring and due diligence in the event of a legal challenge and will assist in discharging our statutory responsibilities.
- Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act enables a planning obligation to be entered into by agreement between a developer and a local Planning Authority. Very often the provision of a playground on sites proposed for major development is such a planning obligation. This is another legal mechanism to ensure adequate provision of such facilities in light of decreasing Council budgetary resources.

Any substantial proposed changes to service provision as a result of the strategy and action plan should be subject to public consultation and equality impact assessment.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Development of the action plan will be led by the Environment Team with support from Planning and Property colleagues.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

- Planning, Property, Education, Neighbourhoods, Resources, Environment and Leisure departments have been consulted and their views taken on board in the development of this

strategy where possible.

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. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. 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 in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Sayyed Osman / Martin Eden
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DATE:	27/07/2017
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Equipped Play Area Strategy 2017-2022
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BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Equipped Play Assets Strategy 2017-2022

Report Date: August 2017

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1. Introduction

Background

Parks, playgrounds and playing fields play a vital role in building healthy neighbourhoods, contributing to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of local people. Without access to these spaces the quality of life and wellbeing of residents are reduced¹. Blackburn with Darwen Council is convinced of the benefits and has pledged, in its Corporate Plan, to provide opportunities for people to be active and make healthy lifestyle choices to increase participation in health and fitness activities as a means of improving the health and wellbeing of residents. It is determined to improve outcomes for young people, of whom there are 42,000 under the age of 19, almost 30% of the population².

Local Authorities have been hit hard by Government cuts to public sector spending. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has had to manage unprecedented and severe reductions in funding from Central Government each year since 2010. The Council is forecast to face further financial challenges over the next four years, with increasing pressures of an ageing population coupled with significant reductions in central government funding. This places pressure on revenue budgets as well funding available for capital investments in buildings and facilities. The Council has worked hard to work with local partners and communities to limit and mitigate the impact of funding cuts by finding alternative methods to deliver services. The reality is that difficult choices have to be made to allow a broad range of public services to be provided.

Due to constraints in funding, the Council must complete a review of all areas of spending; this includes the costs of maintaining free outdoor play facilities for the benefit of the local community. In most cases, due to the lack of funding, some of the facilities are in a poor state of repair and will require significant capital investment to make them safe for continued use. All services are subject to intense scrutiny to ensure fairness, equal opportunity and value for money. Play facilities are no exception.

Aim

“To have a series of well-equipped, well-maintained play areas in the right locations for the young people of Blackburn with Darwen for which the Local Authority has the resources to sustain”.

¹ The Rt Hon The Lord Coe CH KBE, Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, October 2015

² 2011 Census: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/2011censusprofile.pdf>

Objectives of the Strategy

- An approach that creates a sustainable platform for the future development of structured outdoor play in Blackburn with Darwen
- Complete a comprehensive review of review of current provision that has considered the distribution, condition and use of every equipped play area within Blackburn with Darwen
- Develop a strategy for prioritising investment on specified strategic equipped play sites to ensure adequate access for children and young people in the borough.
- Attract investment for the development of play facilities to invest in prioritised facilities in the borough

Future Strategic Investments

The strategy will govern the Council's investment decisions for use of its own resources and that from external sources, such as Section 106 monies, which are contributions from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, needed to support new development.

2. Scope

This strategy focuses on Equipped Play Areas, available for structured play, with open access and free to use by the community across the borough.

The review excludes:

- General greens and open spaces that may be used for informal play.
- Outdoor facilities used for organised play and are paid facilities (managed by Council's Leisure Department).
- Outdoor facilities that are managed by private groups (asset transferred) – Such as, Griffin Park Football Ground managed by Mill Hill FC.
- Indoor facilities managed by schools / leisure, such as BSF facilities / Space centre.

3. Methodology

A number of steps were taken to identify the Borough's strategic play areas. The analysis incorporated play facilities provided by Twin Valley Homes and the small number of sites owned and maintained by private or charitable organisations.

Categorisation

Using the number of pieces of equipment and ancillary facilities, such as multi-use games areas (MUGA), as a guide, all play areas were categorised with reference to the '*Fields in Trust Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard: England (2015)*'. Fields in Trust, formerly the National Playing Pitch Association, has been providing guidance on open space provision since 1925 and is the recognised standard to which local authorities and others aspire.

The Fields in Trust Standard has three categories of equipped play area, LAP, LEAP and NEAP. The main characteristics of each category are:

LAP – Local Area for Play: A small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live;

LEAP – Local Equipped Area for Play: An area of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live;

NEAP – Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play: An area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children, but with the play opportunities for younger children as well.

A fourth category has been adopted by Blackburn with Darwen Council, using the definition drawn up by Play England³:

DEAP – Destination Equipped Area for Play: These are play spaces within key sites that are aimed at attracting family and similar groups for a longer visit. They will tend to be larger than neighbourhood sites, have car parking facilities, a greater variety of fixed equipment, and access to facilities such as cafes and public toilets.

³ Play England, Tools for evaluating local play provision: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators, (Oct 2009)

Equipment Number Standards

Fields in Trust no longer recommend a minimum number of pieces of equipment for each category of provision. Figures given in earlier guidance⁴ nevertheless provide an aid to categorisation and have been used for this assessment on the basis that a site with more facilities can usually serve a broader age group and wider geographical area. Sites with no equipment are categorised as 'unclassified'.

Designation	Pieces of Equipment
Local Area for Play (LAP)	1-4
Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	5-7
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	8-9
Destination Equipped Area for Play (DEAP)	10+
Unclassified	0

Access Standards

Once categorised, each site was mapped and a walking distance buffer drawn around it. Access 'on foot' is key to allowing children to reach a play area safely when travelling independently or with friends, but without accompanying adults⁴.

The walking buffers are the effective catchments and distances that 75-80% of users would normally travel on foot to visit a play area⁵. The mapped buffer is 40% shorter than the recommended walking distance to take account of local features and obstacles to pedestrian and cycle movement as noted by both Fields in Trust and Play England⁶.

Fields in Trust suggest a walking distance of 1,000m for a NEAP. However, a Borough Council survey carried out in 2012 (see Appendix 1) found residents were willing to walk up to 15 minutes to reach children's play facilities so 1,200m is used as the walking distance buffer for NEAPs in Blackburn with Darwen.

⁴ National Playing Fields Association, The Six Acre Standard (2008)

⁵ Companion Guide to PPG 17 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2001) Replaced by National Planning Policy Framework

⁶ Play England: Tools for evaluating local play provision: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators (October 2009)

Destination Equipped Areas for Play are deemed to have a minimum catchment of 2km, which is 25 minutes walking distance and more likely to attract visits by car. Two kilometres is estimated to be 5 minutes' drive time.

	Walking Distance (Metres)	Indicative Walking Time (Minutes)	Straight Line Buffer (Metres)
LAP	100	1-2	60
LEAP	400	5	240
NEAP	1,200	15	720
DEAP	2,000	25	1,200
Unclassified	-	-	-

The objective of the site categorisation and mapping was to determine where there was no playground provision within recommended walking distance or destination play area drive-time and where there was overlap of provision. The sites and their categorisations are listed at Appendix 2.

Having established coverage, condition and usage of the playgrounds were reviewed to ascertain which should be designated a strategic site. Annual Play Area Inspection Reports and the Open Space Assessment for the Local Plan provided the condition and site quality data, which is included in the site listing at Appendix 2.

4. Outcomes

Coverage and Accessibility

Coverage and accessibility is shown in Figure 1. The mapping exercise demonstrated that large parts of the borough have access on foot to equipped areas for play and some, particularly Ewood, Shadsworth and Darwen, have overlapping catchments of large equipped areas for play.

Almost all of the urban areas of the borough have access to either a DEAP or NEAP either on foot or within an acceptable drive time. However, there are some areas, particularly on the periphery of Blackburn, that are without access to a large equipped play area within the Borough's threshold walking distance of 15 minutes or 5 minutes' drive time. These are:

- Fernhurst
- Cherry Tree (part)
- Beardwood
- Sunny Bower
- Higher Croft
- Lower Darwen

Risk Assessments

Almost all of the DEAPs and NEAPs have a low to moderate risk rating as determined by the Play Area Inspection Reports at January 2017 and a quality assessment, as defined by the Open Space Assessment for the Local Plan, above the borough threshold, providing a good foundation for retention and development.

Number of Sites	Inspection Risk Score		
Quality Threshold	Low	Moderate	N/A
Above Threshold (40%)	12	2	1
Below Threshold	7	2	1

Inspection Report Scoring Key

Low: Minimal probability of occurrence - Requires significant factor or combination of factors to take place. Significant increase in intensity of use;

Moderate: Moderate probability. An added factor is needed to cause an accident. Designed use is unlikely to be problematic, additional factor is required. Covers or guards: loose, removed or vandalised. Absent guard rail or barrier at high levels

5. Strategic Sites

On the grounds of coverage, accessibility and condition, the **DEAPs and NEAPs** have been selected as the borough’s strategic play areas, to be retained and maintained to a satisfactory standard to provide hubs of play that can be accessed within a 15 minute walk or 5-minute drive from home by the majority of the borough’s residents. Where there is a geographical gap in coverage, a **LEAP** or **LAP** has been designated a strategic site. The strategic sites are listed in Appendix 2, denoted by grey shading, and geographical coverage is shown in Figure 2. Sites are also listed by proposed new ward in Appendix 3. There are 25⁷ strategic play sites serving the borough; ten of which are priority DEAPs. Six sites are in rural locations, providing the only public play facility in the vicinity.

Priority Sites

Of the strategic sites, the Destination Equipped Areas for Play (**DEAPs**) are the priority sites for investment. The aim is to achieve and maintain a minimum standard for these sites, as follows:

Each destination play area will be equipped to facilitate toddler, junior and early teenager play. A Minimum of 10 items of equipment or ancillary facility such as a shelter or multi-use games area will be provided. Items may include:

Junior Play		Older Children	Ancillary Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play houses • Slides • Swings • Trails • Nets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springies • Roundabouts • Themed Play • Activity Walls • Climbing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariel Zip Wires • Nest swings • Rotators • See-saws • Trampolines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-about courts • Shelter • Astro turf • Skate park

The needs of disabled children will be addressed by providing at least one experience of the ten basic activities on a play area, as set out by ROSPA Guidance on the Disability Discrimination Act⁸, at each strategic site, reviewing access, ensuring seating for disable parents/carers and confirming disabled parking provision, where relevant.

Selection of sites for development and investment will be set out by the Environment Department in an annual action plan, determined by the condition of the facility and the demand for it, both now and arising from new housing development.

⁷ Robinson Street facilities are counted as one site

⁸ <https://www.rospa.com/play-safety/services/dda/>

In appropriate situations and as determined by the associated planning permission, a new play facility may be constructed to serve additional demand from a growing population and areas where there is currently no provision. Children in such areas may have access to other open spaces and have the advantage of a garden space for informal play. However, equipped play areas are acknowledged to give children and young people opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills in their home environment⁹ and so should be available in these parts of the borough.

Resources for development and investment will be a combination of Council budgets, s106 moneys associated with planning conditions and external funding secured by community groups. The way in which the commuted sum is calculated is set out in Appendix 4.

⁹ Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2006) Replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework

6. Non-Strategic Sites

Non-strategic sites, shown in Figure 3 and listed (unshaded) in Appendix 2; are the satellite **LEAPs** (Local Equipped Areas for Play) and **LAPs** (Local Areas for Play) scattered across the borough. Both the LEAPs and LAPs have fewer pieces of equipment or facilities and serve a smaller catchment than the Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play. All are over-lapped by NEAPs or DEAPs, except Wilton Close in Beardwood (site 76), which is privately owned and managed.

LEAPs and LAPs were provided in these locations for a variety of reasons. About half of sites are owned and managed by Twin Valley Homes and are located amongst their housing stock. Another large cluster is in Bastwell ward where there is very limited recreational open space amongst the dense terraced housing. Almost all of the facilities serve the more deprived neighbourhoods of the borough.

The non-strategic sites are generally of a lower standard than the strategic sites.

<i>Number of Sites</i>	<i>Inspection Risk Score</i>		
	<i>Low</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Above Threshold (40%)	11	12	6
Below Threshold	4	6	2
N/A	11	24	8

7. Review of Non-Strategic Sites

The majority of non-strategic LEAPs and LAPs sit within the catchment of a NEAP or DEAP and may be duplicating provision. Facilities may also be poorly sited or badly designed and be under-used by the target population and/or mis-used by others. Where this is the case, a review of the provision is required with consultation in the local community in order to free up resources to invest in the strategic sites. Such decisions will be taken in discussion with Twin Valley Homes and in the context of their reviews.

Selection for retention or review of a site will be based on:

- Distance from a strategic equipped play area (DEAP or NEAP);
- Condition of the equipment;
- Use and abuse of the site;
- Demographics of the immediate catchment;
- Age range that the equipment serves;
- Ease of use by disabled children;
- Availability and location of alternative play provision within the neighbourhood

The objective is to ensure access to facilities for play for all ages and abilities within a walking distance of no more than 1.2km or 5 minute drive time.

Proposals to change the use of a site are bound by Local Plan policy which aims to protect the borough's green infrastructure and will allow development only in certain circumstances (See Appendix 4). The Council's Open Space Assessment recommends a quantity benchmark for provision for Children & Young people as 0.04 ha per 1,000 population, equating to 5.88ha for the borough. Actual provision of equipped play area at 2017 is 7.5ha, inclusive of all sites in non-Council ownership. Recommendations on sites to review will take account of the impact on accessibility, including disabled access, and on overall quantity of provision.

Section 27 of the Children & Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to keep the education, training and social care provision made for disabled children or young people and those with special educational needs under review. The views of children, their parents, and young people should be central to the way local authorities review their services and they must be consulted about services currently available and published in the Local Offer. Local authorities must also consider whether the provision is sufficient to meet children and young people's needs. The review process should be integrated with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken by the local Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. Development, Approval & Implementation

Action Plan

An Action Plan will set out the works required to bring the strategic play areas up to and maintained at the required standard. The Plan will be developed, costed, implemented and monitored by the Environment & Leisure Department, as site managers, and will be used by the Planning Division of the Growth & Development Department to allocate s106 monies for investment in play areas, either new or existing. Appendix 5 sets out how these monies will be managed. Where new facilities are required, Policy 40 of the Local Plan Part 2¹⁰ sets out how the Council aims to achieve the enhancement and extension of the area's green infrastructure and requires that all development that includes an element of green space to secure the appropriate maintenance of the space in the long term.

Funding & Resources

Existing revenue budgets will continue to be used to ensure the safety of existing play areas. Investment and development will largely be dependent on s106 monies associated with new development. The Council will continue to look for opportunities to raise additional funds from other external sources such as the Lottery and work with Friends and other voluntary groups to identify sources of funding open to community organisations. All new approaches to funding and management will be kept under review.

Securing Section 106 investments in equipped facilities

The level of s106 contributions towards play area development, investment and maintenance will be negotiated by the Growth Team within the Growth & Development Department. The Growth and Planning Teams will consult with the Director of Localities and Prevention and the Director of Environment & Leisure for making decisions on line with this strategy on approving allocation and expenditure proposals, prior to implementation.

Monitoring / Responsibilities

¹⁰ Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies
<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/Local%20Plan%20Part%202%20-%20Adoption%20Version%20Dec%202015.pdf>

The Action Plan will be monitored bi-annually by the Environment & Leisure Department to ensure it is implemented and kept up to date with a rolling programme of investment. Updates and progress reports will be forwarded to the Growth Team. An annual progress report will be submitted to the Directors of Environment & Leisure and Localities & Prevention.

Income and expenditure of s106 monies will be monitored by the Growth Team. The Action Plan Annual Report will incorporate an update on the use of s106 monies and the income expected in the coming year.

Figure 1: All Play Areas and Geographical Coverage at March 2017

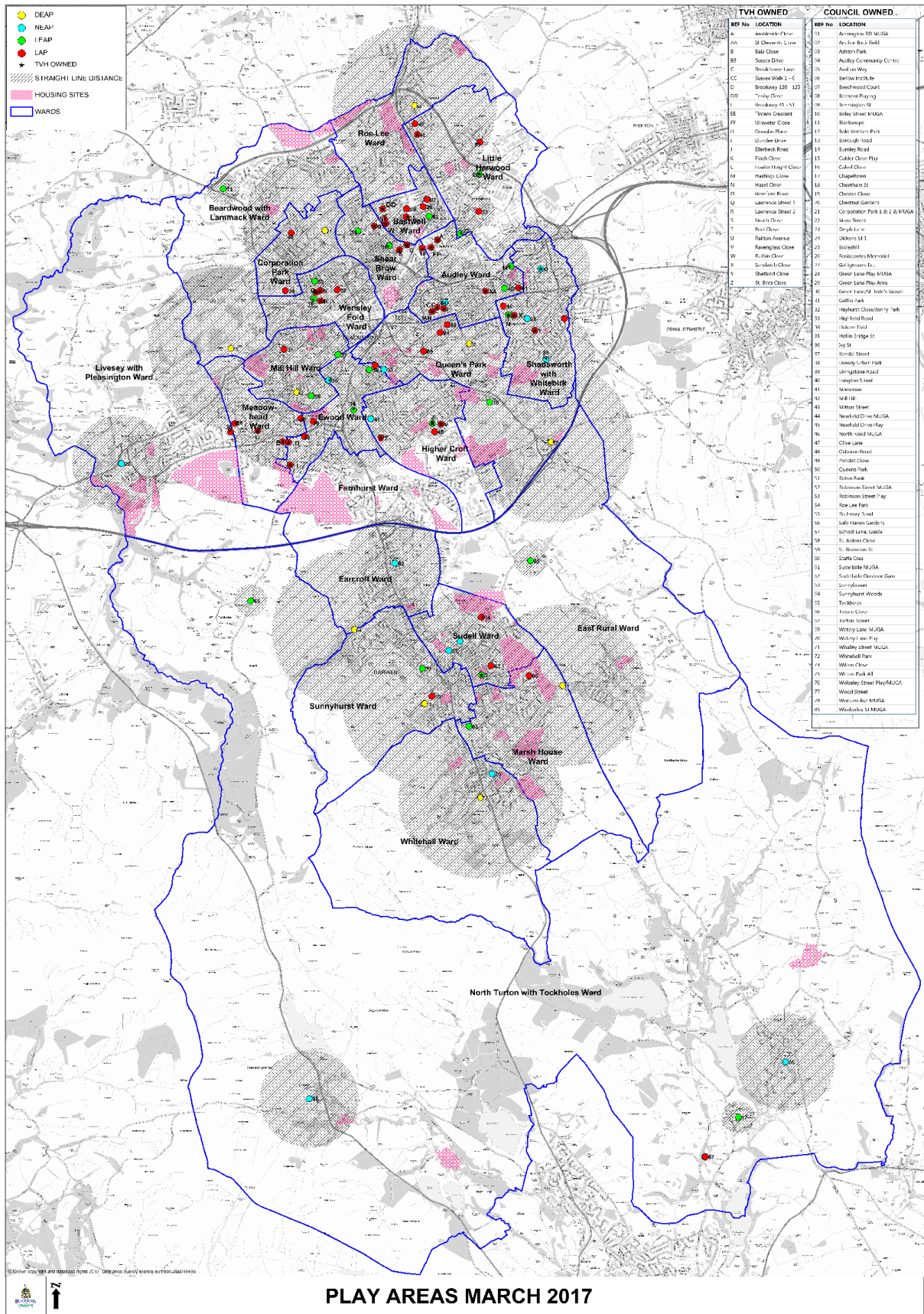
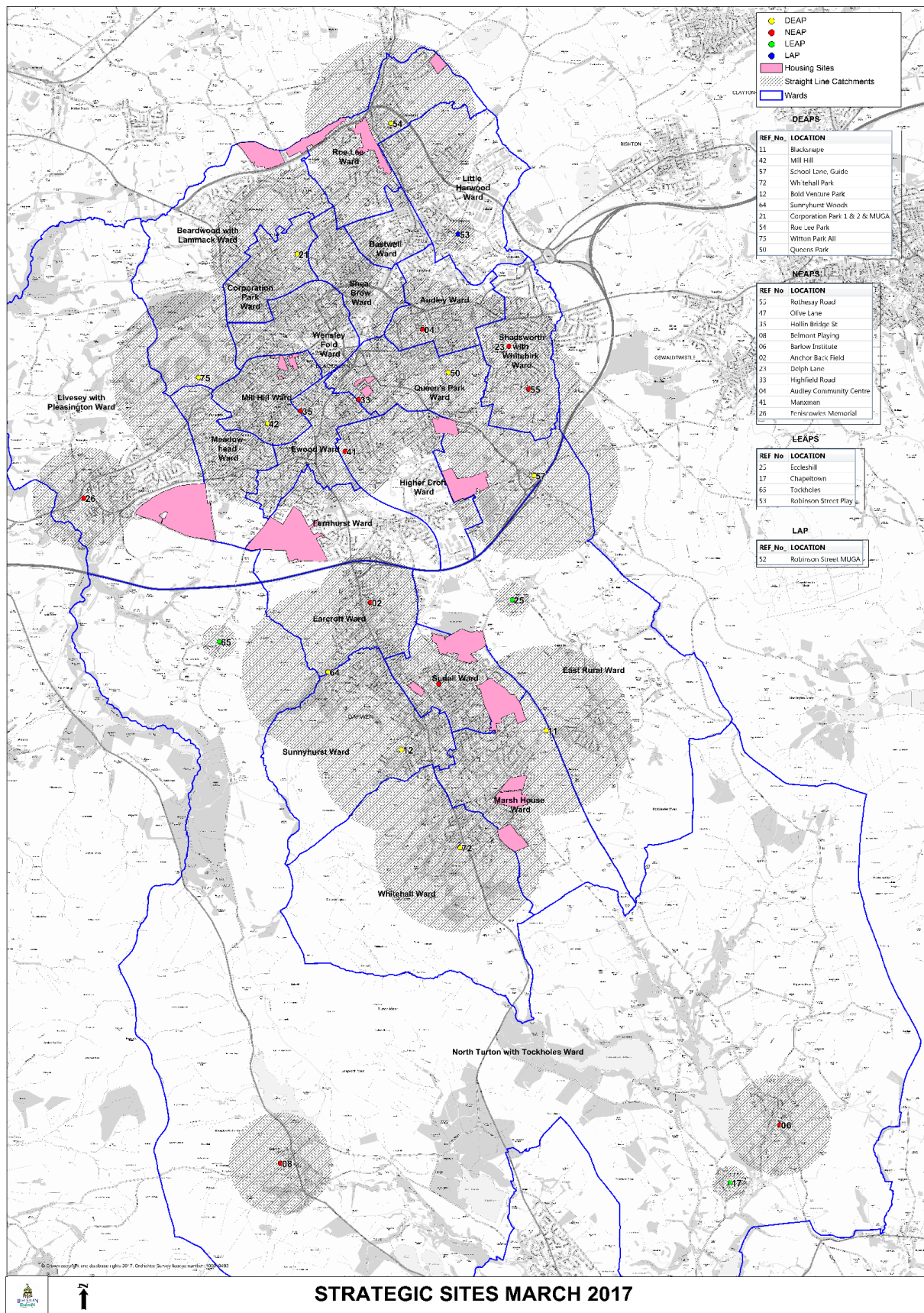


Figure 2 Strategic Sites



Appendix 1: Residents' Survey 2012

Extracts from Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies: Open Space Assessment (May 2014)

An integral component of identifying the local need for new and improved open spaces in Blackburn with Darwen was to engage with residents of the Borough to determine their use of, and attitudes towards open spaces.

The Council commissioned consultants to conduct a telephone survey with a representative sample of Blackburn with Darwen residents in November 2012. The survey found that parks and gardens were the most popular open space that residents visited (71% of residents surveyed).

Residents' overall satisfaction with open spaces in Blackburn with Darwen was high, with 87% 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the open space in the Borough. However, overall satisfaction with children and young people's play areas in the borough was lower than most other types of open space, being measured at 69%. This figure included 14% 'very satisfied' and 55% 'satisfied'. Approximately one in five (11%) were 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. These results are supported by the outcome of the quality site assessments which highlights there is an issue with the quality of children and young people's play across the Borough (average quality score, 29% overall).

The main reasons for visiting open spaces were given as:

- Spending time with children/family
- To go for a walk
- For recreational activities and exercise

Children's facilities, the fresh air, greenery and opportunities to walk, in addition to the spaces being well maintained were identified by residents as what they liked most about open spaces in the Borough.

Results from the residents' survey were used to identify any apparent issues with the quantity, quality and accessibility to open spaces within the Borough and whether existing provision met the needs of the local population. They have also been used to inform the setting of local accessibility catchments for each open space typology.

Appendix 2: Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017															
Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
1	Accrington RD MUGA	N/K	Audley	LAP	NS	N/A	-		x					N/A	Well used
2	Anchor Back Field	E&L	Earcroft	NEAP	S	Low	44		x		x			SL	Well used
3	Ashton Park	E&L	Marsh House	LEAP	NS	Low	55		x				x	GA	
4	Audley Community Centre	E&L	Audley	NEAP	S	Moderate	47				x			GA	Well used
5	Avallon Way Kickabout	E&L	Marsh House	LAP	NS	N/A	-							N/A	
6	Barlow Institute	E&L	North Turton with Tockholes	NEAP	S	Moderate	54							GA	Well used
7	Beechwood Court	E&L	Bastwell	LAP	NS	Low	13	x						GA	Limited use
8	Belmont Playing	E&L	North Turton with Tockholes	NEAP	S	Low	53							GA	Well used
9	Bennington St	E&L	Queens Park	LAP	NS	Low	39		x		x			SL	Well used
10	Birley Street MUGA	E&L	Bastwell	LAP	NS	Low	25						x	SL	Little used?
11	Blacksnape	E&L	Marsh House	DEAP	PS	Moderate	-		x					GA	Well used
12	Bold Venture Park	E&L	Sunnyhurst	DEAP	PS	Low	76		x		x			GA	Well used

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
13	Borough Road Kickabout	E&L	Sunnyhurst	LAP	NS	N/A	64							N/A	
14	Burnley Road	E&L	Audley	LEAP	NS	Moderate	35		x					GA	Well used
15	Calder Street Play	E&L	Bastwell	LAP	NS	Moderate	28				x			GA	Well used
16	Cavell Close	Private	Queens Park	LEAP	NS	N/A	43							N/A	N/K Private
17	Chapelton	E&L	North Turton with Tockholes	LEAP	S	Low	40		x					SL	Well used
18	Cheetham St	E&L	Wensley Fold	LEAP	NS	Low	-	x						SL	Limited use
19	Chester Close	E&L	Queens Park	LAP	NS	Low	22		x					GA	
20	Chestnut Gardens	E&L	Bastwell	LAP	NS	Low	-							GA	
21	Corporation Park 1 & 2 & MUGA	E&L	Corporation Park	DEAP	PS	Moderate	78				x			GA	Well used
22	Daisyfield/Moss Street	Educ.	Bastwell	LEAP	NS	Low	-		x					GA	Well used
23	Delph Lane	E&L	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	NEAP	S	Low	51		x		x			GA	Well used
24	Dickens St 1	E&L	Queens Park	LAP	NS	Low	25		x					SL	Well used
25	Eccleshill	E&L	East Rural	LEAP	S	Low	-	x						SL	Well used

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
26	Feniscowles Memorial	Trust	Livesey with Pleasington	NEAP	S	Moderate	-							GA	
27	Galligreaves Est.	E&L	Ewood	LEAP	NS	Low	35							SL	Not well used
28	Green Lane MUGA	E&L	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	Moderate	40		x		x			SL	Well used
29	Green Lane Play Area	E&L	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	Moderate	40		x		x			SL	Well used
30	Green Lane/St Bede's Gravel MUGA	Educ.	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	N/A	-							N/A	
31	Griffin Park	E&L	Mill Hill	LAP	NS	Low	48							GA	Not used
32	Heyhurst Close/Jonny Park	Educ.	Wensley Fold	LAP	NS	N/A	43				x		x	N/A	Decommissioned
33	Highfield Road	E&L	Queens Park	NEAP	S	Low	41		x			x		GA	Well used
34	Holden Fold	Resources	Sudell	LAP	NS	N/A	-							N/A	
35	Hollin Bridge St	E&L	Wensley Fold	NEAP	S	Low	50		x					GA	Well used
36	Ivy St	E&L	Ewood	LEAP	NS	Moderate	51		x			x		SAF	Well used
37	Kendal Street	E&L	Shear Brow	LEAP	NS	Moderate	20					x	x	SL	Well used

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
38	Livesey Urban Park	E&L	Livesey with Pleasington	LAP	NS	Low	-		x				x	SL	
39	Livingstone Road	E&L	Corporation Park	LAP	NS	Low	27		x		x			SAF	
40	Longton Street	E&L	Audley	LEAP	NS	Moderate	18				x			GA	Well used
41	Manxman	E&L	Higher Croft	NEAP	S	Moderate	44				x			GA	Well used
42	Mill Hill Gardens	E&L	Mill Hill	DEAP	PS	Low	51		x	x	x			GA	Well used
43	Mitton Street	E&L	Bastwell	LEAP	NS	Low	30		x			x		GA	Well used
44	Newfield Drive MUGA	E&L	Higher Croft	LAP	NS	Low	35							SL	Well used
45	Newfield Drive Play	E&L	Higher Croft	LAP	NS	Low	35		x		x			SL	Not well used
46	North Road MUGA	E&L	Queens Park	LAP	NS	Low	46				x	x		GA	Not well used.
47	Olive Lane	E&L	Sudell	NEAP	S	Moderate	34		x	x				GA	Well used
48	Osborne Road	E&L	Corporation Park	LAP	NS	Low	51		x					GA	Limited use
49	Peridot Close	E&L	Little Harwood	LAP	NS	Low	15							GA	Limited used
50	Queens Park	E&L	Queens Park	DEAP	PS	Low	73				x			GA	
51	Robin Bank	E&L	Sudell	NEAP	NS	Low	52							SL	Limited use

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
52	Robinson Street MUGA	E&L	Little Harwood	LAP	S	Low	29		x		x			GA	Well used
53	Robinson Street Play	E&L	Little Harwood	LEAP	S	Low	36		x		x			GA	Well used
54	Roe Lee Park	E&L	Roe Lee	DEAP	PS	Low	68		x		x			GA	Well used
55	Rothsay Road	E&L	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	NEAP	S	Moderate	34	x						GA	Well used
56	Safe Haven Gardens	E&L	Shear Brow	LEAP	NS	Moderate	-		x		x			SL	
57	School Lane, Guide	E&L	North Turton with Tockholes	DEAP	PS	Moderate	40	x						SL	Well used
58	St. Aiden's Close	E&L	Mill Hill	LEAP	NS	Moderate	26		x					GA	Not well used
59	St. Barnabas St	E&L	Wensley Fold	LEAP	NS	Moderate	41				x	x		SL	Well used
60	Staffa Cres	E&L	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	LAP	NS	Low	-		x					SL	Used. Poorly designed.
61	Sudellside MUGA	N/K	Marsh House	LAP	NS	Low	59							GA	Well used
62	Sudellside Outdoor Gym	E&L	Marsh House	LEAP	NS	Low	59	x						GA	Not well used
63	Sunnybower Kickabout	E&L	Little Harwood	LAP	NS	N/A	49							N/A	
64	Sunnyhurst Woods	E&L	Sunnyhurst	DEAP	PS	Low	76						x	SL	Well used

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
65	Tockholes	E&L	North Turton with Tockholes	LEAP	S	Low	50	x						SL	Well used
66	Tresco Close Kickabout	E&L	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	N/A	17							N/A	
67	Turton Tower	E&L	North Turton with Tockholes	LAP	NS	Low	70	x						SL	Well used.
68	Warwick Close	E&L	Queens Park	U/C	NS	Low	42							GA	Not well used. No equipment
69	Watery Lane MUGA	E&L	Marsh House	LAP	NS	Low	61							SL	Well used
70	Watery Lane Play	E&L	Marsh House	NEAP	NS	Low	61		x	x				SL	
71	Whalley St MUGA	E&L	Bastwell	LAP	NS	N/A	28					x		N/A	
72	Whitehall Park	E&L	Whitehall	DEAP	PS	Moderate	71		x					SL	Well used
73	Wilton Close	Private	Beardwood with Lammack	LEAP	NS	N/A	50							N/A	N/K Private
74	Wimberley St MUGA	N/K	Bastwell	LAP	NS	N/A	43					x		N/A	Well used
75	Witton Park All	E&L	Beardwood with Lammack	DEAP	PS	Moderate	77							SL	Well used

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
76	Wolseley Street Play/MUGA	E&L	Ewood	LEAP	NS	Moderate	28		x		x			GA	Well used
77	Wood Street	E&L	Sunnyhurst	LEAP	NS	Low	19	x						GA	Well used
78	Worsten Ave MUGA	E&L	Ewood	LAP	NS	Low	-							GA	Well used
A	Ambleside Close	TVH	Corporation Park	LAP	NS	N/A	17							N/A	N/K
AA	St. Clements Close	TVH	Audley	LAP	NS	N/A	48							N/A	N/K
B	Bala Close	TVH	Shear Brow	LAP	NS	N/A	49							N/A	N/K
BB	Sussex Drive	TVH	Audley	LAP	NS	N/A	28							N/A	N/K
C	Brookhouse Lane	TVH	Shear Brow	LAP	NS	N/A	17							N/A	N/K
CC	Sussex Walk 1 - 6	TVH	Audley	LAP	NS	N/A	35							N/A	N/K
D	Brookway 120 - 125	TVH	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	N/A	5							N/A	N/K
DD	Tenby Close	TVH	Bastwell	LAP	NS	N/A	38							N/A	N/K
E	Brookway 41 - 51	TVH	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	N/A	-							N/A	N/K
EE	Tintern Crescent	TVH	Roe Lee	U/C	NS	N/A	19							N/A	N/K
F	Carnforth Close	TVH	Higher Croft	U/C	NS	N/A	-							N/A	N/K

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
FF	<i>Ullswater Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Bastwell	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>42</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
G	<i>Dickinson Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Mill Hill	U/C	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>22</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
H	<i>Douglas Place</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Little Harwood	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>13</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
I	<i>Dundee Drive</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Audley	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>8</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
J	<i>Ellerbeck Road</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Sudell	LEAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>42</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
K	<i>Finch Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Shear Brow	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>39</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
L	<i>Fowler Height Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Ewood	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>22</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
M	<i>Hastings Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	LEAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>-</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
N	<i>Hazel Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Wensley Fold	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>12</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
O	<i>Hereford Road</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	NEAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>-</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
P	<i>Heys Close</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Ewood	U/C	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>11</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
Q	<i>Lawrence Street 1</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Wensley Fold	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>11</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>
R	<i>Lawrence Street 2</i>	<i>TVH</i>	Wensley Fold	LAP	NS	<i>N/A</i>	<i>12</i>							<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/K</i>

All Equipped Play Areas at March 2017

Ref	Location	Owner	Ward	Designation	Status	Inspection Risk Score	Planning OS Assmt Score %	No Major Issues	Vandalism/ Damage	Missing Equip	Drug Use /ASB	Litter	Other	Disabled Access	Usage
S	Neath Close	TVH	Bastwell	LAP	NS	N/A	34							N/A	N/K
T	Peel Close	TVH	Higher Croft	LAP	NS	N/A	15							N/A	N/K
U	Railton Avenue	TVH	Meadowhead	LAP	NS	Moderate	-							SL	Owned TVH, managed BwD
V	Ravenglass Close	TVH	Higher Croft	LAP	NS	N/A	27							N/A	N/K
W	Ruthin Close	TVH	Bastwell	LAP	NS	N/A	40							N/A	N/K
X	Sandwich Close	TVH	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	LAP	NS	N/A	23							N/A	N/K
Y	Shetland Close	TVH	Shadsworth with Whitebirk	LAP	NS	N/A	29							N/A	N/K
Z	St. Bees Close	TVH	Higher Croft	LEAP	NS	N/A	33							N/A	N/K

Key (Appendix 2)

Owner			
E&L	Environment & Leisure Department	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	
Educ.	Children's Services – Schools Service		
Resources	Corporate Property Section		
TVH	Twin Valley Homes		

Notes:
Open Space Assessment for the Local Plan: Threshold quality score = 40%

ASB – Anti Social Behaviour

Play Area Category		Pieces of Equipment	Walking Distance (Metres)	Walking Time (Minutes)	Mapped Straight Line Buffer (Metres)
LAP	Local Area for Play	1 to 4	100	1	60
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play	5 to 8	400	5	240
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	8-9	1,200	15	720
DEAP	Destination Equipped Area for Play	10+	2,000	25	1,200
U/C	Unclassified	-	-	-	-

PS	Priority Strategic Site	S	Strategic Site
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NK – Not Known
N/A – Not Available

Inspection Report Scoring

Low: Minimal probability of occurrence - Requires significant factor or combination of factors to take place. Significant increase in intensity of use;

Moderate: Moderate probability. An added factor is needed to cause an accident. Designed use is unlikely to be problematic, additional factor is required.
Covers or guards: loose, removed or vandalised. Absent guard rail or barrier at high levels

Access Key

GA: Generally Accessible - an area accessible to most but not all people even when help is at hand

SAF: Some Accessible Features - an area that presents difficulties to the majority of people with disabilities but in favourable circumstances, and certainly in partnership, can be accessed

SL: Severely Limited Access - an area that presents serious barriers to disabled people, even when skilled help is at hand

Appendix 3: Strategic Sites by New Ward

Audley & Queen's Park	Bastwell & Daisyfield	Billinge & Beardwood	Blackburn South East	Blackburn South & Lower Darwen	Central
Delph Lane		Witton Park	Manxman		Audley Community Centre
Queen's Park			Rothesay Road		
			School Lane, Guide		
Darwen East	Darwen Rural	Darwen South	Darwen West	Ewood	Little Harwood & Whitebirk
Anchor Back Field	Barlow Institute	Blacksnape	Bold Venture Park	Highfield Road	Robinson Street
Olive Lane	Belmont Playing		Sunnyhurst Woods	Hollin Bridge St	
	Chapelton		Tockholes		
	Eccleshill				
	Whitehall Park				
Livesey with Pleasington	Mill Hill & Moorgate	Roe Lee	Shear Brow & Corporation Park	Wensley Fold	
Feniscowles Memorial	Mill Hill Gardens	Roe Lee Park	Corporation Park		

Appendix 4: Local Plan Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance

The Council's Core Strategy (Policy CS13) sets out a strategy of managing the net environmental impact of planning policy; and follows the NPPF approach of "Avoid – Mitigate – Compensate – Refuse" in dealing with development that has a potential environmental impact. Policy is set out in the Core Strategy¹¹, Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies¹² and Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks¹³.

a. Local Plan Part 2

Key policies in Local Plan Part 2 are Policy 9 and 40, the most relevant parts of which are reproduced below:

Policy 9. Development and the Environment

5. Development involving the partial or complete loss of land identified as Green Infrastructure on the Adopted Policies Map, or any unidentified areas of open space including playing fields; and any development which otherwise has the potential to result in the severance of green infrastructure connections, will not be permitted unless:

- i) The development can be accommodated without the loss of the function of the open space;
- ii) The impact can be mitigated or compensated for through the direct provision of new or improved green infrastructure elsewhere, or through the provision of a financial contribution to enable this to occur; or
- iii) The need for or benefits arising from the development demonstrably outweigh the harm caused, and the harm has been mitigated or compensated for so far as is reasonable.

Policy 40. Integrating Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks with New

Development

1. Where circumstances permit, all development must be designed to make a positive contribution to Blackburn with Darwen's green infrastructure through:

- i) Inclusion of multi-functional landscaped public open space in the development;

2. All new residential development will contribute to the provision of high quality open space for its residents, either through provision of public open space on site or, where more appropriate, through financial contributions towards improving the quality and / or accessibility of nearby existing spaces. The Council will work with developers to determine the most appropriate means of providing open space for residents, having regard to the most up to date assessment of open space requirements or provision across Blackburn with Darwen. It will adopt a design-led approach to planning for new open space within a development, having regard to the location and character of the development proposed.

¹¹ http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/Adopted_Core_Strategy_final_A4.pdf

¹² <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/Local%20Plan%20Part%202%20-%20Adoption%20Version%20Dec%202015.pdf>

¹³ <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/Green-Infrastructure-and-Ecological-Networks-SPD.pdf>

5. All development that includes an element of green space will be required to secure the appropriate maintenance of the space in the long term.

b. Supplementary Planning Document

Further guidance on open space and development, including how to calculate commuted sum payments in new residential development, is provided in **Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks** of which the following is a précis of key points from Section 6 Integrating green infrastructure in new residential Development and Appendix C Calculating the Commuted Sum Payment in new residential developments.

Section 6: Integrating green infrastructure in new residential development

These policies require new residential development to contribute to the provision of high quality open space for its residents, either through provision of public open space on site or, where more appropriate, through financial contributions towards improving the quality and/or accessibility of nearby existing spaces. Adequate green infrastructure is essential in new residential developments to meet the needs of new residents, and to provide a good quality environment that will contribute towards an enhanced quality of life.

The Council expects developers to explore opportunities to provide a range of green infrastructure on site, including children's play space. The Council is flexible on how green infrastructure is provided and will work with developers to ensure the most appropriate spaces are delivered, having regard to the open space assessment.

Some or all of the green infrastructure required on site may, where appropriate, be made through negotiation of a commuted sum payment to the Council, covering its provision and its maintenance for 25 years to keep it at the original standard.

A commuted sum may be acceptable in small developments of fewer than 20 dwellings and in developments of 20 or more dwellings where enhancement and improvement of existing open space in close proximity to the development can best provide for the prospective residents.

Where a commuted sum is charged in lieu of on-site green infrastructure provision, applicants will be required to pay £1,406 per dwelling. Appendix C sets out how this requirement has been calculated, based on current provision of green infrastructure across the borough.

Upkeep of on-site provision remains the responsibility of the developer, imposed through a planning condition to ensure an acceptable standard. Maintenance of off-site provision for the ensuing 25 years is included in the commuted sum payment.

APPENDIX C Calculating the Commuted Sum Payment in new residential developments

Amenity grassland current provision = 0.63ha/1000 population (6,300m²/1000 pop)

Children's play area current provision = 0.04ha/1000 population (400m²/1000 pop)

Appendix 5: Section 106 Money Management

The chief negotiator with developers on the amount and use of section 106 monies for new or existing play areas will be the Director of Growth & Development

Pooled monies for public open space, including play areas, are distributed in consultation with key stakeholders, via the Monitoring Officer (copy to Finance Officer)

The key stakeholders are: Director of Environment & Leisure

Director of Localities & Prevention

Contributions for specific works: Monitoring Officer/Finance Officer notifies the relevant contact that relevant monies have been received, for allocation to the relevant code and completion of works

The Interim Procedure for Section 106 Monitoring, (as at February 2017) is as follows:

Monitoring Officer:

- Maintains schedule of signed Section 106 Agreements
- Monitors payments due with Planning Case Officers (quarterly)
- Monitors completion of spend with Planning Case Officers and relevant stakeholders (quarterly)

Finance Officer:

- Maintains schedule of paid Section 106 Agreements
- Manages allocation of monies to correct code

Planning Case Officers

- Provide copies of completed Section 106 agreements to Monitoring Officer when received
- Raise invoice for Section 106 payments when due (see separate procedure note)
- Chase payment if not received
- Liaise with Monitoring Officer throughout

Planning Support Officers

- Receipt and bank any payments received, notify Finance and Monitoring Officers of the code, invoice number (where applicable) and application number and record on application file



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Regeneration
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Growth and Development
DATE:	9 th November 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Regeneration	Resources
WARD/S AFFECTED:	Marsh House, Sudell, Whitehall	
KEY DECISION:	YES X NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

SUBJECT: Darwen East Development Corridor: Application for Full Approval

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
 To update the Executive Board on progress made with the Darwen East Development Corridor major transport scheme and to agree to the application for Full Approval being made to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS
 That the Executive Board:

1. Approves the Full Approval application to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
2. Approves the purchase of land and properties related to the project
3. Gives approval to accept the main contract tender subject to confirmation of Full Approval acceptance from the LEP
4. Approves the appropriation of land between Council departments to deliver the scheme subject to compliance with relevant statutory considerations and public notice where relevant.
5. Notes that further reporting will be made at appropriate stages within the project's progression
6. Gives approval to the Director of Growth and Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration to make amendments to the Full Approval application, as part of the final LEP approval process and to deal with any further matters relating to the land appropriation.

3. BACKGROUND
 The quality of the Borough's housing offer is an important factor in determining the future prosperity of Blackburn with Darwen and is a key priority for the Council is to widen the choice of housing within the Borough, in particular the delivery of larger family homes. The Darwen East Development Corridor (DEDC) major scheme offers the opportunity to deliver this wider housing offer on a viable site situated on the fringe of the Darwen urban area, with good accessibility to Town and wider transport networks.

In order to accelerate the delivery of new housing in Darwen and mitigate the impacts of the traffic associated with the delivery of new housing on allocated sites on the highway network, a package of measures is presented and has been packaged as the DEDC major scheme.

The “Ellison Fold / Baileys Field” site in East Darwen has been long identified for development. It was a safeguarded site in the previous local plan and is identified as a housing land allocation in the Council’s adopted (December 2015) Local Plan Part 2 within Policy 16/14. This can be accessed via the following weblink: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-Part-2-submission-documents.aspx> Landowners have confirmed they are willing for the site to be brought forward for development.

The DEDC major scheme will deliver a new link road on the eastern side of Darwen. This will unlock land to enable the future development of new housing and improve access to local employment opportunities identified within the Council’s adopted Local Plan. The scheme also provides a local traffic alternative for residents in South East Darwen to get to M65 Junctions 4 and 5.

The objectives of the new link road are to:

- Improve the local highway network and improve access to and from the eastern side of Darwen
- Increase travel options between south east Darwen and the M65 Junctions 4 and 5
- Reduce congestion across Darwen whilst helping to bring forward sustainable growth in the Town
- Improve junctions and structures on the DEDC corridor between the A666 / Watery Lane / Grimshaw Street and Ivinson Road / Holden Fold at Chapels

An ancillary result is that the new link road will Provide new infrastructure to enable the development of a designated housing site between Marsh House Lane and Ivinson Road

Following consultation the Council has developed further designs for adjacent junctions to improve conditions for highways users. As part of the project the Council is planning to improve the following junctions and highways:

- A666 / Watery Lane: improved junction layout, right turn pocket and lining, minor parking restrictions
- A666 / Grimshaw Street: improved junction layout, right turn pocket and lining, minor parking restrictions
- Sough Road / Grimshaw Street / Pole lane: compact roundabout
- Priory Drive / Pole Lane: mini roundabout
- Priory Drive / Marsh House Lane: mini roundabout Ivinson Road / Oak Grove / Holden Fold: improved junction layouts, sightlines and kerbing, lining and re-prioritisation
- Grimshaw Street Bridge: structure to be upgraded and strengthened (to be delivered separately via the Local Transport Plan)
- Watery Lane Bridge: options being considered to improve road safety and sightlines (to be delivered separately via the Local Transport Plan).

Traffic calming and junction improvement measures are designed to slow traffic down on these roads. By introducing mini roundabouts, priorities are changed and traffic will not have automatic right of way. Noise cancelling rumble strips will also be delivered on the approaches to selected junctions.

The design of the new road between Marsh House Lane and Ivinson Road will include:

- A single carriageway 30 mph residential road with footways and cycling facilities
- Raised junction tables to keep speeds down
- A design which will allow for future direct access to houses and driveways from the new road
- Landscaping and trees (to mitigate trees lost at Marsh House Lane / Priory Drive)
- Existing rights of way accommodated within the scheme

The Council has limited the scope of improvements at the A666 / Watery Lane and Grimshaw Street junctions to not promote the new link road as a route for Heavy Goods Vehicles. The new link road will be a residential road and the Council has committed to introducing an appropriate weight limit (via

a Traffic Regulation Order) as agreed at the Planning Committee meeting on 17th August 2017.

Full scheme details can be found via the Council's webpage and the information portal for the scheme at <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Darwen-East-Development-Corridor.aspx> and a summary diagram in Appendix 1 to this report.

The principle of development in Darwen and the associated impact on local highways have been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan. The Local Plan does set out the policy requirements and key considerations for all development on the site (new road link and housing) to safeguard residents' amenity and to manage any potential impact.

Further Transport Assessments will be carried out at the planning stages for the future housing developments. The Council is committed to improving the wider road network as part of this project and will actively negotiate developer contributions as an integral part of the planning application stage to support the delivery of new infrastructure, with a particular focus on walking and cycling routes.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The confirmation of the DEDC project as a prioritised LEP major scheme as part of Central Government's Round Two Growth Deals in January 2015 has allowed the Council to work through the required planning, legal, procurement, design and consultation processes, detailed within the annual Local Transport Plan work programmes approved annually by the Council's Executive Board. These processes are now closed out and the Council is in a position to apply for Full Approval from the LEP to begin delivery of the scheme.

A summary of timescales and milestones for the major scheme are detailed below:

- Scheme confirmed as a LEP priority on 29th January 2015 as part of the Local Growth Fund 2 Announcement from Central Government
- Scheme approved for progression within the annual work programmes of the Council's Local Transport Plan in March 2015
- Detailed design of work packages completed and quantified: complete
- Statutory undertakings review and design: complete
- Gateway review to confirm design proposals: complete
- Planning approval: obtained for the link road on 17th August 2017 (application #10/17/0638) with pre-start conditions relating to archaeology, mine workings, ecology and landscaping
- Open procurement exercise via The Chest from 23rd August until 4th October 2017 with confirmation of costs: complete
- Land elements agreed: Heads of Terms agreed with exchange of contracts now with Council Legal Services for completion.
- Submission of Evaluation Plan to LEP: complete
- Full Approval application @ Transport for Lancashire Board: 20th November 2017
- Full Approval application @ LEP Board: 30th January 2018
- Contract award: 31st January 2018
- Mobilisation of main contractor following tender acceptance: February 2018
- Construction: February 2018 to March 2019
- Submission of Evaluation report to LEP: 1 year and 5 years after scheme completion

1. Full Approval Application (Strategic Outline Business Case)

The Council's Executive Board is being asked to approve the application of the project to the LEP for Full Approval which involves the submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the scheme and related Appendix documentation.

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The scheme is seeking approval from the LEP and funding towards its £3.324m cost. In line with the

LEP's Accountability Framework, the SOBC is required in order to seek approval and draw down funds. The SOBC demonstrates the clear strategic need to deliver more housing and accelerate growth in Blackburn with Darwen and the wider Lancashire LEP region, as reflected in local, regional and national policy. In order to accelerate the delivery of new housing in Darwen and mitigate the impacts of the traffic associated with the delivery of new housing on allocated sites on the highway network, the DEDC a package of measures is presented and has been packaged as the DEDC major scheme.

Without the new link road and junction improvements included in the DEDC scheme the pace of housing delivery in East Darwen will be significantly impacted. Furthermore, the impact of the traffic generated by new housing developments would have a significant detrimental impact on the safe and efficient operation of the local highway network without the scheme, which could compromise the Council's growth agenda.

The DEDC will act as the catalyst for the development of Bailey's Field and Marsh House Lane development sites (allocated housing site 16/14) and help facilitate the delivery of other allocated housing sites in East Darwen by providing the key infrastructure required to bring these sites forward and to make them more attractive and viable to developers. Additionally, through the increased connectivity offered by the DEDC the local populace (both current and future) will be able to take advantage of improved links to employment in the wider region: along the M65 corridor, in Blackburn, Bolton, and further into Lancashire and the Manchester City Region.

In terms of Value for Money, the scheme will deliver significant journey-time saving benefits, amounting to a Present Value of Benefits **PVB of £28.8m** (2010 Prices, discounted over 60 years, including costs of accidents). The scheme also demonstrates 'Very High' value for money based on a traditional transport Benefit Cost Ratio **BCR of 7.85** in its entirety. Individual BCRs for each scheme have been produced and also indicate high value for money, exceeding both the Department for Transport (DfT) and LEP Value for Money funding criteria.

The scheme also has the potential to generate approximately **£0.55m per annum** of Gross Value Added (GVA) benefits averaged over a 60-year appraisal period (2010 prices, based on locally adjusted GVA values), which (in line with DfT guidance) have not been incorporated into the BCR but demonstrate the scheme's positive contribution to the wider economy.

2. Land and Property

Two areas of land will be acquired in order to deliver the DEDC major scheme:

- Land at Ellison Fold (Bailey's Field), Darwen
- Land at the junction of Oak Grove / Moor Lane, Darwen

Approval has been obtained to purchase both areas of land from the landowners via Delegated Powers. All negotiations relating to the land take from third party interests have been concluded and are currently with Council Legal Services for completion.

3. Acceptance of Main Contractor Tender

The Council's Executive Board is being asked to approve the acceptance of the Main Contractor tender to deliver the DEDC scheme following a detailed tender evaluation exercise. The Council will not be in a position to formally appoint the main Contractor until the LEP has confirmed Full Approval on 31st January 2018.

An open tender process was conducted by the Council via the electronic system "The Chest" for 6 weeks between 23rd August and 4th October 2017. Ten bids were received by the Council to deliver the DEDC scheme and were evaluated according to 60/40 price / quality split by an appointed evaluation panel.

[Page 60 of 108](#)

Quality questions were split and had to be detailed in relation to the following areas:

- A description of the approach to this contract and the methodology to be employed
- Outline programme and the contractors approach to programming as a tool
- Site management structure and quality of staff
- Subcontractors and suppliers
- Public safety and protection
- Social and economic value

Particular focus has been given in relation to a number of outcomes and commitments including the creation of new jobs and traineeships in the local economy, a percentage of main contract spend within the local supply chain, and support for third sector organisations.

Main contract works will be carried out under terms and conditions of the Engineering and Construction Contract (ECC), Third Edition, (NEC3) published in June 2005 (with amendments June 2006) by the Institution of Civil Engineers, using Option B priced contract with Bill of Quantities.

Summary of works:

- Main contract: Construction of Link Road, DEDC junction improvements and safety measures, landscaping and highways resurfacing
- Pre works undertaken by BwDBC
- Statutory Undertakers diversions
- Professional fees for design
- Supervision fees
- Construction risk
- Preparation / supervision risk
- Total Confirmed Cost: £3,323,884

The total confirmed cost is to be funded as follows:

- Growth Deal 3 (LEP): £2,500,000 (75%)
- BwDBC local contribution: £823,884 (25%)
- Total Funding: £3,323,884

Further information on funding profiling can be found within the Financial Implications section of this report in Section 6.

4. Appropriation of Land

In order to deliver the DEDC major scheme, land is required for the purpose of highways construction, already within the ownership of the Council but under the control of either Property Management or the Environment Department. These will need to be appropriated for Highway purposes in accordance with the details set out in Table 1 below and can be found in Appendix 2:

Scheme	Description	Site Area	Held By	Action Required
Junction Improvements - Moor Lane / Oak Grove / Ivinson Road, Darwen.	Land comprising three areas of grass verge (shown edged red on Plan No 1) at the junction of Ivinson Road / Moor Lane / Oak Grove, Darwen	58.7 square metres on the north westerly side of the junction, 86.8 square metres on the north easterly side, and 60.4 square metres on the north westerly side of the junction.	Property Management (Growth and Development)	Appropriate for Highway Purposes (Growth and Development - Highways)
Junction Improvement - Sough Road / Grimshaw Street, Darwen.	Land comprising two areas of informal open space (shown edged red on Plan No 2) at the junctions of Grimshaw Street and Pole Lane with Sough Road, Darwen	721 square metres on the north westerly side of the junction and 202 square metres on the north easterly side.	Environment Department	Appropriate for Highway Purposes (Growth and Development - Highways)
		154 square metres on the north westerly side of the junction.	Property Management (Growth and Development)	Appropriate for Highway Purposes (Growth and Development - Highways)

New Link Road - Marsh House Lane to Ivinson Close, Darwen.	Land comprising informal open space (shown edged red on Plan No 3) off Marsh House Lane, Darwen.	0.4877 ha (4,877 square metres on the northerly side of the Marsh House Lane / Priory Drive junction.	Property Management (Growth and Development)	Appropriate for Highway Purposes (Growth and Development - Highways)
--	--	---	--	--

In addition to the above there are a number of other parcels of land either within the ownership or which are maintained by the Council which require the vegetation to be curtailed to a maximum height of 0.5 metres in order to maintain visibility splays. The initial curtailment will be undertaken as part of the highway works but thereafter the Environment Department will be expected to continue maintaining these areas to ensure that the vegetation does not exceed the maximum height of 0.5 metres. The details are set out in Table 2 below and can be found in Appendix 2:

Scheme	Description	Site Area	Held / Maintained By	Action Required
Junction improvement - Marsh House Lane / Priory Drive, Darwen.	Land comprising two areas of informal open space (shown coloured green on Plan No 4) at the junction of Marsh House Lane / Priory Drive, Darwen.	135 square metres on the south westerly side of the junction.	Environment Department	Maintain the vegetation to a height not exceeding 0.5 metres.
		49 square metres on the south easterly side of the junction.	Unknown ownership but according to Council records is maintained by the Environment Department	Maintain the vegetation to a height not exceeding 0.5 metres.
Junction improvement - Priory Drive / Pole Lane, Darwen.	Land comprising informal open space (shown coloured green on Plan No 5) at the junction of Priory Drive / Pole Lane, Darwen.	158 square metres on the south easterly side of the junction.	Environment Department	Maintain the vegetation to a height not exceeding 0.5 metres.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A key priority for the Council is to widen the choice of housing within the Borough, in particular the delivery of larger family homes. The East Darwen site offers the opportunity to deliver this wider housing offer on a viable site. As part of the new road link's design, footpaths are being planned to closely link the western edge of the site with existing developments i.e. Two Gates and Ellison Fold Terrace. Similarly, efforts will be made to ensure footpaths are retained, to ensure easy access between any future development and social / health / cultural / retail and public transport facilities, given that they are under a kilometre away.

The objectives of the new link road are to:

- Provide new infrastructure to enable the development of a designated housing site between Marsh House Lane and Ivinson Road
- To improve the local highway network and improve access to and from the eastern side of Darwen
- To increase travel options between south east Darwen and the M65 Junctions 4 and 5
- To reduce congestion across Darwen whilst helping to bring forward sustainable growth in the Town
- To improve junctions and structures on the DEDC corridor between the A666 / Watery Lane / Grimshaw Street and Ivinson Road / Moor Lane at Chapels

Progression of the DEDC major scheme is essential to deliver the Council's corporate agendas to support economic growth, housing delivery and to facilitate sustainable regeneration.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The scheme's total value stands at £3.324m which includes a risk layer of £270,563 (8.1%), following scheme tendering and reduction in the quantified risk layer. Works will be carried out and grant

claimed back from the LEP quarterly and on a defrayed basis. Any cost overruns will be met by the Council from the Local Transport Plan in future years.

The breakdown of funding is as follows and runs between 2016/17 and 2019/20:

- £2.5m Local Growth Deal (LEP)
- £0.824m Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Local Transport Plan
- Total Funding £3.324m.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
LEP Growth Deal		£0.5m	£2m	
BwDBC LTP	£0.135m	£0.3m	£0.332m	£0.057m
Total	£0.135m	£0.8m	£2.332m	£0.057m

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

All packages of work within the DEDC major scheme will be designed and implemented in accordance with relevant highway, transport and traffic legislation; and will need to be procured in accordance with the Council's Constitution and, where relevant, European directives; and grant conditions.

The Council's legal section will be involved in progressing the statutory elements of the project i.e. Traffic Regulation Orders, which will commence post Full Approval to coincide with implementation.

In accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Council is declaring that the land in Table 1 in the report is no longer required for its present purposes identified in that schedule and is to be appropriated for the newly identified purpose. Because of s122(2A) of the Act, the areas of land which are recorded as informal public open space in Table 1 must also be advertised via public notice of the Council's intention to appropriate the said land to highway purposes, and in the event of no objections being received within the date specified in the public notice (or if received they are withdrawn), upon the day immediately following the date specified in the public notice to appropriate the said land to highway purposes and the said land shall be publicly maintainable as highway or highway verge.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Officer time in delivering the DEDC major scheme will be considerable but will be undertaken using existing resources and through established non-core fee protocols using funding as detailed within this report.

The delivery of new infrastructure in the borough will upgrade a significant number of junctions, lengths of highway and highways assets. Maintenance of new lengths of highway infrastructure and associated street furniture i.e. street lighting and landscaping will be funded using existing resources.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.



BwDBC LTP3
Environmental Report



Environmental
Impacts Report



Social and
Distributional Impact:

10. CONSULTATIONS

Residents have been consulted with extensively on the principle of the site being developed for housing throughout the preparation process of the Local Plan and in terms of the potential alignment for the link road and associated junction improvements.

Local Plan consultation events in 2012-2013, in Darwen, were advertised and held at the following times:

13th July 2012 – Darwen Market Atrium - public exhibition
17th July 2012 – Darwen Library Theatre 2pm-7pm – drop-in session
24th July 2012 – Hoddlesden Village (bus touring exhibition in Ranken Arms car park 3pm-5pm)
23rd April 2013 – Carus Centre, Hoddlesden – drop-in session
29th April 2013 – Darwen Vale High School – drop-in session
8th May 2013 – Derwent Hall, Darwen – drop-in session

A further public consultation stage took place when the draft Local Plan was published in January-March 2014 (via letters, press notice, website material, information in all libraries).

There are three documents produced on consultation as part of the Local Plan evidence: Statement of Consultation Part 1 looks at the consultation process for the Issues and Options (July-Sep 2012). Part 2 details all the material that went out. Part 3 refers to response received in relation to the allocation of Bailey's Field (page 10) – Page 285 provides the full responses. Please see the following weblink for further information:

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-Part-2-submission-documents.aspx>

Two consultation exercises relating to the DEDC and a proposed masterplan for the area to inform future housing development were held on the 22nd and 23rd November 2016 at Darwen Academy and the Craven Heifer Public House. Over 160 people attended in person over the course of the two nights to speak to representatives from the Council and Developers. 51 responses were received from residents responding to the consultation exercise. The Council produced a Question and Answer document to respond to issues raised, and this is published on the information portal for the scheme at: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Darwen-East-Development-Corridor.aspx>

As part of the submission for Final Approval and in line with the LEP assurance framework, a Communications Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and proposes the following:

- Leaflet drops to adjacent properties before works commence
- An information portal on the Council's website to keep residents up to date
- Ongoing information releases to Elected Members and the Member of Parliament
- Social Media releases throughout the scheme's delivery phase.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

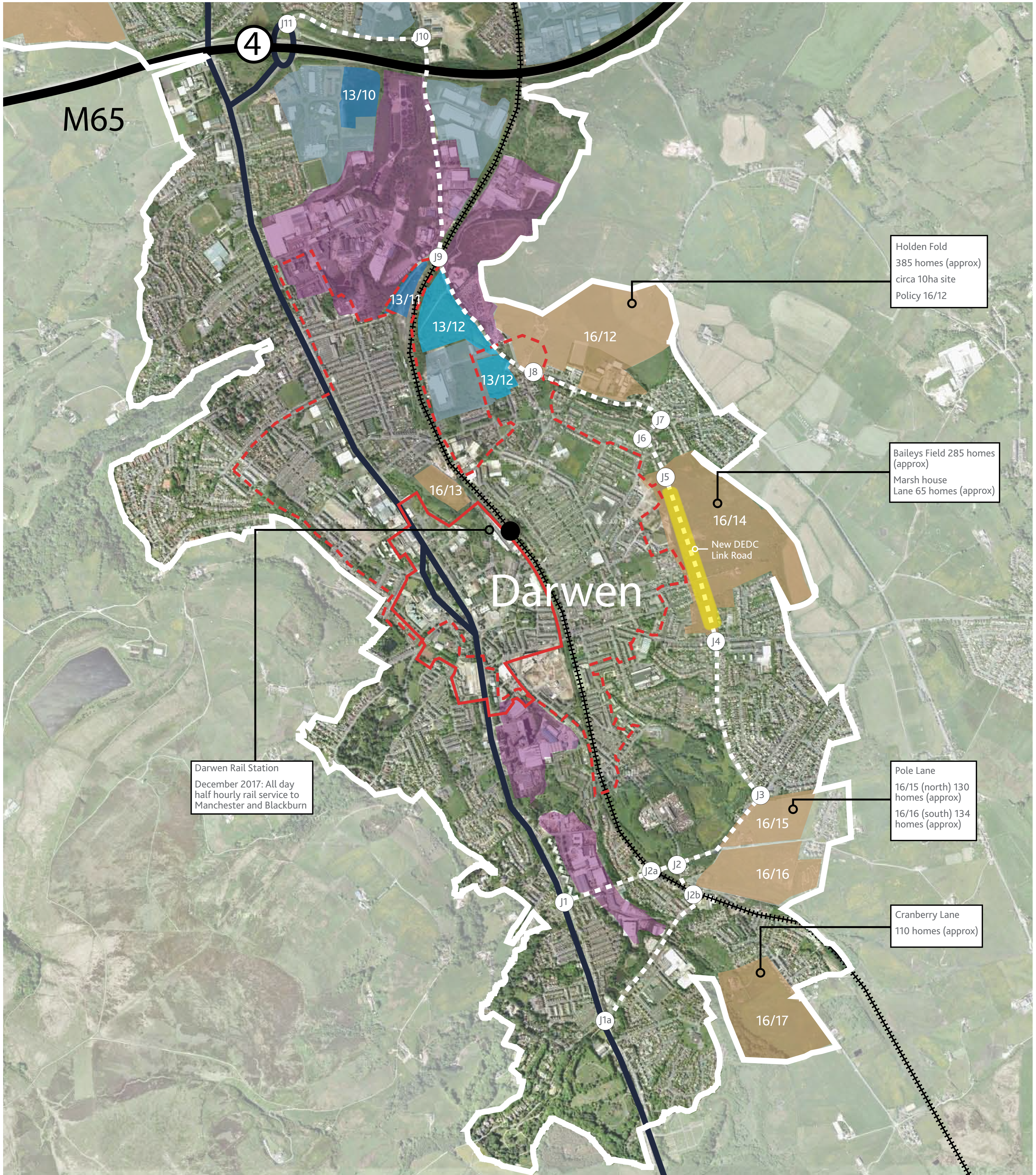
The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect 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 in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	0.01
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mike Cliffe, Strategic Transport Manager, ext 5310
DATE:	13 th October 2017
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1: Scheme summary diagram Appendix 2: Land appropriation drawings

DARWEN EAST DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS



Holden Fold
385 homes (approx)
circa 10ha site
Policy 16/12

Baileys Field 285 homes (approx)
Marsh house
Lane 65 homes (approx)

Darwen Rail Station
December 2017: All day
half hourly rail service to
Manchester and Blackburn

Pole Lane
16/15 (north) 130 homes (approx)
16/16 (south) 134 homes (approx)

Cranberry Lane
110 homes (approx)

KEY:

-  Housing Land Allocation Policy 16
-  Employment Land Allocations - Policy 13 Private Ownership
-  Primary Employment Areas - Policy 14
-  Employment Land Allocations - Policy 13 Council Ownership
-  Secondary Employment Areas - Policy 15
-  Inner Urban Area Policy 2
-  Town Centre Boundary

PROPOSED DEDC IMPROVEMENT ROUTE:

- J1** A666 / Grimshaw Street: improved junction layout, right turn pocket and lining, minor parking restrictions
- J3** Priory Drive / Pole Lane: mini roundabout
- J8** Moor Lane / Chapels / Goose House Lane: no works proposed
- J1a** A666 / Watery Lane: improved junction layout, right turn pocket and lining, minor parking restrictions
- J4** Priory Drive / Marsh House Lane: mini roundabout
- J9** Goose House Lane / Hollins Grove Street Bridge: no works proposed
- J2** Sough Road / Grimshaw Street / Pole lane: compact roundabout
- J5** Proposed Link Road / Ivinston Road
- J10** Lower Eccleshill Road / Paul Rink Way: no works proposed (Greenbank Terrace Bridge widened in 2012)
- J2a** Grimshaw Street Bridge: structure to be upgraded and strengthened (to be delivered separately by the local transport plan)
- J6** Ivinston Road / Oak Grove: improved lining and re-prioritisation
- J11** M65 Junction 4: junction to be relined and existing signals linked with Earcroft Way
- J2b** Watery Lane Bridge: structure to be upgraded and strengthened (to be delivered separately by the local transport plan)
- J7** Oak Grove / Moor Lane: improved junction layout, sightlines and kerbing, lining and re-prioritisation

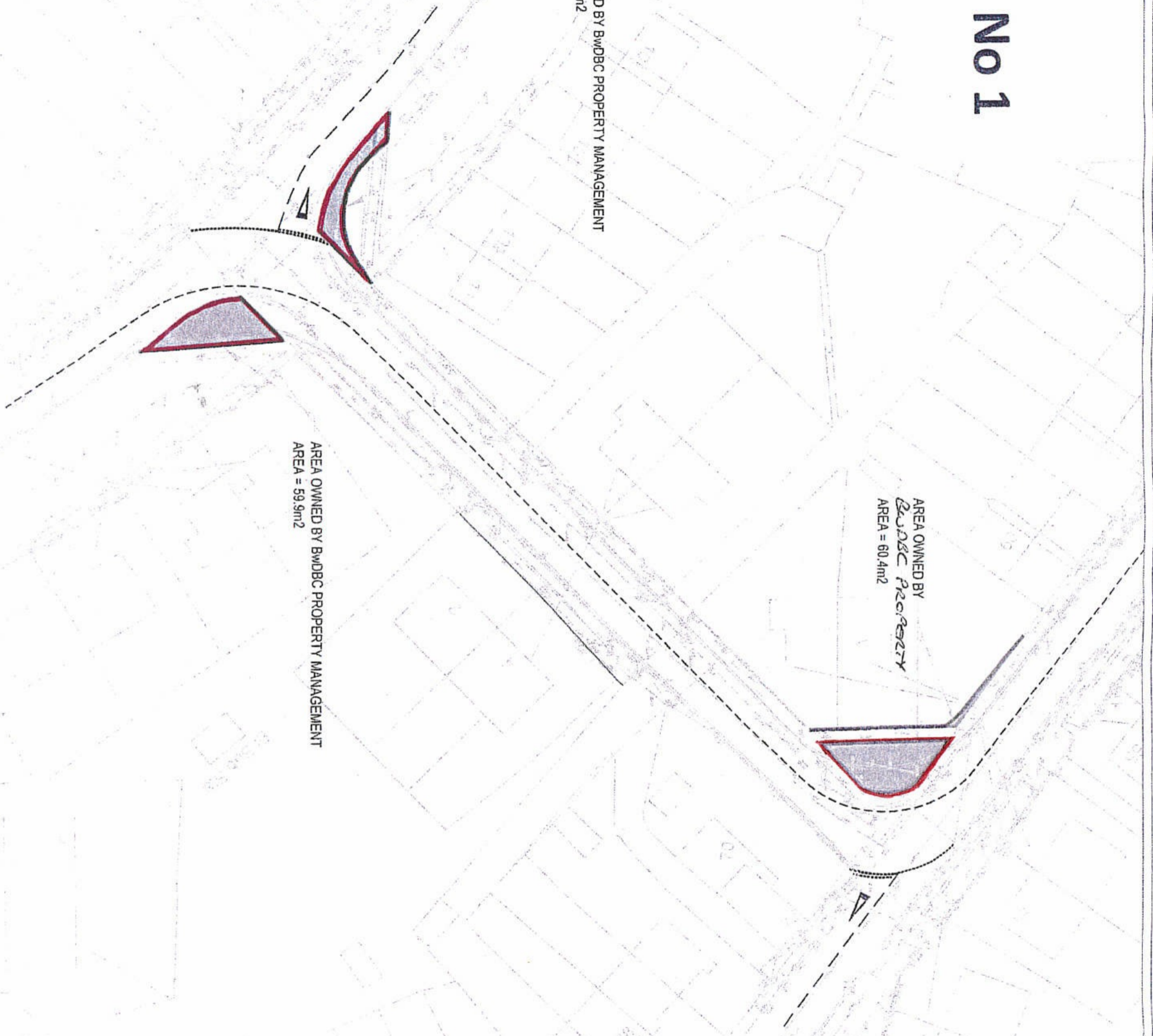


Plan No 1

AREA OWNED BY BWDBC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
AREA = 39.6m²

AREA OWNED BY
BWDBC PROPERTY
AREA = 60.4m²

AREA OWNED BY BWDBC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
AREA = 59.9m²



NOTES

1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER RELEVANT DRAWINGS. ANY DISCREPANCIES, ERRORS OR OMISSIONS TO BE NOTICED TO THE ATTENTION OF CAPITA.
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3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
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5. FOR ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS OR SIGNALLING REFER TO THE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND GENERAL DIRECTION 2016 (TRGD).
6. PRELIMINARY COSTINGS INCLUDING CE ESTIMATIONS FOR ANY ANTICIPATED WORKS TO STATUTION UNDERTAKERS EQUIPMENT CAN BE SEEN IN THE TABLE BELOW.

- KEY:**
- PRIVATE LAND AREA
 - PROPOSED BACK OF FOOTPATH
 - EXISTING BACK OF FOOTPATH

Rev	CD	Year Issue	Description	Date
1	1	1	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	
ISSUED FOR INFORMATION				
COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE				
Client				
BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN B.C				
TOWN HALL				
BLACKBURN BB1 7DY				
Project				
DARWEN EAST DEVELOPMENT				
CORRIDOR				
Drawing				
LAND OWNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT				
MOOR LANE / OAK DRIVE				

Scale	3:1	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1:250		CW		

Project No: CS/090114 Date: MAR-2017

Drawing Number: CS090114-CAP-HGN-2B-SK-C-0012

CAPITA

Highways
Capita
115A 27th St
Winnipeg, MB R2S 2T1
Canada



Plan No 2



- NOTES:**
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 2. ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON SITE.
 3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
 4. THE SURVEY INFORMATION SHOWN IS TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, SUPPLEMENTED WITH ORDINANCE SURVEY BEYOND TOPOGRAPHICAL EXTENTS. THE ACCURACY OF EACH SURVEY TYPE MUST BE NOTED AND CONFORMED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE.
 5. FOR ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS PROGRAM MANAGERS REFER TO THE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2014 (1992G)

- BWD ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT AREA OF LAND TAKE
- BWD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AREA OF LAND TAKE
- PROPOSED BACK OF FOOTPATH
- EXISTING BACK OF FOOTPATH
- VISIBILITY SPLAY 9m - 43m AS PER DMRB TD 16/07
- RELAXED VISIBILITY 2.4m - 43m AS PER DMRB TD 16/07

<p>Project: DARWEN EAST DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR</p> <p>Client: BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN B.C</p> <p>Client: TOWN HALL</p> <p>Client: BLACKBURN BB1 7DY</p>	
<p>Classification: COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE</p>	
<p>Issue: ISSUE FOR INFORMATION</p>	
<p>Revision: 1</p>	
<p>Project No: CS090114</p>	
<p>Date: 01-09-2017</p>	
<p>Scale: A1</p>	<p>Drawn: DS</p>
<p>1:250</p>	<p>Checked: APN</p>
<p>Project No: CS090114</p>	<p>Date: 01-09-2017</p>

SOUGH ROAD / GRIMSHAW STREET LANDTAKE REQUIRED

Highways

CAPITA

381102 Capita
 Capita
 17 Preston New Road, Blackburn, BB2 1JY
 01254 273000
 www.capita.co.uk
 Capita Property and Infrastructure UK



Plan No 3

AREA OWNED BY BMD ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED DUE TO VISIBILITY SPLAYS AREA = 133m²

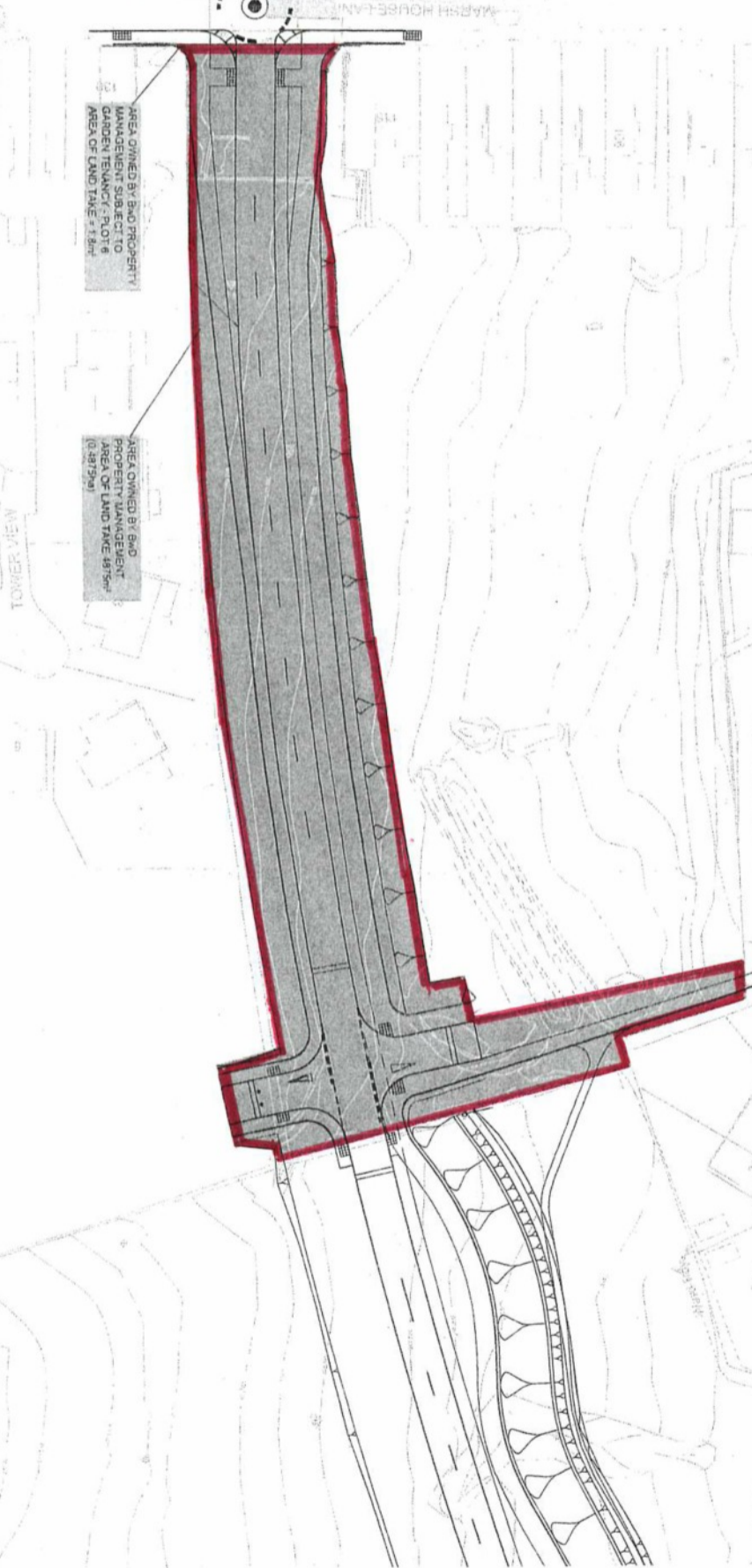
PRIVATE OWNERSHIP VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED DUE TO VISIBILITY SPLAYS AREA = 49m²

AREA OWNED BY BMD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SUBJECT TO GARDEN TENANCY PLOT 7 VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED DUE TO VISIBILITY SPLAYS AREA = 32m²

AREA OWNED BY BMD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SUBJECT TO GARDEN TENANCY - PLOT 6 AREA OF LAND TAKE = 1.84m

AREA OWNED BY BMD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SUBJECT TO GARDEN TENANCY - PLOT 6 AREA OF LAND TAKE = 1.84m

LOWER VIEW



- NOTES**
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 2. ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON SITE
 3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
 4. THE SURVEY INFORMATION SHOWN IS TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SUPERSEDED WITH EXISTENCE OF DATA BEYOND SURVEY TYPE MUST BE NOTED AND COVERED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE
 5. FOR ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD WARNINGS DIAGRAM NUMBERS REFER TO THE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2016 (TSRD)

- PLOT 7 AREA OF CURTAILMENT
- PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AREA OF CURTAILMENT
- BMD ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT AREA OF CURTAILMENT
- PROPOSED BACK OF FOOTPATH
- EXISTING BACK OF FOOTPATH
- VISIBILITY SPLAY OF 43m AS PER DMRB TD 5407
- VISIBILITY SPLAY OF 43m AS PER DMRB TD 5407
- AREA OWNED BY PLOT 6 LAND TAKE REQUIRED
- AREA OWNED BY BMD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LAND TAKE REQUIRED

ISSUE FOR INFORMATION

Classification
COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Client
BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN B.C
TOWN HALL
BLACKBURN BB1 7DY

Project
DARWEN EAST DEVELOPMENT
CORRIDOR

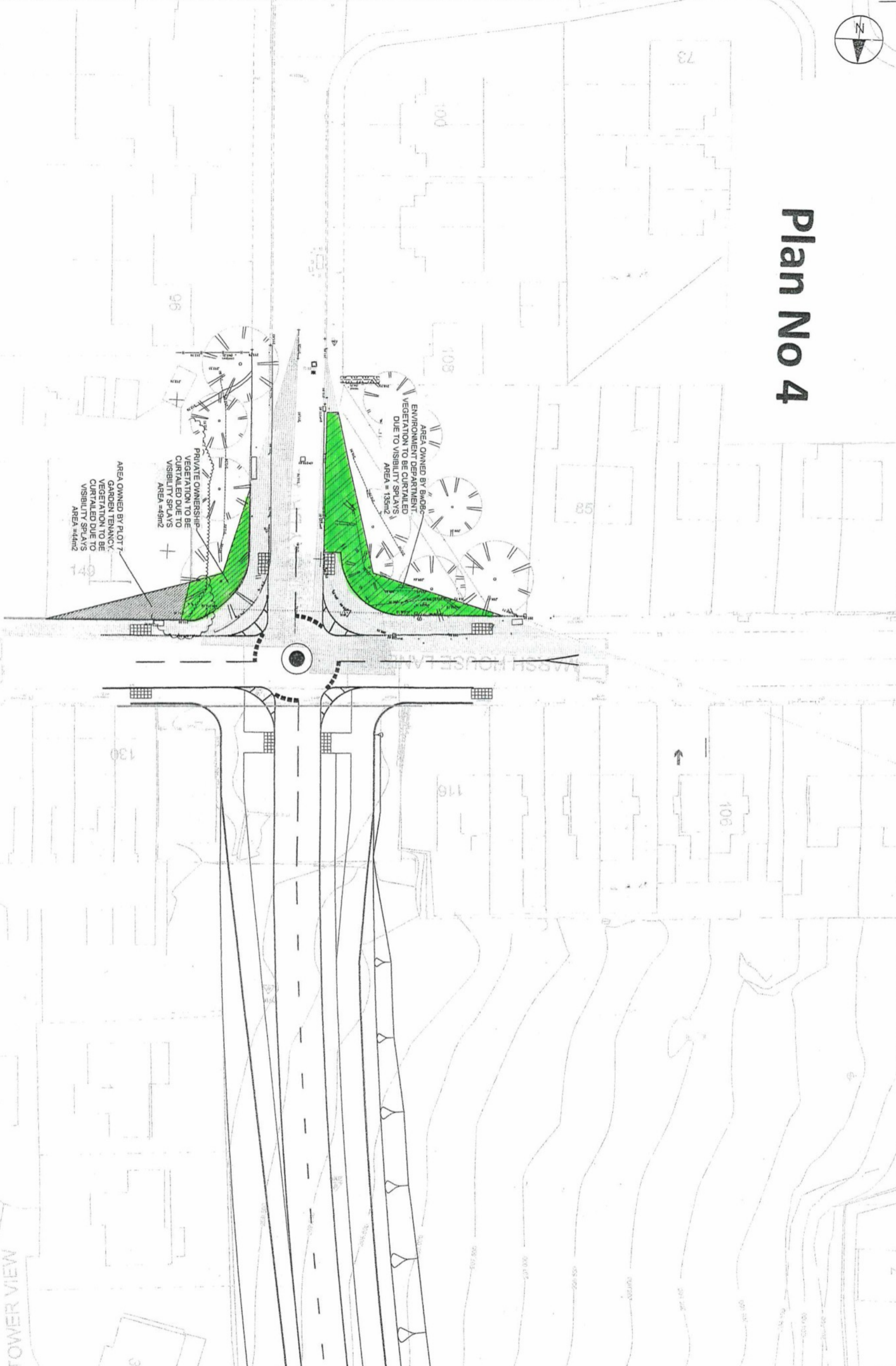
Drawings
MARSH HOUSE LANE / PRIORY
DRIVE VEGETATION
TO BE CURTAILED

Project No.	CS/090114	Date	01-08-2017
Scale @ A1	DS	Checked	APN
NTS	DS	APN	Approved

Drawing Number: 91103-Darwen
 Project Name: Darwen East Development
 Project Number: CS090114-CAP-HGN-1A-DR-C-0004
CAPITA
 Highways
 12501-14-CAP-HGN-1A-DR-C-0004
 91103-Darwen
 P01



Plan No 4



AREA OWNED BY BMD/BC ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED DUE TO VISIBILITY SPLAYS AREA = 135m²

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED DUE TO VISIBILITY SPLAYS AREA = 43m²

AREA OWNED BY PLOTT 7 GARDEN TENANCY VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED DUE TO VISIBILITY SPLAYS AREA = 44m²

- NOTES:**
- THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER RELEVANT DRAWINGS. ANY DISCREPANCIES, ERRORS OR OMISSIONS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF CAPITA
 - ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON SITE
 - ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
 - THE SURVEY INFORMATION SHOWN IS TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SUPERSEDED WITH ORDNANCE SURVEY BOUNDARY TOPOGRAPHICAL EXTENTS. THE ACCURACY OF EACH SURVEY TYPE MUST BE NOTED AND CONFIRMED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE
 - FOR ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS DIMENSION NUMBERS REFER TO THE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2016 (TSR&D)

- PLOT 7 AREA OF CURTALEMENT
- PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AREA OF CURTALEMENT
- BMD ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT AREA OF CURTALEMENT
- PROPOSED BACK OF FOOTPATH
- EXISTING BACK OF FOOTPATH
- VISIBILITY SPLAY OF 43m AS PER DMRB TD 54/07
- VISIBILITY SPLAY OF 43m AS PER DMRB TD 54/07

Drawings
 MARSH HOUSE LANE / PRIORITY DRIVE VEGETATION TO BE CURTAILED

Scale @ A1	Drawn	Checked	Approved
NTS	DS	APN	

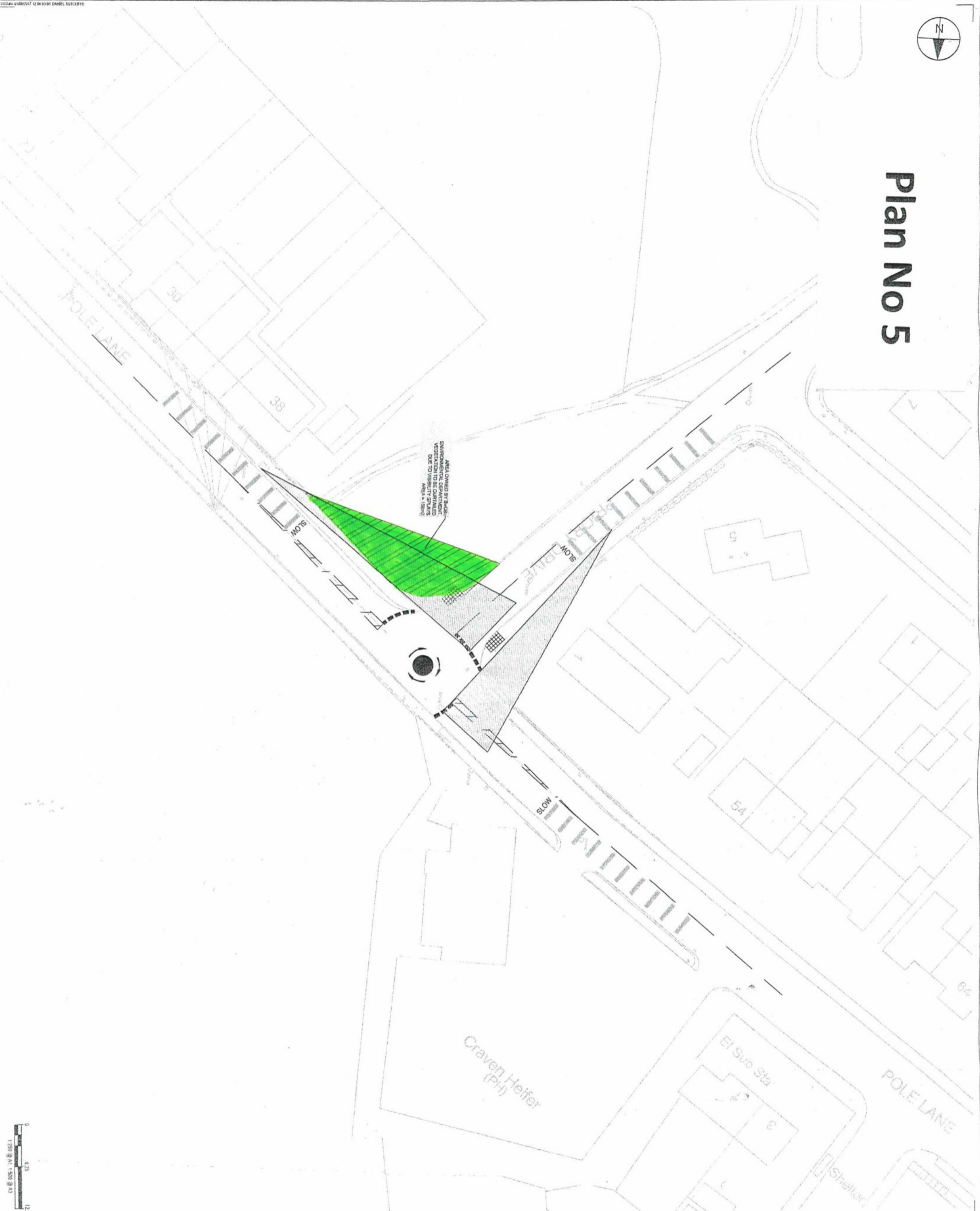
Project No: CS/090114 Date: 01-08-2017

Drawing Identifier: CS090114-CAP-HGN-1A-DR-C-0004 P01

Highways
CAPITA
 Capita Property and Infrastructure Ltd



Plan No 5



- NOTES:**
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 2. ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON SITE.
 3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
 4. THE SURVEY INFORMATION SHOWN IS TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SUPERIMPOSED WITH ORDINANCE SURVEY BEYOND TOPOGRAPHICAL EXTENTS. THE ACCURACY OF EACH SURVEY TYPE MUST BE NOTED AND CONFIRMED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE.
 5. FOR ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS DIAGRAM NUMBERS REFER TO THE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2016 (TRSD).

- BMD ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT AREA OF CURTAILMENT
- VISIBILITY SPLAY 9m - 43m AS PER DMAR8 TD 4507

Rev	By	App'd	Description	Date
01	DM	DM	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	01-08-2017

Purpose of Issue
ISSUED FOR INFORMATION

Classification
COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Client
BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN B.C
TOWN HALL
BLACKBURN BB1 7DY

Project
DARWEN EAST DEVELOPMENT
CORRIDOR

Drawing
PRIORITY DRIVE / POLE LANE
VEGETATION TO BE
CURTAILED

Scale	@ A1	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1:250	DS	APN		

Project No. CS/090114
Date 01-08-2017

Drawing Identifier
Project: 090114-CAP-HGN-03-DR-C-0004
CS090114-CAP-HGN-03-DR-C-0004
P01

Highways
CAPITA

Capita Client Services, 177 Preston New Road, Brighton, BN1 1AU
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EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Resources

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Finance and IT

DATE: 9 November 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Resources

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: CORPORATE CAPITAL BUDGET AND BALANCE SHEET MONITORING REPORT 2017/18 – Quarter 2 30 September 2017

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To report the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 30th September 2017, highlighting issues and explaining variations in the first 6 months of the financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Board is asked;

- to approve the revised capital programme as per Appendix 1,
- to approve the variations to the programme shown in Appendix 2

3. BACKGROUND

All portfolios are required to examine their capital budget position on a monthly basis.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

a) The projected aggregate cost of the Council's capital investment programme for 2017/18 has now been adjusted from £38.946 million, as approved by Executive Board on 10th August 2017, to £28.136 million. The net variation of £10.81 million (detailed in Appendix 2) reflects;

- variations made to reflect the approval of programmes during the second quarter of the year (£269,000)
- re-profiling of budgets during the second quarter of the year (£11.079 million).

b) As at 30th September 2017, the capital expenditure across the portfolios was £5.722 million (20.34% of the current, revised projected spend).

c) The estimate of capital receipts expected in 2017/18 is £2.557 million; to date £290,000 has been received.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

[Page 72 of 108](#)

The information contained within the report accords with the capital strategy and the three year

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The variations in projected spend and resource availability for 2017/18 are summarised by portfolio in Appendix 1. Variations in spending are set out in Appendix 2.

The capital programme for 2017/18 has decreased in the second quarter by £10.810 million, largely due to the review of planned expenditure and the subsequent re-profiling of the programme over 2017/18 and 2018/19 and beyond. The main points to note on the schemes are as follows:

6.1.1 Health & Adult Social Care

Demolition of Feniscliffe HOP

The demolition of Feniscliffe HOP cannot commence until environmental issues, relating to the habitation of bats there, is resolved and planning permission for the site is received.

Tower View Day Centre

This property has been empty for a number of years and has been identified for demolition to free the site up for development. A request is made to transfer funding from the Feniscliffe capital scheme to cover the demolition costs.

Shorey Bank/Riverside Heights

The scheme is due to complete in April 2019. As such any potential void costs, which have been included as part of the scheme budget, will only be payable after this date. Approval is sought to re-profile this element of the scheme budget in to 2019/20.

6.1.2 Environment

Old Bank Lane Car Park

Approval is requested to increase this scheme by £404,000 to match the total budget of £1.6 million, as approved in the Executive Board report dated 13th July 2017.

Pleasington Cemetery

Following approval by the Executive Member for Environment on 7th September 2017, the scheme to resurface the cemetery roadway has now been included in the capital programme. The budget for this scheme is £65,000.

6.1.3 Leisure, Culture & Young People

Blackburn Leisure Centre Replacement

This scheme is now complete subject to payment of final retentions. Subject to these payments, an underspend of £127,000 is reported on this scheme.

Woolridge Playing Fields

Additional grant funding of £99,000 has been secured from the Football Association for this scheme and therefore approval is requested to increase the capital scheme by this amount.

6.1.4 Regeneration

Blakey Moor

This scheme is only due to complete in the financial year 2021/22 and as such £3.397 million has been reprofiled into the capital programme beyond 2017/18 to reflect when the expenditure will be incurred.

Local Transport Plan

Further to the Local Transport Plan 2017/18 Programme Update of 25th September 2017, adjustment is made to the scheme at the end of Quarter 2 of £586,000 in respect of the changes reported in the update. Contributions of £50,000 to the Blakey Moor scheme and of £39,000 to the M65 J5 signalisation scheme are included within the adjustment.

National Productivity Investment Fund

The Council has been successful in a bid into the Department for Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund for the Fabric Borders project. The Department will provide a maximum funding contribution of £2 million in the years 2018/19 and 2019/20 towards an estimated scheme cost of £2.9 million, with £900,000 being match funded from the Council's existing Local Transport Plan allocation.

The scheme will improve pedestrian and vehicular access between Blackburn Town Centre and development areas both north and south of Barbara Castle Way. The reconfiguration of vehicular and pedestrian access and egress routes will improve orbital route congestion, remove barriers and improve pedestrian flows between Blackburn Town Centre and residential / retail areas with a predominantly Asian Heritage population. Improved access to new development sites, under-utilised employment sites and emerging retail and cultural offers will also be delivered by the project which marks the next phase of Blackburn Town Centre's regeneration.

M65 Junction 5 Signalisation

This scheme is now complete; the £210,000 of grant funding from Highways England remain however, as there will be no further spend, this will not be claimed.

Affordable Homes Funding

Section 106 funding totalling £122,800 has been received in respect of provision for affordable homes. A request is made to increase the capital scheme by this amount.

Housing Schemes

Adjustment to the spend profile is requested on the following housing schemes:

Capital Scheme	Slippage Requested To Future Years
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	£160,000
Equity Loans	£87,000
Empty Homes Cluster	£140,000
Capacity Funding	£50,000

Real Cinema

As part of the review of the estimated timing of spending on this scheme, it is requested that £6.2 million is re-profiled from 2017/18 into 2018/19 and beyond.

6.1.5 Resources

Corporate ICT – Replacement Infrastructure

This scheme will be implemented over a 2 year period and as such, £750,000 of the budgeted cost has been re-profiled to reflect when the expenditure will be incurred.

Corporate ICT – Microsoft Enterprise Agreements

There are 2 agreements left to pay; a request is made to slip £9,000 into the programme for 2018/19 to cover the agreement that will be paid in that year.

Corporate ICT – Nursery Management System

A request is made to add the scheme for the installation and implementation of a digital nursery management system to the capital programme. The cost of the scheme is £29,000 and will be financed by a £17,000 contribution from the Corporate ICT Earmarked Scheme budget together with a revenue contribution of £12,000 from the Children's Services portfolio.

Corporate Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Work

A review will be completed on any further work to ensure compliance with the DDA across Council properties. A request is made to slip £100,000 into the programme for 2018/19 and beyond to ensure this is spent against future need.

Fishmoor Drive – Training Centre Demolition

As per the Executive Member Decision dated 21 November 2016, the site has been declared surplus; the building will be demolished and the site will be made available for alternative uses. A request is made to add this scheme (costing £185,000) to the capital programme, which will be funded from the Corporate Property Investment Earmarked Schemes budget.

Davyfield Road Bungalow Remodel

Building improvement works are required to the Davyfield Road bungalow building. The building is part of the Council's key office accommodation and is required to provide for agile working. An Executive Member Decision dated 29th March 2017 identified costs, including building works and replacement of furniture, of £287,000. This will be funded from the Accommodation Strategy Earmarked Schemes budget. Approval is sought to add this scheme to the capital programme.

6.1.6 Schools and Education

Our Lady and St John's Sport Pitch

An Executive Member Decision dated 31st March 2017 reported that Our Lady & St John RC High School had secured £590,000 worth of grant funding from the Football Foundation to develop a 3G sports pitch for school and community use. A contribution of £50,000 from the Council has been agreed, to be funded from "non-Voluntary Aided Schools" resources within the Council's capital programme for schools. Approval is now required to add this to the capital programme.

A full review is being undertaken of all the capital schemes for schools. It is likely that a number of the schemes will be re-profiled into the programme for 2018/19 due to issues identified on several of the projects. This slippage will be reported in the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring Report when the review has been completed.

6.2 CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Actual capital receipts at the end of September 2017 were £290,000; all of these receipts will be utilised in support of the Minimum Revenue Provision.

6.3 BALANCE SHEET POSITION

6.3.1 Overview

Good balance sheet management assists in the effective use and control over the Council's assets and liabilities. Key assets comprise the Council's tangible fixed assets, debtors, investments and bank balances. Key liabilities include long and short-term borrowing, creditors and reserves.

6.3.2 Non-current Assets

Tangible non-current assets include property, plant and equipment held by the Council for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others or for administrative purposes. Property assets are the responsibility of the Resources portfolio. One fifth of all assets are re-valued every year, and annual reviews are undertaken to establish whether any impairment or other adjustments need to be applied. New assets, and enhancements to existing assets, are managed by way of the capital programme, as reported in Appendix 1.

6.3.3 Borrowing and Investments

Long term borrowing requirements flow from the capital programme. Regular dialogue and meetings take place between the Director of Finance & IT, her staff and the Council's independent Treasury consultants, Arlingclose, and options for optimising borrowing requirements are actively reviewed.

The Council has continued its strategy of financing capital expenditure through short term borrowing, at this time, whilst short term borrowing costs remain low. The last long term borrowing arrangements put into place was over three years ago. Most economic forecasts indicate a continuation of low interest rates for the short to medium term.

There is no change to the projected net interest position, with an increased cost of £20,000 in relation to interest charges for transferred debt being offset by a further £20,000 reduction in the projected cost of short term borrowing in the current year.

It should be noted that the changes to the MRP policy adopted in January 2017 will mean that future variations in the level of capital receipts will impact on the MRP charge for the year.

The current borrowing and investment position is as follows:

	Amounts at 31/03/16 £000	Amounts at 31/03/2017 £000	Amounts at 30/09/17 £000
Short term borrowing	£18,500	£57,000	£54,250
Long term borrowing	£134,684	£127,122	£127,122
Transferred debt re Local Government	£16,658	£15,992	£15,832

Re-Organisation			
Recognition of debt re PFI arrangements	£70,095	£68,551	£67,700
Investments made by the Council	£10,550	£22,075	£23,725

The totals include the debt recognised on the balance sheet as a result of accounting adjustments in respect of bringing the BSF school buildings in to use which are financed through PFI arrangements. These adjustments are made to ensure that the Council's effective control over, and use of, these assets is recognised with corresponding adjustments to the debt. These changes do not add to the costs faced by the Council Tax payer as the actual capital costs for these schools form part of the ongoing stream of payments made to the PFI contractor (which are in turn largely offset by PFI grant funding from the Government).

6.3.4 Debtors

The Council has a corporate debt policy as well as other specific policies for the management of debt in the key areas of council tax, business rates and housing benefit overpayments. The table below summarises the collection performance of the various debts and the total outstanding debt in the respective areas at a single point in time, i.e. 30th September 2017. The table also shows the corresponding level of debt at the same point in the last financial year.

	Position at 30/09/17	Position at 30/09/16
Council tax		
Current year arrears (£000)	27,352	24,957
Previous year arrears (£000)	9,087	7,971
Total Council tax arrears	36,439	32,928
Collection rates	51.80%	53.7%
Business rates		
Current year arrears (£000)	20,352	22,062
Previous year arrears (£000)	2,693	2,548
Total Business rates arrears	23,045	24,520
Collection rates	56.84%	56.9%
Housing Benefit		
Overpayments balances (£000)	2,837	2,659
Collection rates	21.51%	38.13%

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty to ensure it can deliver a balanced budget. The Local Government Act 2003 imposes a duty on an authority to monitor its budgets during the year and consider what action to take if a potential deterioration is identified.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

None

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. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. 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 in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	V3
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Gaynor Simons (Ext 5635) Julie Jewson (Ext 5893)
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DATE:	26 October 2017
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A
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Overall Capital Monitoring 2017/18

	2017	
	Approved Programme 2017/18	Programme approved at Executive Board August 2017
	(Budget Book) £'000	£'000
<u>Costs</u>		
Health & Adult Social Care	2,079	2,114
Children's Services	533	1,135
Environment	0	1,196
Leisure, Culture & Young People	6	548
Neighbourhood and Prevention Services	623	84
Regeneration	6,033	20,102
Resources	2,115	3,092
Schools & Education	6,495	10,675
Total Predicted Expenditure	17,884	38,946
<u>Resources</u>		
- Department for Communities & Local Government	0	0
- Department for Education	6,495	11,236
- Department for Energy & Climate Change	0	589
- Department for Transport	3,827	3,977
- Disabled Facilities Grants	1,461	1,461
- Housing Grants	0	288

- Other Grants	333	1,485
Government Grants	12,116	19,036
Unsupported Borrowing	3,753	16,446
External Contributions	1,515	2,414
Revenue Contributions	500	1,050
Total Resources	17,884	38,946
Difference	0	0
<u>Earmarked Schemes</u>		
Corporate ICT	1,416	2,751
Corporate Property Investment	658	1,476
Phase 2 Accomodation strategy	2,271	757
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	700	700
	5,045	5,684

/18		2018/19 and Future Years		
Requested Variations (See Appendix 2)	Revised 2017/18 Capital Programme As at 30th September 2017	Approved Programme 2018/19 and Future Years	Programme approved at Executive Board August 2017	Requested Variations (See Appendix 2)
£'000	£'000	(Budget Book) £'000	£'000	£'000
-186	1,928	6,472	6,472	186
0	1,135	1,200	1,200	0
469	1,665	0	0	0
-28	520	0	0	0
0	84	1,000	1,000	-1,000
-10,707	9,395	20,578	20,578	12,834
-358	2,734	0	0	859
0	10,675	0	0	0
-10,810	28,136	29,250	29,250	12,879
0	0	0	0	0
0	11,236	0	0	0
0	589	0	0	0
0	3,977	18,728	18,728	2,000
139	1,600	5,844	5,844	0
-190	98	0	0	190

-1,171	314
-1,222	17,814
-8,278	8,168
-1,534	880
224	1,274
-10,810	28,136
0	0
-16	2,735
-185	1,291
-287	470
0	700
-488	5,196

182	182	1,269
24,754	24,754	3,459
2,953	2,953	9,003
1,543	1,543	417
0	0	0
29,250	29,250	12,879
0	0	0
2,834	2,834	0
1,317	1,317	0
1,514	1,514	0
1,400	1,400	0
7,065	7,065	0

**Revised
Future Capital
Programme as
at 30th
September
2017**

£'000

6,658

1,200

0

0

0

33,412

859

0

42,129

0

0

0

20,728

5,844

190

1,451

28,213

11,956

1,960

0

42,129

0

2,834

1,317

1,514

1,400

7,065

Scheme variations to 2017/18 Capital Programme

	Capital Programme Schemes Approved by Executive Board on 10th August 2017 £ 000
<u>Health & Adult Social Care</u>	
Demolition of Tower View HOP	0
Demoilition of Feniscliffe HOP	75
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,693
Telecare Project	160
Shorey Bank/Riverside Heights Extra Care Scheme Site	186
	2,114
<u>Children's Services</u>	
Disabled Facilities Grant	395
Two Year Old Grant	263
Audley Children's Centre Early Years	133
Little Harwood Children's Centre	94
Stepping Stone's Nursery	61
Longshaw Nursery School	189
	1,135
<u>Environment</u>	
Old Bank Lane Car Park	1,196
Pleasington Cemetary	0
	1,196
<u>Leisure, Culture & Young People</u>	
Darwen Leisure Centre Replacement	6
Blackburn Leisure Centre Replacement	176
Waves Demolition	99
Witton Athletics - Floodlights	13
Bangor St - Refurbish Car Park	21
Wooldridge Playing Fields	231
Making Rooms Equipment	2
	548
<u>Neighbourhood and Prevention Services</u>	
CCTV Hub	84
Bank Top and Griffin Clearance	0
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	0
Empty Homes Cluster	0
	84

Regeneration

Assistance to Industry	187
Cathedral Quarter Development	100
Cathedral Quarter Office Block Fit Out	271
Darwen 3 Day Market	1,916
Blakey Moor	3,547
Local Transport Plan	5,308
National Productivity Investment Fund - Fabric Borders	-
Street Lighting Investment	125
Bury Fold Brook	15
Integrated Modelling Works	11
Bala Close Drainage Improvements	13
Granvill Rd/Westland Ave Flood Study	20
Birch Hall Ave diversion appraisal	14
Livesey Branch Rd Culvert	41
Highways Network Recovery	84
M65 J5 Signalisation	249
Bank Top and Griffin Clearance	199
Group Repair (Inner NW/InnerSE/Darwen)	46
Insulation for Hard to Treat Properties	3
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	234
Equity Loans	87
Empty Homes Cluster	160
Other Acquisition costs	10
DECC Central Heating Fund	589
Affordable Homes Funding	104
Development Investment Fund	144
Capacity Funding	125
Real Cinema	6,500
	20,102

Resources

Corporate ICT - Montr & Mgmt, service systems & op software, infrastructure	73
Corporate ICT - Digital Services	111
Corporate ICT - Public Access	277
Corporate ICT - WAN Connectivity	136
Corporate ICT - Replacement Infrastructure	1,001
Corporate ICT - HR & Payroll System	2
Corporate ICT - Adult Social Care IT System	1
Corporate ICT - Digitisation of Planning Service	217
Corporate ICT - Till and Stock System	20
Corporate ICT - Finance System	224
Corporate ICT - Microsoft EA	18
Corporate ICT - New Leisure System	48
Corporate ICT Adults Mobile Working	12
Corporate ICT - Nursery Management System	
Carbon Management Plan	212
Old Town Hall Stonework	20
Land Remediation Schemes	213
Accommodation Strategy	30
Freckleton Street Acquisitions	0
Corporate DDA Work	177
Akzo Nobel Demolition	0
Griffin Lodge	300
Fishmoor Drive Demolition	0
Davyfield Road Bungalow Remodel	0

2017/18				
Slippage/Reprofiling of budgets	Requested Variations	Total Capital Programme at 30 September 2017	Approved Programme 18/19 and Future Years	Portfolio Changes
£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£'000	£'000
-	75	75	-	-
-	(75)	-	-	-
-	-	1,693	5,832	-
-	-	160	640	-
(186)	-	-	-	-
(186)	-	1,928	6,472	0
-	-	395	1,200	-
-	-	263	-	-
-	-	133	-	-
-	-	94	-	-
-	-	61	-	-
-	-	189	-	-
-	-	1,135	1,200	0
-	404	1,600	-	-
-	65	65	-	-
-	469	1,665	0	0
-	-	6	-	-
-	(127)	49	-	-
-	-	99	-	-
-	-	13	-	-
-	-	21	-	-
-	99	330	-	-
-	-	2	-	-
-	(28)	520	0	0
-	-	84	-	-
-	-	-	300	(300)
-	-	-	400	(400)
-	-	-	300	(300)
-	-	84	1,000	-1,000

-	-	187	600	-
-	-	100	-	-
-	-	271	-	-
-	-	1,916	-	-
(3,397)	-	150	-	-
-	(586)	4,722	19,978	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	125	-	-
-	-	15	-	-
-	-	11	-	-
-	-	13	-	-
-	-	20	-	-
-	-	14	-	-
-	-	41	-	-
-	-	84	-	-
-	(210)	39	-	-
-	-	199	-	300
-	-	46	-	-
-	-	3	-	-
(160)	-	74	-	400
(87)	-	-	-	-
(140)	-	20	-	300
-	-	10	-	-
-	-	589	-	-
-	123	227	-	-
-	-	144	-	-
(50)	-	75	-	-
(6,200)	-	300	-	-
(10,034)	(673)	9,395	20,578	1,000
-	-	73	-	-
-	-	111	-	-
-	-	277	-	-
-	-	136	-	-
(750)	-	251	-	-
-	-	2	-	-
-	(1)	-	-	-
-	-	217	-	-
-	-	20	-	-
-	-	224	-	-
(9)	-	9	-	-
-	-	48	-	-
-	-	12	-	-
-	29	29	-	-
-	-	212	-	-
-	-	20	-	-
-	-	213	-	-
-	-	30	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
(100)	-	77	-	-
-	1	1	-	-
-	-	300	-	-
-	185	185	-	-
-	287	287	-	-

(859)	501	2,734	-	-
-	(50)	1,268	-	-
-	-	32	-	-
-	-	1,411	-	-
-	-	872	-	-
-	-	191	-	-
-	-	487	-	-
-	-	4,935	-	-
-	-	99	-	-
-	-	1	-	-
-	-	500	-	-
-	-	237	-	-
-	-	10	-	-
-	-	25	-	-
-	-	25	-	-
-	-	65	-	-
-	-	190	-	-
-	-	25	-	-
-	-	150	-	-
-	-	38	-	-
-	-	14	-	-
-	50	50	-	-
-	-	50	-	-
-	-	10,675	0	0
(11,079)	269	28,136	29,250	-
-	(16)	2,735	2,834	-
-	(185)	1,291	1,317	-
-	(287)	470	1,514	-
-		700	1,400	-
-	(488)	5,196	7,065	-

2018/19 and Future Years

Slippage to/from future years/ Reprofiling of Budget	Requested Variations	Total Programme 18/19 and Future Years
£'000	£'000	£'000
-	-	-
-	-	5,832
-	-	640
186	-	186
186	0	6,658
-	-	1,200
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
0	0	1,200
-	-	-
-	-	-
0	0	0
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
0	0	0
-	-	-
-	-	-
0	0	0

-	-	600
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
3,397	-	3,397
-	(200)	19,778
-	2,000	2,000
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	300
-	-	-
-	-	-
160	-	560
87	-	87
140	-	440
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
50	-	50
<u>6,200</u>	-	<u>6,200</u>
10,034	1,800	33,412

-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
750	-	750
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
9	-	9
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
100	-	100
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

859	-	859
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
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-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
0	0	0
11,079	1,800	42,129
-	-	2,834
-	-	1,317
-	-	1,514
-	-	1,400
-	-	7,065



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Resources
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Finance and IT
DATE:	09 November 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	All
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
KEY DECISION:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: CORPORATE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 - 2017/18

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To report the overall revenue financial position of the Council, highlighting any significant issues and explaining variations in the first quarter of the financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Board is asked to approve:

- the portfolio budget adjustments outlined in Appendix 1.
- the Earmarked reserves position shown in Appendix 2
- the variations to revenue expenditure, as listed in Section 6, giving rise to a forecast balance of £6.224 million in the unallocated General Fund revenue reserve at 31st March 2018.

3. BACKGROUND

All portfolios are required to examine their revenue budget position on a monthly basis. Regular reports are submitted to Executive Board for review along with a final report, detailing the financial outturn position.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

a) Actual revenue expenditure at 30th September 2017 in relation to controllable budgets across all portfolios was £50.598 million, which is 46.34% of the current budget. Further details relating to the financial position of each portfolio are outlined in Section 6.

b) General Fund unallocated reserves are forecast to be £6.224 million at 31st March 2018 based on information available at this point in time.

c) Based on the information currently available, earmarked reserves available for discretionary use within the Council are forecast to be £11.972 million at 31st March 2018 compared with a balance of £13.874 million at 31st March 2017, with a further £17.282 million of other reserves held mainly in relation to schools.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The information contained within the report accords with the three year budget forecast within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-20, as approved at Finance Council on 27th February 2017.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 CONTROLLABLE BUDGETS AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE

6.1.1 Revenue Budget Overview

Given the scale of the financial challenge faced, throughout the course of 2016/17 Executive Members and Officers continued to review all services and worked to develop options to deliver budget reductions as part of a £15 million savings programme.

The budget for 2017/18 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) reflected these savings, as well as the other measures taken to address reductions in funding. The implementation of the savings programme within the challenging timescales set, and delivering this in the face of further increases in demand and demographic pressures, will be critical to balancing the revenue account this year.

6.1.2 Performance Against Controllable Budgets

Appendix 1 details the portfolio controllable budgets approved by the Executive Board in August 2017 together with the details of the adjustments recommended to the Board for approval in this report. These include:

- budget virements (transfers) between portfolios
- transfers from Earmarked reserves to support spending on specific schemes for which these reserves were established
- transfers from Unallocated reserves to support budget pressures
- transfers from Earmarked reserves in respect of grants / contributions and other budgets approved for carry forward from 2016/17

In addition, a corporate budget adjustment has been made to realign insurance budgets across all portfolios.

The principle issues for each portfolio are as follows:

Health & Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care

At the end of period 6 monitoring, the portfolio is continuing to face significant and increasing pressures consistent with the trend experienced last year. The portfolio was reporting overall commissioning budget pressures in the region of £2.7 million due to increased activity in nursing and domiciliary care as well as increases in the cost of individual care packages. These pressures have been partly mitigated by agreed allocation of iBCF funding in 2017/18. It is proposed to transfer £1.4 million from the Social Care Demand Reserve (increased previously from iBCF), to further mitigate these increased pressures.

A transfer of £126,000 from the part year effect / slippage reserve is also requested to help alleviate pressures which have arisen due to the timing of contractual changes in respect of the planned savings programme for the supporting people service.

Subject to Executive Board approval of the above budget transfers, the overall net forecast outturn position for the portfolio, at the end of quarter 2, is broadly in line with its controllable budget. The breakeven position for the year takes into consideration managed staffing savings as well as a potential transfer from the Better Care Fund contingency.

The current forecast does not take into account potential changes in commissioning activity and cost of care packages in the coming winter months. This is likely to impact on the forecasted outturn position. Forecasts will be refined throughout the year and updated information will be presented to SPT every month.

Public Health

There are no significant issues to raise at this time, the portfolio is predicting a break even budget position.

Children's Services

In line with 2016/17, the portfolio has identified cost pressures for the year ahead due to increasing social work caseloads in respect of vulnerable children, combined with increasing expenditure on commissioned placements and special guardianship orders. Whilst the majority of these costs were contained in 2016/17 through other savings achieved in the portfolio, in line with the delivery of the savings programme, many of these savings have now been removed from the budget thereby reducing the ability to mitigate the difficult financial position.

These, and other areas of the budget, are being closely monitored and will be refined as further information becomes available over the coming months. However it is clear at this point that with increasing costs, the removal of those savings that had been available in previous years, and a challenging savings programme to be delivered, it will be a difficult financial year and it is unlikely that the Portfolio will be able to contain these cost pressures. The projected position of a £1,380,100 overspend is based on current levels of demand and does not take into account any further increases in demand between now and the end of the financial year.

Environment

As previously reported the main pressure faced is in respect of the Household Waste Recycling contract, the portfolio is currently looking at options to contain these costs.

Leisure, Culture and Young People

Cost pressures that have been identified and options are being explored to contain these within the existing portfolio budget.

Neighbourhoods & Prevention

The portfolio is predicting a break even budget position.

Regeneration

Cost Pressures have consistently been reported in both the Outturn Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2016/2017 and the Quarter 1 Revenue Budget Monitoring report 2017/2018, relating to highways and markets. The portfolio has identified cost pressures in the region of £1.1million and whilst they are looking at all options to mitigate these pressures these will not be able to be contained within budget.

Resources

Resources portfolio is reporting a break even budget position but may need to utilise some of the earmarked slippage reserve to address shortfalls on savings targets that cannot be met in full in 2017/18. The required figure will be finalised as the financial year progresses.

Schools & Education

The portfolio is reporting pressures on SEN Transport budget however it is anticipated these can be managed within the portfolio. Therefore the portfolio are forecasting a break even position as 31 March 2018.

Dedicated Schools Grant / Schools Block

Services in Schools & Education (DSG) are currently predicted to spend the funding available in 2017/18 through the Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium.

Schools and Education funding from DSG is monitored by the Schools Forum and reports are considered on a regular basis.

6.2 General Fund Unallocated Reserves

	£'000
Unallocated reserves as per Executive Board Report August 2017	6,192
Transfers from Unallocated reserves	
Funding for Pest Control Officer - 12 months fixed term contract	(41)
Transfers to Unallocated reserves	
Reverse previous transfer to fund for Legal support in relation to DoLS cases	73
Forecast balance on Unallocated General Fund reserves at 31 March 2018	6,224

6.3 Earmarked Reserves

The level of Earmarked reserves held for discretionary use by the Council at 30th September 2017 is currently expected to reduce to £11.972 million compared with the outturn position of £13.874 million as at 31st March 2017.

Summary of movement	£'000
Earmarked reserves available for discretionary use as per Executive Board Report August 2017	15,445
Used to finance capital schemes:	
- Office Accommodation and property improvements (Bangor St car park)	(21)
- New Homes bonus reserve (Development Investment Fund)	(44)
- Developers Contributions (S106) (Affordable Homes - £126,800 / Woolridge Playing Fields £211,500 / Gib Lane / Livesey Branch Road £291,000)	(629)
Release to portfolios of grants and budgets carried forward from 2016/17 into 2017/18 (included in Appendix 1) Page 97 of 108	(275)
Utilise Developers Contributions (S106 income) to support revenue budgets	(74)

(included in Appendix 1)	
Support for redundancy and pension strain costs (included in Appendix 1)	(754)
Support for part year effect of future savings plans (included in Appendix 1)	(276)
Social Care Demand Reserve/Improved Better Care Fund	(1,400)
Forecast balance on Earmarked reserves available for discretionary use at 31 March 2018	11,972

Other earmarked reserves, largely in respect of schools, are currently held of £17.282 million.

Details of the requested application of reserves are outlined in Section 6.1.2 of the report (above) and in Appendices 1 and 2.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty to ensure it can deliver a balanced budget. The Local Government Act 2003 imposes a duty on an authority to monitor its budgets during the year and consider what action to take if a potential deterioration is identified.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

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. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. 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 in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Simon Ross (Ext 5569) Julie Jewson (Ext 5893)
DATE:	27 th October 2017
BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A

SCHEDULE OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS REQUESTED - QUARTER 2

	Health & Adult Social Care	Children's Services	Environment	Leisure, Culture & Young People	Neighbourhood & Prevention Services	Regeneration	Resources	Schools & Education (Non-DSG)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Controllable Budget Approved On 10 August 2017	44,734,700	22,639,900	8,619,200	3,244,100	1,187,300	7,477,800	15,318,200	3,290,600
Transfers between portfolios:								
Transfer of Transforming Lives budget	(93,000)				93,000			
Your Support Your Choice	(50,000)				50,000			
MacMillan	(20,700)				20,700			
Transfers to the Communications team	(17,600)	(21,600)					39,200	
Transfer of the Review of Complaints team	(44,700)						44,700	
Legal support for DoLS cases	(73,000)						73,000	
Transfer of Troubled Families budget		59,800			(59,800)			
Repair to swings in Queens Park			1,500		(1,500)			
Utilise Risk Management budget to procure and fit cameras to street cleansing vehicles			1,500				(1,500)	
Additional HR support				(20,000)			20,000	
Transfer of Housing Growth team					(170,200)	170,200		
Post transferred to the Corporate Place and Strategy team						(31,700)	31,700	
Realignment and centralising insurance budgets	(12,300)	(27,200)	(21,700)	(43,600)	(4,000)	(31,800)	152,300	(5,800)
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves								
Section 106 Funding - Pemberton St/Hardy St			4,400					
Section 106 Funding - Bold Venture Park			4,800					
Section 106 Funding - Audley Lane			2,600					
Section 106 Funding - Roe Lee Park Play Area			62,100					
Funding for Early Retirements / Voluntary Redundancies	9,900	59,500	29,800	114,000	41,600	140,500	229,500	129,500
Social Care Future Demand reserve	1,400,000							
Transfer from the Part Year Effect reserve	126,000							
Transfer from the Part Year Effect reserve - delayed implementation of PPP savings target		150,000						
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - Local Family Offer Trial		24,800						
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - 30 Hours Childcare Digital Accelerate		7,100						
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - Social Fund (Children's)		68,500						
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - Troubled Families		120,200						
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - Funding from Manchester CC for Grant Co-ordinator post					8,700			
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - Organised Crime Admin funding					37,000			
Grant carried forward from 2016/17 - funding from Rossendale Council for Housing Advisor post					9,400			
Transfers (to)/from unallocated reserves								
Pest Control Officer - 12 months fixed term contract			40,200					
Reverse funding for Legal support in relation to DoLS cases							(73,000)	
Transfers (to)/from contingency								
Other budget adjustments								
Use of revenue budget to finance capital scheme - Audley Children's Centre		(40,000)						
Use of revenue budget to finance capital scheme - Little Harwood Children's Centre		(27,000)						
Use of revenue budget to finance capital scheme - ICT Nursery Management System								
Revised Controllable Budget as at 30th September 2017	45,959,300	23,002,000	8,744,400	3,294,500	1,212,200	7,725,000	15,834,100	3,414,300

DETAILS OF GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVES FOR USE BY THE COUNCIL

	Balance at 30 June 2017 As reported to Exec Board August 2017 £000	Requested Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves in Qtr 2	Balance at 30 September 2017 Quarter 2 £000
ICT developments			
ICT revenue projects	559	0	559
Welfare, council tax and business rates reforms			
Welfare and council tax reforms	268	0	268
Investment in assets and infrastructure			
Office Accommodation and property improvements	588	(21)	567
Highways winter maintenance	24	0	24
Redevelopment of Blackburn Markets site	200	0	200
Flood Defence	77	0	77
Other Resources and Transformation projects			
Legal Advice Reserve	105	0	105
Partnerships & Transformation	80	0	80
Claims in respect of land charge search fees	93	0	93
Support for People Services			
Complex Needs and Transition	83	0	83
Troubled Families	230	(120)	110
YOT partnership	118	0	118
Music Services	159	0	159
Disabled Facilities Grants	289	0	289
VIA (Connexions) Reserve	141	0	141
Future Demand Pressures	3,967	(1,400)	2,567
PLACE			
New Homes Bonus	76	(44)	32
Investment to support business rates growth	370	0	370
Place Shaping Investment Reserve	250	0	250
Invest to Save projects			
Insurance risk investment fund	43	0	43
Contingent sums to support future downsizing and transformation programmes			
Review of services provided by strategic partnership	102	0	102
Support for future redundancy costs	2,505	(754)	1,751
Support for part year effect of future savings plans	2,340	(276)	2,064
Digital Programme	500	0	500
Amounts carried forward in respect of unspent grants and contributions			
Transformation Challenge Award	64	0	64
Transforming Lives	37	0	37
SEN / SEND Reform Grant /SNND Prep for Empl	236	0	236
Social Fund (Children's)	68	(68)	0
Manchester CC Grant Housing Benefit Officer - Asylum Fund	9	(9)	0
DCLG Grant Housing Advisor Post	24	(9)	15
DCLG Grant organised crime admin budget	37	(37)	0
Local Family Offer Trial	25	(25)	0
30 hours Childcare Digital Accelerate	7	(7)	0
Amounts committed in future year budgets/MTFS			
Social Worker Contract (Childrens)	73	0	73
Reserves held for specified non discretionary purposes			
* Developers Contributions (S106 Income)	474	(703)	(229)
Future Maintenance of Wainwright Bridge	506	0	506
Highways claims anticipated for years up to current year but not yet received	434	0	434
Art Acquisitions Fund	14	0	14
W. Ferrier Bequest (for museum re Kathleen Ferrier)	20	0	20
Allowance for contingent liabilities (e.g. MMI)	250	0	250
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES FOR DISCRETIONARY USE	15,445	(3,473)	11,972
Other Earmarked' Reserves			
Reserves held in respect of joint arrangements and charitable bodies			
Darwen Market Traders Association	2	0	2
Joint Building Control Account	182	0	182
Turton Tower Charity	45	0	45
LSCB Safeguarding Partners Fund	156	0	156
Reserves held in relation to schools			
Dedicated Schools Grant - Surplus	10,644	0	10,644
LMS Schools Balances	6,253	0	6,253
TOTAL 'OTHER EARMARKED' RESERVES	17,282	0	17,282
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	32,727	(3,473)	29,254
UNALLOCATED RESERVES	6,192	32	6,224

* **Developers Contributions (S106 Income)** - this reserve appears above in a negative position. This is due to the fact that income received during 2017/18 will only be reflected in the reserve once the year end outturn entries have been completed, as is the normal practice.

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care Executive Member for Children's Services
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Public Health Director of Children's Services
DATE:	9 November 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	ALL
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
KEY DECISION:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: Blackburn with Darwen Designation as a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2017, Blackburn with Darwen's Executive Board approved the Eat Well Move More Shape Up strategy and action plan. As described in the strategy addressing unhealthy weight is a priority for Blackburn with Darwen. The impact of high levels of obesity on the borough and its residents is outlined in the strategy. The economic cost of poor nutrition and obesity is significant and with the increasing pressure on the health and social care system, prevention is a priority. In April 2017 the Executive Board signed the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight and were subsequently joined in making this a joint Declaration with Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group in July 2017.

A local priority within this Declaration is the ambition for Blackburn with Darwen to be a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough. This designation signifies our commitment of to give the best start in life to babies and to support breastfeeding mums to continue to breastfeed for as long as possible. It is well known that breastfeeding impacts on babies' physical and mental health and well-being from birth and lasts a whole lifetime. In Blackburn with Darwen, not all babies and children benefit, as breastfeeding rates fall from 74% at birth to around 40% at 6 weeks. This commitment to becoming a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough will help to improve rates as we know that many mothers stop breastfeeding as they don't always see how they can breastfeed out of home life, nor do they feel welcomed or confident to breastfeed anywhere, at any time.

The commitment to becoming a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough will include:

- Supporting local businesses to provide an environment which encourages mums to continue breastfeeding when they return to work by providing a pack of helpful resources for businesses to use including a draft return to work policy.
- Engaging with local public transport agencies to ensure breastfeeding mums feel welcomed when they need to feed their baby.
- Promoting local leisure time establishments including leisure centres, restaurants and shopping centres to welcome breastfeeding mums.
- Supporting council buildings and health settings to be breastfeeding friendly. This will include engagement with dentists and pharmacies as well as GP practices.
- Education of the benefits of breastfeeding for mum and baby along with wider society and how best to support a breastfeeding mum.

- Challenge the ‘bottle feeding’ culture amongst young mums and those from lower socio economic backgrounds by utilising a mother centred / motivational conversation approach during pregnancy.

Blackburn with Darwen’s Community Commitment ‘Feeding Future Generations’ (Appendix A) outlines how all parts of the community can encourage and support mums to continue breastfeeding their baby for as long as possible. This commitment will be championed by the Eat Well Move More Shape Up strategy steering group and driven by the Eat Well sub group including membership from the Baby Friendly Team at East Lancashire Hospitals Trust.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Notes that creating a supportive environment that enables women to breastfeed is a collective responsibility and that breastfeeding has health and wellbeing benefits for both mother and baby, which can last a lifetime.
- Agrees to support Blackburn with Darwen as a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough as part of the recently adopted Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight.

3. BACKGROUND

Blackburn with Darwen Midwifery (1998), Health Visiting (2011) and Children’s Centre (2016) services are all now accredited by UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) demonstrating best practise standards in staff education and care / service provision around infant feeding and relationship building. Breastfeeding initiation rates in Blackburn with Darwen have raised from 27% (pre 1995) to 74% currently. The next phase of the BFI journey is to work toward BFI GOLD (Achieving sustainability) status – interventions that are over and above the core BFI standards to demonstrate leadership, monitoring culture and progression. Breastfeeding Friendly Borough status is a great example of innovation and progression.

There is overwhelming research to support how breast milk / breastfeeding provides optimal physical and mental health and wellbeing for mothers and babies. This is ‘dose related’ – the longer a mother breastfeeds or expresses her milk the greater the health outcomes. Outcomes include improved mental health, attachments, decreased breast / ovarian cancer and stronger bones for mothers, and also include decreased infections, diabetes, respiratory illness, allergies, eczema, cancer for baby (<https://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly/news-and-research/baby-friendly-research/infant-health-research/>). For babies on the neonatal unit who are preterm and / or sick breast milk helps to prevent life threatening illnesses such as necrotising entero-colitis by protecting the fragile gut. Retinopathy of the preterm baby, lung disease and other infections are also reduced.

Latest Fingertips data (Public Health England) reveals that respiratory tract and gastro intestinal admissions in infants under 1 year in Blackburn with Darwen are significantly higher than the national average. Gastro intestinal admissions continue to be significantly higher at all ages up to 4 years Evidence suggests that continuation of breastfeeding for as long as possible can reduce admissions and reduce cost to the NHS.

- Evidence shows that holding baby in our arms to feed them responsively is good for baby’s brain development; it helps them feel secure and supports their long term emotional health.
- In the short term, illnesses such as diarrhoea and vomiting, eczema, asthma, and ear, chest and urine infections are more common in babies who are not breastfed.
- Not feeding breastmilk, increases risks of immediate and later life obesity.
- Women who breastfeed are less likely to suffer breast or ovarian cancers or osteoporosis.
- Breastfeeding is a natural safety net against the effects of poverty where exclusive breastfeeding can go a long way to cancelling out the health difference between being born into poverty or being

born into affluence

A report by UNICEF UK and a multi-university academic team (<https://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly/baby-friendly-resources/advocacy/preventing-disease-and-saving-resources/>), show that for just five illnesses, moderate increases in breastfeeding would translate into cost savings for the NHS of up to £50 million and tens of thousands of fewer hospital admissions and GP consultations. In addition, analyses on three conditions – cognitive ability, childhood obesity and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) – indicate that modest improvements in breastfeeding rates could save millions of pounds and, in the case of SIDS, children's lives. The report makes a strong financial case for investing in better support services for women, to enable them to start breastfeeding and continue for as long as they want to. Having a breastfeeding friendly borough will help mothers to continue breastfeeding for as long as they want, to feel happy and welcomed to breastfeed anywhere, anytime. It is time to take a full community approach. It is not down to individual mothers to prolong their breastfeeding journey – we want to encourage everyone living in the Borough to get involved and make a difference.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Success of the initiative requires a multi-agency approach and commitment of communities in Blackburn with Darwen to support breastfeeding mums. It is important that the Council leads by example to support its staff and local residents to give babies breast-milk for longer. Breastfeeding needs to be normalised. Only then will more mothers feel and believe they can breastfeed for many months.

Without this commitment, illnesses and childhood obesity / overweight will be persistently higher than average with associated admissions and increased risk of breast cancer for mothers in later life.

Having signed up to the Healthy Weight Declaration, and the commitments therein, failure to support this initiative may compromise the ambitions of the Declaration and miss an opportunity to address the determinants of unhealthy weight at a pivotal time in a child's development.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Breastfeeding Friendly Borough initiative will take into account the following policies and strategies listed below:

- The Equality Act 2010
- The Evidence and Rationale for the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative standards, UNICEF UK BFI, 2013
- From the First Hour of Life; Making the case for improved infant and young child feeding everywhere, UNICEF, 2016
- Public Health Outcomes Framework 2014-15 (Department of Health, 2014)
- Fair Society, Healthy Lives. A strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010 (The Marmot Review, 2010)
- Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-18
- Eat Well Move More Shape Up Strategy 2017-2020
- BwD Integrated Strategic Needs Assessment
- Commissioning infant feeding services, UNICEF, PHE, 2016

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The initiative will be managed through the Eat Well Sub Group of the Eat Well Move More Shape Up Strategy. Delivery of the actions will be supported mainly by the Baby Friendly Team at East

Lancashire Hospitals Trust and the Council's Public Health Team with further support where required from Eat Well Sub Group partners.

Funding for the Breastfeeding Friendly signage on all Borough entry signs (26 signs @ £300 per year £7800) and advertising at designated times in strategic places in the Borough across the year and the distribution of a Feeding Future Generations Commitment to all households in BwD will be supported through an overall allocation of £70,700 social determinants of health monies within Local Health and Social Media Communications within the Policy department.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Equality Act 2010 has specifically clarified that it is unlawful for a business to discriminate against a woman because she is breastfeeding a child of any age. Discriminating against someone because they are with a breastfeeding mother is also prohibited. It is important that employees, especially those who deal with the public, are trained to be aware of the protection from discrimination given to breastfeeding mothers under the Equality Act 2010. The law also requires an employer to provide somewhere for a breastfeeding employee to rest.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The progress towards increasing breastfeeding continuation rates through the Breastfeeding Friendly Borough initiative will be monitored and driven via the Eat Well Move More Shape Up Steering Group. Public Health chair the strategy steering group and will coordinate the reporting against the commitments in the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight on an annual basis.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.



Eat Well Move More
Shape Up HIA review

10. CONSULTATIONS

The ambition to become a designated Breastfeeding Friendly Borough is detailed in both the Eat Well Move More strategy and Local Authority Declaration for which extensive consultation took place over the last 18 months.

The consultation for the strategy and the Declaration has included the following:

- Eat Well Move More Shape Up Public Online Consultation – 110 responses
- Health Professional Online Consultation – 27 responses
- Stakeholder Engagement event in June 2016 and face to face/email engagement with individual stakeholders
- Senior Policy Team briefings across all portfolios
- Quarterly Eat Well Move More Shape Up Steering Group meetings
- Primary School Catering Managers [Page 105 of 108](#)
- Clinical Commissioning Group Protected Learning Time event and Clinical Commissioning

Group Operations Group and Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body Policy Development Session

- Bangor Street Ladies group & Inter Madrassah Organisation Women 4 Women group
- Families Health & Wellbeing Consortium
- Older People's Forum and Age UK consultation
- Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
- Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board, Live Well Board and Children's Partnership Board.
- Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight Local Commitments Public Online Consultation – 45 responses

In specific reference to the development of the Borough commitment and how families wish to be supported to breastfeed for longer, the Baby Friendly Team from East Lancashire Hospitals Trust are conducting consultation with families throughout July and August on the 'Feeding Future Generations' commitment and to further develop a list of venues they would like to see sign up to the commitment.

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. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. 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 in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	5.0
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Beth Wolfenden
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DATE:	4/9/2017
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Feeding Future Generations: Blackburn with Darwen's Commitment
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FEEDING FUTURE GENERATIONS:

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN'S COMMITMENT

SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING: THE BEST START FOR CHILDREN IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

The way we feed our babies makes a big difference.

We know that this impacts on babies from birth and lasts a whole lifetime.

- Evidence shows that holding baby in our arms to feed them responsively is good for baby's brain development; it helps them feel secure and supports their long term emotional health.
- In the short term, illnesses such as diabetes, diarrhoea and vomiting, eczema, asthma, and ear, chest and urine infections are more common in babies who are not breastfed.
- Not feeding breastmilk, increases risks of immediate and later life obesity.
- Women who breastfeed are less likely to suffer breast or ovarian cancers or osteoporosis.

However, in our area, not all babies and children benefit as much as they **should** from this and we would like your help to improve this.

The following UNICEF short clip [Call to Action](#) explains this in more detail.

SO WHY DON'T MORE BABIES BENEFIT FROM THIS?

We have a perception in society of what a good baby does. For example, society can perceive that babies follow a set routine, feed at regular intervals, and sleeps through the night. However, evidence shows us that babies have tiny tummies and need feeding very regularly day and night. Babies are just like us - some are laid back and some need more cuddles - and what they need on one day could be different to the next. So when our babies don't follow what society perceives as a 'good baby', we may feel like we are doing something wrong.

Some mums feel embarrassed to breastfeed their babies in public, worrying that the community around them will not support them to do this. Other mums need to return to work and wonder how they could continue to breastfeed/give their babies' breast milk. Mums have the right to feed their babies wherever their baby becomes hungry, they don't need any special equipment just somewhere comfortable to sit, a smile and a few positive words.

OUR COMMUNITY ROLE

If you live or work in Blackburn with Darwen you might wonder if this is really something you can help with. Whether you have contact with children, families, pregnant women, teenagers, young men or grandparents, then you have more influence than you may think. So yes - this is for you.

We want to talk to you about how the environment, activities and people within your community or organisation can help to support babies and young children get the best nutrition and start in life. If we manage to do this together we will protect them from many common illnesses, help their bodies and brains grow as they should, and be strong and active members of our community. Thinking about how it may work in your organization may start with asking yourself "what might it look like here?" Simply displaying signs 'breastfeeding welcome' can be very reassuring for a new mum.

"For breastfeeding to work, you need someone to turn to who believes it's important and believes you can do it." Sue Ashmore, Programme Director, The Baby Friendly Initiative, UNICEF (WBW 2017)

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

UK law has specifically clarified that it is unlawful for a business to discriminate against a woman because she is breastfeeding a child. (The Equality Act, 2010)

HOW CAN WE ALL HELP?

Is early nutrition something you are discussing with children? Research suggests that attitudes towards baby feeding are often formed in childhood. If a positive attitude is formed at that stage, breastfeeding is more likely to be a real option for a girl later as a pregnant mother, and a boy is more likely to become a supportive partner.

As an employer, are you discussing with your pregnant employees that on return to work that you will support her to continue to breastfeed/express her milk so she can continue to provide breastmilk for her baby?

NEW MUMS AND FAMILIES NEED SUPPORT FROM PARTNERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND THE COMMUNITY.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- ✓ **Avoid making unhelpful suggestions** such as ‘a baby “should” have a feeding or [sleeping routine](#) ‘
 - All babies are different, feeding often and waking regularly is normal however they feed. If mum is breastfeeding, frequent feeds and night feeds help boost her milk supply.
 - Remember evidence and advice may have changed since you had a baby
- ✓ **Encourage a new mum** – tell her what a great job she is doing
 - <https://www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/breastfeeding>
 - Help her to access a breastfeeding group. Groups are in every Children’s Centre in Blackburn with Darwen. Mums value social contact with other mums in the groups, and also learn more about breastfeeding
 - Avoid suggesting formula as this may make her feel unsupported, and also decrease her milk supply
 - Ensure your organisation is empowered to speak up in support of a mum if someone criticises her feeding decision, or feeding in public.
 - Help a mum to get support if she is struggling – help her to carry on breastfeeding
- ✓ **Look after mum:** if mum is well cared-for then she will be able to look after her baby
 - Bring her a drink, make sure she eats, help with housework and daily chores
 - A few positive words can make all the difference on a tough day
 - If you are an employer make sure your workforce are aware before their baby is born and after, that they can return to work and continue to provide breastmilk for their baby with your support.
 - Although it is a child’s right to be fed where ever they become hungry, and this is protected by law, having a sign or a sticker showing your support can mean a lot to new families.
 - Try not feel uncomfortable if a mum feeds in your presence: being comfortable around a breastfeeding woman helps her feel more relaxed and supported to feed her baby
 - Smile – she is just feeding a hungry baby!



The following link helps explain [how you can help support a breastfeeding mum](#) in more detail.

“CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES WOMEN TO BREASTFEED IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, AND ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER WILL WE HELP NEW MUMS AND BABIES AND IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING”

FOR MORE INFORMATION on how you can implement this Community Commitment, sign up as a ‘Breastfeeding Welcoming Place’, access primary school curriculum guidance or a workplace pack to support employees please contact the BabyFriendlyTeam@elht.nhs.uk or 01254 732673.

