

Appendix B – National and local policy priorities

Corporate priority	National policy priorities that are unlikely to change	National policy priorities where there is on-going political debate	Local policy responses
<p>1. Creating more jobs and supporting business growth</p>	<p><b>The “green economy”</b> Cross party commitment to “green economy”, creating more green economy jobs, zero carbon Britain</p> <p><b>Work Programme</b> No suggestion that changes would be made to the current Work Programme arrangements</p> <p><b>Spending plans</b> Cross part endorsement of the parameters of Government borrowing and spending for 2015-16 as outlined in the latest budget</p>	<p><b>Green economy</b> Energy policy and cost of living – debate regarding levies and intervention in market pricing structures</p> <p><b>Welfare reform</b> Likely review and potential reform of Universal Credit; housing benefit; “bedroom tax”.</p> <p>Potential reforms for benefit entitlement for the up to 25’s, to encourage engagement in education; employment and training.</p> <p><b>Taxation</b> Potential wide ranging reforms to taxation for the lower paid, including possible changes to income tax thresholds or a 10p starting rate of tax.</p> <p><b>“Living Wage”</b> Likely to be stronger push on employers to pay a living wage, potential for subsidisation of wage rates to encourage take up.</p> <p><b>Spending plans</b> Potential for further freeze on public spending up to 2020.</p>	<p>EU Funding programme</p> <p>LSP Growth strategy</p> <p>Continuing “Open for business” and The Hive network</p> <p>Blackburn Town Centre Strategy; Business Improvement District; Pennine REACH and Cathedral Quarter</p>

62

Corporate priority	National policy priorities that are unlikely to change	National policy priorities where there is on-going political debate	Local policy responses
<p>2. Improving housing quality and building more houses</p>	<p><b>Housing growth</b> Cross party consensus on need to increase house building and supporting people to buy their own homes</p>	<p>Financing housing growth Different approaches to financing the housing growth agenda, from private sector finance underwriting to Government direct investment in social housing</p>	<p>Plan for housing growth Private sector landlord licensing Decent and safe homes service Strong partnership working with Together Housing and other key registered social landlords</p>
<p>3. Improving health and well-being</p>	<p><b>Health infrastructure</b> No plans from any party to dismantle current health infrastructure, i.e. health &amp; well-being boards; health watch; public health in local government; Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).  Cross party commitment for single pooled budget for health and social care</p>	<p><b>Health infrastructure/integration</b> Potential for major changes to the current health reforms  Possibility that the role of CCGs will be changed to focus on designing rather than commissioning services; with CCG budgets being handed over to local authorities and therefore expanded commissioning role for the Health and Well-being Boards  On-going debate regarding the scope of the Care Quality Commission in relation to health and social care services.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Health and Well-being Strategy  Continued development of integrated commissioning and service delivery arrangements with the Clinical Commissioning Group  Launch of Well-being Service for the borough  Completion of the new Blackburn leisure centre</p>
Corporate priority	National policy priorities that are	National policy priorities where there is on-	Local policy responses

64

<p>4. Improving outcomes for our <b>young people</b></p>	<p><b>unlikely to change</b></p> <p><b>Raising achievement</b> No indication that existing policies will be changed—strong commitment to raising the achievement of disadvantaged children and improving provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p>	<p><b>going political debate</b></p> <p><b>Schools and education</b> Likely debate around continued introduction of free schools. Potential debates on national curriculum framework Possibility of reopened debate on tuition fees</p> <p><b>Childcare</b> Potential extension to increase the hours of free nursery provision Potential debate on wrap around care in primary schools, e.g. breakfast clubs and after school clubs, to support working parents</p> <p><b>Youth employment</b> Potential for changes in approach to tackling youth unemployment, debates range from Compulsory Jobs Guarantee to removing benefits for under 25's not engaging in education; employment or training</p> <p><b>Democracy / voting rights</b> Potential for voting right to be extended to 16 /17 year olds</p>	<p>Continued development of traded services to increase take up among independent and free schools</p> <p>Implementation of local strategy for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p> <p>Implementation of local strategy for children and young people with complex needs aged 0-25</p>
<p><b>Corporate priority</b></p>	<p><b>National policy priorities that are</b></p>	<p><b>National policy priorities where there is on-</b></p>	<p><b>Local policy responses</b></p>

05

<p>5. Safeguarding the most vulnerable people</p>	<p><b>unlikely to change</b>  <b>Health and social care integration/Single pooled budget</b>          Cross party support for the approach to integration and a single pooled budget; joint management structures and single named contacts for coordination of all care          Continued challenges posed by the new Ofsted framework for Children's Services</p>	<p><b>going political debate</b>          On-going debate regarding scope of Care Quality Commission in relation to health and social care services.          Debate regarding balance of roles between National and Local Government in relation to safeguarding in light of Birmingham situation and other national failures.</p>	<p>Taking forward integrated, local area teams for health and social care          Implementation of the Early Help strategy and approach within local areas          Reviewing our approach to area based service delivery with Lancashire Constabulary          Implementation of local strategy for children and young people with complex needs aged 0-25          Scoping and agreeing a wider approach to the integration of services between health; social care and other partners where possible</p>
<p>Corporate priority</p>	<p>National policy priorities that are</p>	<p>National policy priorities where there is on-</p>	<p>Local policy responses</p>

56

<p><b>6. Making your money go further</b></p>	<p><b>unlikely to change</b></p> <p><b>Local Government finance</b></p> <p>Cross part endorsement of the parameters of Government borrowing and spending for 2015-16 as outlined in the latest budget</p> <p>Pension reforms and resource implications supported</p>	<p><b>going political debate</b></p> <p><b>Local Government finance</b></p> <p>Debate on pace of deficit reduction, with potential for further freeze on public spending up to 2020</p> <p>Potential for real term cuts for local government in light of rising demand, CSR 2015 and likely mid-term spending review in 2017.</p> <p>Likely pressure for continued pay restraint for local government</p>	<p>Continued growth of Your Call and new relationships with residents</p> <p>Bring forward options appraisal regarding the strategic partnership review (2015/16)</p> <p>Medium-term approach to resource reductions to aid planning, and increase likelihood of reduced requirement for compulsory redundancies</p> <p>Review current arrangements, including agreement to 4 days leave without pay and on-going proactive engagement with trades unions to harness staff innovation to ensure we tackle these issues together</p>
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