

Public Document Pack

Council Forum

Thursday, 19th July, 2018

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall

AGENDA

1. **Chief Executive to read the notice convening the meeting**
2. **Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain**
3. **Apologies for absence**
4. **Minutes**
MINUTES Annual Council 17th May 2018 **3 - 16**

To receive and confirm the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2018.
5. **Civic Service Award**

The Mayor will present Civic Service Awards to former Councillors David and Karimeh Foster, Eileen Entwistle MBE and Tony Humphrys.
6. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **17**

Form attached.
7. **Mayoral Communications**
8. **Council Forum**

To consider questions from members of the public received under Procedure Rule 10.
9. **To consider motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**
Fire and Rescue Authority **18**
10. **Update from Overview and Scrutiny Committees**
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES **19**
11. **Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios**
11.1 LEADER **20 - 22**
11.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PREVENTION SERVICES **23 - 24**

11.3 RESOURCES	25 - 26
11.4 HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE	27 - 29
11.5 REGENERATION	30 - 31
11.6 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION	32 - 34
11.7 ENVIRONMENT	35 - 37
11.8 LEISURE AND CULTURE	38 - 40

**12. To consider any questions received from Members
under Procedure Rule 11**

PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

There are no items to be considered under Part 2.

Date Published: Wednesday, 11 July 2018
Harry Catherall, Chief Executive

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING Thursday 17th May 2018

PRESENT – *The Mayor Councillor McFall, (in the Chair), Councillors; Afzal; Akhtar H; Akhtar P; Batan; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey; Connor; Davies; Fazal; Floyd; Gee; Groves; Gunn; Hardman; Harling; Hussain F; Hussain I; Hussain M; Hussain S; Jan-Virmani; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Liddle; Mahmood Q; Marrow; McGurk; Oates; Patel; Pearson; Richards; Rigby C; Rigby J; Riley; Salton; Shorrocks; Sidat; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Slater N; Smith D; Smith J; Surve; Talbot; and Taylor.*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Julie Daley and Ron Whittle.

3 Election of the Mayor for 2018/2019

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Council year. Councillor Pat McFall was nominated for Office and declared elected as the Mayor of the Borough for the 2018/2019 Municipal Year.

The newly elected Mayor then assumed the robe and Chain of Office, made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

4 Election of the Deputy Mayor for 2018/2019

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2018/2019 Council year. Councillor Jim Shorrocks was nominated for Office and the Mayor declared him elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2018/2019 Municipal Year.

The newly elected Deputy Mayor then received the Chain of Office and made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5 Tribute to the Newly Elected Mayor

Councillors Mohammed Khan and Andy Kay paid tribute to the newly elected Mayor. The Mayor responded and returned thanks for her election.

6 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress

Councillors Mohammed Khan and Derek Hardman paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and the Mayoress, for the dedicated work they had undertaken during their term of Office, making reference to the engagements they had attended and activities undertaken in support of the Mayor's chosen charity for the year.

The Mayor, Councillor Pat McFall, presented badges to Councillors Colin Rigby and Jean Rigby. Councillor Colin Rigby responded to the tributes received and reflected on the many key events of the Mayoral year and thanked all those people who had supported him during 2017/18.

At this point there was a short recess to allow the Mayor and guests to leave the meeting.

(The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jim Shorrocks, in the Chair.)

7 Minutes of the last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Forum meeting on 22nd March 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

8 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

9 Constitution Update

A report was submitted which advised the Council that the Constitution had been updated to reflect the new Council following the 'all out' elections on 3rd May 2018 which followed the Boundary review Commission report and the establishment of a 17 ward, 51 Councillor Council from May 2018.

The Constitution updates reflected the recommendations made by the Council at its meetings post the Boundary Commission report in 2017/18.

The Constitution had also been updated generally by the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer (as appropriate) under their delegated responsibilities to ensure continued compliance with legislation and to also where appropriate improve clarity.

RESOLVED – That the revised Council Constitution May 2018 be approved.

10 **Election Results – May 2018**

Members received a report detailing the local election results from the Local Government Elections on 3rd May 2018.

The Leaders of both Political Groups passed thanks to Officers for their excellent work in ensuring the elections ran smoothly, particularly in view of the all-out elections and the new wards.

RESOLVED – That the results of the elections be noted and thanks passed to all staff involved in the successful delivery of the local elections.

11 **The Election of the Leader**

In accordance with the Council Constitution and Strong Leader Model arrangements adopted, Councillor Phil Riley, seconded by Councillor Andy Kay, nominated Councillor Mohammed Khan as Leader of the Council for the four year period May 2018 to May 2022.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mohammed Khan be elected as Leader of the Council for the period May 2018 to May 2022.

12 **Council Appointments for 2018/19**

The Chief Executive referred to his report on the allocation of seats and appointments to Council positions for 2018/19.

The first draft of the Council Appointments list for 2018/19 was circulated, some minor amendments were identified and it was requested that the revised list be circulated after the meeting.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That Council notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members;
- 2) That Council noted the Shadow Portfolio Members;

- 3) That appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3 of the report; and
- 4) That Council note the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3 of the report.

13 Report of the Independent Remuneration Committee

A report was submitted on the review of the current Members Allowance Scheme in the light of changes made to the Constitution reflecting the new Council Ward Structure post the Boundary Review and election of 51 Councillors to the revised Council from May 2018.

The Annual Council was asked to consider this report and the Proposed Members Allowances Scheme 2018/19 (set out in Appendix A) and agree its introduction from May 2018 on the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Committee.

At Council Forum in October 2017 Members resolved that the Chief Executive advertise to refresh the Independent Remuneration Panel in readiness for the new Council Constitution in May 2018 and that the Panel once appointed provide the Council with a report outlining their recommendations for the 2018/19 Scheme at the Annual Council, i.e. the first meeting of the new Council.

Following the resolution of the Council an advert was placed to refresh the Panel. The new Panel was subsequently appointed and met twice in April 2018 to consider a revised Scheme reflecting the changes to the Council due in May 2018 and the impact this would have on the roles and responsibility of Councillors elected to the new Wards.

The Panel found that the current Scheme should be amended in the light of the changes to the Council and the Structure of Allowances should also be modernised and simplified. The report detailed changes to Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowance and Travel and Subsistence Allowances.

Following debate, there was a request for a recorded vote, which Members voted as follows;

For

Councillors; Afzal; Akhtar H; Akhtar P; Batan; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey; Fazal; Floyd; Groves; Gunn; Harling; Hussain F; Hussain I; Hussain M; Hussain S; Jan-Virmani; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Liddle; Mahmood; McGurk; Oates; Patel; Richards; Riley; Shorrocks; Sidat; Smith D; Smith J; Surve; Talbot; and Taylor.

Against

Councillors; Connor; Davies; Gee; Hardman; Marrow; Pearson; Salton; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; and Slater N;

Abstain

Councillors; Rigby C; and Rigby J

RESOLVED – That the recommendations be approved and the Members Allowances Scheme 2018/19 be introduced.

14 The Mayoralty

A request was submitted which asked Members to consider arrangements for the nominations to office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor following the Elections in May 2018.

Annual Council formally appointed Members of the Council to the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal year. The Member appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor was normally appointed to the office of Mayor in the following year.

At previous meetings of the Council Forum it had been agreed that the rotation of the nomination to the office of Mayor between the political groups be based on proportionality of the Council, and an agreed rotation would be set for the next five years.

The existing rotation agreement ended in 2018/19 and the Council Forum at their meeting December 2017 agreed that current Deputy Mayor become Mayor (subject to her re-election) in 2018/19 and requested the Annual Council in May 2018 to determine the rotation arrangements for 2019/20 onwards.

Based on the proportionality of the Council following the recent election in was suggested that the rotation for the next five years be determined as follows:

2018/19	Labour
2019/20	Labour
2020/21	Labour
2021/22	Conservative
2022/23	Labour

It was suggested that the Leader present a report on the appointment of the Mayor as in previous years to the Annual Council, and in the event that the proportionality of the Council changes going forward in a way that would affect the nomination of Mayor for a particular year, a report on this matter would be submitted for Council's consideration.

RESOLVED – That the revised rotation arrangements for the nomination of future Mayors and Deputy Mayors as set out in the report be approved.

15 Appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and Panels 2018/19

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the appointment to various Bodies, Groups and Panels for 2018/19.

Due to the need to make early appointments to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel, the Leader moved that the status quo continue in terms of membership of those bodies, this proposal was seconded by Councillor Phil Riley.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That in the first instance, (as is usual practice) each of the organisation listed on the outside bodies, and partnership bodies list is contacted to establish;
- 2) That their Terms of Reference / Articles of Association have not changed and still require Council Representation in the same capacity, for the same tenure, and what added value will be mutually brought by such engagement. Subject to which;
- 3) That following the process outlined in Section 3 of the report, nominations will be confirmed as the Council's representatives to serve until the end of the current Municipal Year; or if a longer period of office is shown, until that date; unless during the Municipal Year the Leader amends the appointments to take account of changed requirements;
- 4) That fifteen Members be appointed to serve on the panel of Members to deal with appeals;
- 5) As is usual practice, the decisions on representation be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments and review the existing Outside Bodies list; and
- 6) That the existing Members for the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and Lancashire Police and Crime Panel be reappointed for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

16 Revised Year Planner 2018-2019

A revised Year Planner for 2018-2019 was submitted for information, and the Leader of the Council advised that further changes may be advised of in due course.

RESOLVED – That the revised Year Planner for 2018-2019 be noted.

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

MAYOR

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2018/2019

This is the pro-forma for appointments in 2018/2019

The Executive Members and Assistant Executive Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD		
Leader of the Council and Chair of Executive Board	Mohammed Khan	
The following appointments have been made by the Leader of the Council:		
Deputy Leaders of the Council	Phil Riley (senior) Andy Kay	
Vice Chair of Executive Board	Phil Riley	
PORTFOLIOS	Executive Member	Assistant Executive Member
Health & Adult Social Care	Brian Taylor	Yusuf Jan-Virmani Faryad Hussain Jackie Floyd
Children, Young People & Education	Maureen Bateson	Julie Gunn Abdul Patel Tasleem Fazal
Neighbourhood & Prevention Services	Shaukat Hussain	Parwaiz Akhtar
Leisure & Culture	Damian Talbot	Jane Oates Zamir Khan

Regeneration	Phil Riley	Jamie Groves Quesir Mahmood
Resources	Andy Kay	Salim Sidat Vicky McGurk
Environment	Jim Smith	Jim Casey Suleman Khonat
The remainder of appointments are for completion by the Group Leaders.		
Opposition Member on Executive Board		
John Slater		

4. Appoint Members of Committees

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Policy & Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Membership 11 Chair Dave Harling Vice-Chair	Dave Harling Ron Whittle Sylvia Liddle Jackie Floyd Jamie Groves Mahfooz Hussain Jim Shorrock Quesir Mahmood	Colin Rigby Neil Slater Kevin Connor	
Place - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership 11 Chair Naushad Surve	Naushad Surve Stephanie Brookfield Suleman Khonat Zamir Khan Jane Oates Maryam Batan Jim Casey Vicky McGurk	Paul Marrow Derek Hardman Lilian Salton	

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Vice-Chair Stephanie Brookfield	Julie Gunn		
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership 11 Chair Sylvia Liddle Vice-Chair Ron Whittle	Sylvia Liddle Ron Whittle Parwaiz Akhtar Jane Oates Kieran Richards Salim Sidat Dave Smith Saima Afzal	Jackie Slater Julie Daley Denise Gee	
Call In Committee Membership 9 Chair Kevin Connor		(Committee convened under proportionality rules as and when comprised of non-Executive Members).	
Planning & Highways Committee Membership 13 Chair Dave Smith Vice-Chair Hussain Akhtar	Dave Smith Hussain Akhtar Yusuf Jan-Virmani Jane Oates Suleman Khonat Zamir Khan Jim Casey Kieran Richards Phil Riley	Derek Hardman Jackie Slater Julie Daley	Roy Davies
Licensing Committee Membership 11 Chair Iftakhar Hussain Vice-Chair Kieran Richards	Iftakhar Hussain Kieran Richards Faryad Hussain Maryam Batan Jane Oates Jim Casey Jamie Groves Jim Shorrocks	Denise Gee John Pearson Lilian Salton	

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Audit and Governance Committee Membership 6 Chair Salim Sidat Vice-Chair Vicky McGurk	Vicky McGurk Salim Sidat Jim Casey Ron Whittle	Colin Rigby Kevin Connor	
Standards Committee Membership 9 Chair Saima Afzal Vice-Chair Neil Slater	Saima Afzal Vicky McGurk Tasleem Fazal Julie Gunn Naushad Surve Sylvia Liddle Jamie Groves	Julie Slater Neil Slater	
Health & Wellbeing Board Membership 4 Chair Mohammed Khan	Mohammed Khan Maureen Bateson Brian Taylor	John Slater	

APPOINTMENT TO GROUPS AND PANELS

Committee	Labour	Opposition
Appeals Panel Membership 15		John Slater
Chief Executive's Employment Committee Membership 4	Mohammed Khan Phil Riley Andy Kay	John Slater
Chief Officer's Employment Committee Membership 4	Mohammed Khan Phil Riley Andy Kay	John Slater

The Membership of the Chief Executive and Chief Officer Employment Committees is the Leader of the Council, the two Deputy Leaders and the Leader of the Opposition.

The appointments within Political Groups

LABOUR GROUP	Councillors
Leader	Mohammed Khan
Deputy Leaders	Phil Riley (Senior), Andy Kay
CONSERVATIVE GROUP	Councillors
Leader	John Slater
Deputy Leaders	Denise Gee (Senior), Derek Hardman

Shadow Cabinet	Shadow Executive Member	Shadow Assistant Executive Member
Health & Adult Social Care	Jackie Slater	John Slater
Children Young People & Education	Julie Daley	Denise Gee
Neighbourhood & Prevention Services	Julie Slater	Neil Slater
Leisure & Culture	Jean Rigby	Lilian Salton
Regeneration	Derek Hardman	John Pearson
Environment	Paul Marrow	Derek Hardman
Resources	Colin Rigby	Kevin Connor
Opposition Committee Spokespersons		
Planning & Highways	Derek Hardman	
Licensing	Denise Gee	

Appendix 3

Note: As a matter of record the following Members have undertaken training in these disciplines and are therefore able to sit or substitute on Planning and Highways or Licensing Committee during the next Municipal Year 2018/19:

The following Members are eligible to attend meetings of the Planning and Highways Committee:

Planning and Highways

Councillors; Akhtar; Afzal; Brookfield; Casey; Connor; Daley; Davies; Gee; Groves; Hardman; Hussain I; Hussain M; Hussain S; Jan-Virmani; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Liddle; Marrow; Mahmood; Oates; Patel; Pearson; Richards; Rigby C; Riley; Salton; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Slater N; Smith D.

The following Members are eligible to attend meetings of the Licensing Committee:

Licensing Training:

Councillors; Akhtar H; Akhtar P; Afzal; Batan; Casey; Gee; Hussain I; Hussain S; Khonat; Liddle; Oates; Patel; Pearson; Richards; Salton; Shorrocks; Slater Ju; Whittle.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

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

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

MEETING: **COUNCIL FORUM**

DATE: **19th July 2018**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

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

Agenda Item 9

Lancashire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority remains committed to delivering the best possible service to Lancashire's communities, with the resources it has available. This Council notes that the Fire and Rescue Authority continues to work productively and effectively with a range of stakeholders and that the Fire and Rescue Authority also acknowledges the new statutory duty to collaborate with other emergency services, while recognising many initiatives were already in place or in development irrespective of this mandate.

The Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council remains confident that current governance arrangements present the best way to deliver a fire and rescue service for Lancashire's communities, and notes that the Fire and Rescue Authority will provide the information required for the work proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, which it believes will evidence that collaborative opportunities are already being effectively progressed within existing structures.

Consequently, this Council is opposed to any proposals that transfer any current responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Authority in Lancashire to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Secretary explaining this view, sending copies to Members of Parliament.

Moved by Phil Riley

Seconded by Cllr John Slater

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES.

Councillors Dave Harling

PORTFOLIO COORDINATING

Sylvia Liddle

DIRECTOR: Denise Park

Naushad Surve

First Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the Municipal Year..

All three of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees have held their first meetings of the new municipal year. The Committees have all followed similar formats for these first meetings with the members being briefed on-

- The corporate priorities and the risks in delivering these.
- The role of scrutiny as defined in the updated constitution
- The forward plan and corporate plan.
- The Executive Members' key priorities and issues in delivery of these.

The Committees considered the information and agreed how they would formulate their work programmes for the year. The Committees will be completing their work in a number of ways during the year including: visits and reports back, task groups, presentations and through discussions at the main Committee meetings. The members of the Committees are keen to look at new methods of working and positive outcomes that scrutiny could achieve.

The detailed work programmes are being worked up at the moment and the next round of Committees will commence in depth scrutiny of key issues that will add value and make a difference to the delivery of services across the Council.

Dave Harling, Chair, Policy and Corporate Resources OSC.

Sylvia Liddle, Chair, People OSC.

Naushad Surve, Chair, Place OSC.

July 2018

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

Date: 19th July 2018

Local Authority of the year update

I am delighted to share that the Council won the Local Authority of the Year category in The Municipal Journal (MJ) Local Government Achievement Awards on Wednesday 27th June.

The panel of independent judges said that the breadth of Blackburn with Darwen's achievements for its communities is outstanding regardless of the economic and financial challenges. They described the Council as an 'outstanding example of modern local government' which is 'underpinned by strong, consistent and humble leadership and an unwavering mission to put the customer first'.

It was also noted that the Council has taken a brave and positive approach to children's services and that achievements in public health and adult social care were impressive.

This is a great honour, we have a Council to be proud of and it has given everybody a boost after some very difficult times. The only way we can deliver excellent services is with the community and many partner organisations. We share this success with everybody. It is also recognition of the great partnerships we have formed. We could not improve Blackburn with Darwen alone.

The award is testament to the hard work and dedication of staff who work tirelessly to make this borough a better place. Every elected member and council staff at whatever level, whether they are the Chief Executive, a Customer Services Adviser or Refuse Collector, contributed to winning this accolade.

I also want to mention our Your Call volunteers. I think many of the challenges we face as a borough can be solved by the community with support from the Council and its partners. I truly believe Blackburn with Darwen is on the up and residents who actively work with us play a vital part in that.

We have been through tough times but I think the future is bright. Of course, the Council and the borough will continue to face difficult challenges. But together the Council, its partners and the community can overcome the challenges and continue to make Blackburn with Darwen a great place to live, visit and work.

20 year celebration event

As you know twenty years ago the Council became a Unitary Authority. To celebrate this special anniversary all staff were invited to attend one of two informal events on Wednesday 11th July. There was also an additional event for partners and elected members to attend. It was great to meet and see existing staff, partners and elected members as well as catch-up with staff, partners and elected members who have left or retired, who've played a significant role over the past two decades.

We are promoting the role of the Council and celebrating achievements throughout the anniversary year, this will include speaking at events and a special edition of The Shuttle newspaper.

National Festival of Making

The second National Festival of Making took place in Blackburn town centre on 12th and 13th May. It was an even greater success compared to 2017 with early estimates outlining a much greater increase on the 30,000 figure of last year. There were more than 160 attractions, demonstrations, activities and performances this year for people of all ages to enjoy.

The festival which was backed by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Superslow Way, Blackburn with Darwen Council, private and commercial sponsors and manufactures across Lancashire.

To support effective delivery and visitor experience nearly 200 volunteers helped ensure the festival ran smoothly by acting as visitor guides and welcoming people to the town. As recognition of their hard work, over 80 people of all ages and from all backgrounds, who signed up to help throughout the weekend attended a special reception in the Council Chamber at Blackburn Town Hall on Wednesday 27th, June. The volunteers did a fantastic job and were rightly recognised for their contribution to what was a wonderful weekend. The Festival of Making brought people together from all walks of life and was a great example of what we can achieve when we all work together.

We are working on finalising next year's date to ensure that this now becomes an annual event in Blackburn to ensure we receive the positive local, regional and national media coverage.

LSP Annual summit

We have achieved a lot as a council over the last 20 years and a lot of this has been done in partnership. On Monday 8th October the Council will be hosting the first Local Strategic partnership Annual Summit. This new Local Strategic Partnership Annual Summit is replacing the historic LSP Board meetings and the partnership agreed unanimously that an annual summit which provides the opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements, whilst agreeing on the priorities for the year ahead is the way forward for the boroughs overarching partnership.

Local Government Association (LGA) – Corporate Peer Challenge

Arrangements have been made for the LGA to conduct a Corporate Peer Challenge of the Council in December 2018. The Peer Challenge team will include a small group of politicians and senior officers from across local government.

The Challenge includes a core component covering five key themes – understanding of place and priority setting; leadership of place; financial planning and viability; organisations leadership and governance; capacity to deliver. The Peer team have also been asked to challenge two additional areas for the Council – community engagement and digital transformation. A further update will be provided at next Council Forum outlining preparations for the Challenge.

Corporate plan review

In 2015 Policy Council adopted the current Corporate Plan which sets out the council's aims and ambitions up to 2019. In 2016 Policy Council agreed the continuation of the six corporate priorities to 2020 which are:

1. Creating more jobs and supporting business growth;
2. Improving housing quality and building more houses;
3. Improving health and well-being;
4. Improving outcomes for our young people;

5. Safeguarding the most vulnerable people;
6. Making your money go further.

Given the structural and governance changes to the council following the ward boundary changes and a number of national policy drivers emerging it feels timely to review the Corporate Plan within this Municipal Year to ensure it is fit for purpose, reflects the current 'state of the Borough', local priorities and national policy context.

In order to ensure that the Corporate Plan is based on robust and independent evidence, we are commissioning external research to undertake an analysis of our current position which will provide a narrative to inform and shape the Plan.

In addition, the Council will also be undertaking a residents' survey to reflect residents' opinion of the Council over recent years and views on Council priorities going forward. The survey will be a mixed postal and online survey using questionnaires posted out to randomly selected addresses. The results of the survey will be used to inform the refreshed Corporate Plan.

The research commission and residents survey will be undertaken over the late summer/early autumn and an update will be reported to next Council Forum. An outline framework for the refreshed Corporate Plan and draft priorities will be discussed at December's Policy Council. Partners and stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute to the refreshed Corporate Plan throughout the process.

Social integration

Since April's Council Forum, I would like to update you with events which have brought people together to celebrate the community. They include The Fusion Awards on 7th July 2018, where volunteers, professionals, charity workers and entrepreneurs were recognised and awarded for their fantastic work at the annual community recognition awards ceremony. I was delighted to present the Community Cohesion Award to the Wirral Dean Centre of Merseyside.

The council also supported our BwD Community CVS on Monday 11th June through an event saying a "Big Thank You" to local people who give their own time as volunteers and make such a difference to people's lives in this community. This event was planned as a collaborative borough-wide venture to mark National Volunteers Week and I was honoured to present the Volunteer of the year award.

Shadow Local Integrated Care Partnership

As part of delivering the Pennine Plan, we have been developing an all age Integrated Neighbourhood offer. The next stage is the development of a Shadow Integrated Care Partnership. The purpose of this partnership is to enable each organisation to continue to work together more efficiently to achieve better health, wellbeing and quality of life outcomes for our residents.

On the 28th June we enjoyed a successful launch event where all the key partners came together to start the process of creating a shadow Local Integrated Care Partnership. These developments will support the work already taking place to bring our Adult Social Care and Neighbourhood teams closer to colleagues across Health Services and the Voluntary Sector. Our Integrated Neighbourhood Teams will continue to develop alongside the emerging governance arrangements of the Shadow Integrated Care Partnership.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS & PREVENTION
COUNCILLOR SHAUKAT HUSSAIN**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN
DATE: 19th July 2018**

VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2018 - 1st to 7th June

During Volunteers Week, Prevention, Neighbourhoods and Learning Services were busy promoting volunteering across the Borough. Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (our public service volunteer programme for the council) featured on BBC Radio Lancashire along with lots of activity on Social Media with the Twitter hashtag [#VolunteersWeek](#) and [#VolunteersWeek2018](#).

Case studies featured across the week include Mushtaq Ainarkar, a community support befriending volunteer with Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire Volunteer Partnership. As a community support befriending volunteer, Mushtaq is helping a wheelchair user to reduce his anxiety and regain his confidence of being in public places

A second case is the Keep Darwen Tidy volunteers who have been working since February to clean up the town. The group organises a regular Saturday morning litter pick which anyone is welcome to join. Keep Darwen Tidy posts regular updates on its Facebook page to show what volunteers have been doing, to uncover problem areas and to promote discussion.

The week rounded up with a Volunteer Awards Evening at King Georges Hall on 11th June, when over 10 Council volunteers were nominated, 5 shortlisted and 3 picked up individual awards on the night.

FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

As part of the Festival of Learning we are offering a wide range of Adult Learning provision for June and July at Blackburn Library, Audley Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Bank Top Neighbourhood Learning Centre and Darwen Town Hall. There is something for everyone. Festival of Learning is the biggest celebration of lifelong learning in England. The aim of the festival is to highlight the benefits of learning, celebrate achievements of adults who have used learning to transform their lives, and to encourage everyone to embrace lifelong learning.

Details of the offer can be found at : <https://view.publitas.com/p222-11429/bwd-festival-of-learning-2018/page/1>

BRIAN MERCER TRUST – YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR CALL

In addition to a small grant given from the Education and Skills Funding agency, the council has secured an annual £40k from the Brian Mercer Trust until 2020, to be distributed as grants of up to £1000 to local community organisations. In 2017-18 a total of 59 grants were awarded to the value of £46,044.07. Small groups across the borough have benefited from the scheme and the next round of applications will be advertised in July with an August deadline.

EXTREMISM SUMMIT

The Prevent team hosted an Extremism Summit on 18th June which received positive coverage in the [Lancashire Telegraph](#) and [The Shuttle](#) . The event focussed on far-right extremism and speakers included Holocaust survivor, Iby Knill, Professor Matthew Feldman and Leicester Prevent Coordinator Sean Arbuthnot. Colleagues from a host of statutory and voluntary organisations offered positive feedback to the event and expressed an interest in attending future sessions.

It was extremely powerful to hear from the speakers who are working to transform lives and ultimately protect communities. We all have a role to play in making sure that we share and learn from past experiences. We need to do what we can to prevent people, from any section of the community, from being drawn into extremism and radicalisation.

HOUSING NEEDS

The council has seen a significant rise in the number of single people presenting as homeless. Under the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 we have a duty to support any single person irrespective of local connection for up to 56 days minimum.

The overall housing situation in the borough is made more difficult with higher numbers of evictions arising from rent arrears, universal credit and a lack of social housing supply. Given that we have a number of houses in multiple occupation, we are seeing a trend suggesting higher numbers of non-borough people presenting.

We are due to undertake a 6 month review of progress under the new legislation and will report back on findings.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES – 19th July 2018

COUNCILLOR ANDY KAY

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

Audit & Assurance

The Annual Internal Audit Opinion, Risk Management and Counter Fraud Reports will be presented to the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 24 July. The detail within these reports helps to inform the draft 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement, which the Committee will receive for consideration, to enable it to be satisfied that the Statement properly reflects the governance and control arrangements in place within the Council during 2017/18; it will then be presented to the Leader and the Chief Executive for signature.

Financial Services

The accounts for 2017/18 financial year have now been closed and the draft Statement of Accounts has been prepared. Financial Services are now working closely with External Auditors, Grant Thornton, in order to facilitate the signing off of the final accounts.

Benefits

The roll out of Universal Credit is continuing in the borough with a steady increase in the number of claimants and recipients. The Council's approach of co-locating two members of staff and a resource from Shelter in the DWP office is working extremely well and provides an invaluable access point for customers to Council services.

All customers who claimed Universal Credit prior to 14th February will be asked to reclaim under the new 'full service' system. The DWP will engage with all of these claimants over a 3 month period; unfortunately if a customer fails to reclaim Universal Credit within 14 days of receiving the letter their entitlement will cease. The Benefits Team will monitor the impact of this on customers.

The increasing number of Universal Credit claims is also having an adverse impact on the administration of Council Tax accounts. As the DWP now directly advises us of every 'Change in Circumstance' for every Universal Credit claimant, we now have to recalculate and issue new Council Tax bills each time as a consequence; this is generating additional workload within the team which will continue to increase as more claimants migrate to the Universal Credit system.

At present however, performance in assessing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support claims has continued to improve with the average assessment time for both during 2017/18 being 14.9 days. This figure is the best ever achieved by the Council and also marks the Council as one of the best in the country.

Revenues

We are continuing to promote the online forms and account where possible with customers. There has been a steady increase in the take up with over 6,500 council tax payers now accessing their bill on line.

In respect of performance, the Council Tax and Business Rates collection rates have improved during 2017/18 compared to the previous year.

Digital & Business Change

Papers were approved by the Executive Board to progress with two large scale technology programmes within the Council. User device refresh is an 18 month programme to replace Council computer devices for staff and the core infrastructure programme will enable the Council to replace key back-end technology to secure and future proof our systems.

The project to implement the new Council website has now started and we'll be engaging our users and stakeholders to help review content and co-design the new site over the coming weeks and months. We continue to implement new capability and digitisation throughout

Council services. Working closely with our NHS partners we are working to implement a region wide NHS and social care secure record sharing initiative. In the first instance the programme aims to improve quality and safety at the point of care.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018. Mandatory required items have now been made publically available by the Council and a large implementation programme now continues to support compliance.

Human Resources

HR continue to progress the apprentice intake for 2018/2019. This year we have seen an increase in applications, with 175 interested candidates. Recruitment to the apprentice roles commenced in June, with the expectation that this will be completed in July/August.

The Council has signed the Time to Change Employer Pledge and is delighted to see our current programmes on mindfulness fully booked. We are determined to help end the stigma around mental health. Detailed plans include increasing employee knowledge and awareness of mental health and wellbeing issues and behaviours, reducing stigma around depression and anxiety in the workplace and facilitating employees' active participation in a range of initiatives that support mental health and wellbeing.

A new Salary Sacrifice Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (AVC Wise) has been introduced. The scheme provides staff who are Local Government Pension Scheme members the opportunity to pay additional voluntary contributions into the Local Government AVC Scheme in a cost-effective way. The scheme will be implemented from July 2018.

Governance & Democracy

The implementation of the new Modern.Gov software system continues, with content being updated on a weekly basis. The Members library is being populated and older data such as previous agendas and minutes will be populated on the site in the coming weeks. The Modern.Gov app has also been installed on Members Devices.

Legal Services

Between 26.02.18 and 29.05.18 Legal Services sent 517 litter cases to court under the Single Justice Procedure. The vast majority of these cases resulted in a conviction.

Legal Services also recently responded to the government consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments. The consultation closed on 15th June 2018 and asked a series of questions relating to powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments.

In summary we emphasised that:

- we need clearer police powers as there is currently a degree of discretion in moving on encampments.
- local authorities do not have the training to deal with enforcement when travellers are not behaving appropriately - again the police need stronger powers
- local authorities would benefit from a reasonably quick power of seizure in appropriate circumstances [e.g. if a quad bike was causing damage being ridden on a grass park area] and
- the court process for possession is too slow.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR BRIAN TAYLOR

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTORS:
DOMINIC HARRISON (HEALTH)
SAYYED OSMAN (ADULT SOCIAL CARE)
DATE: 19th July 2018

HEALTH

ACTION ON AIR QUALITY

Public Health England (PHE) estimates that around 4% of all deaths across Lancashire and Cumbria are attributable to poor air quality, from conditions such as heart and chest disease, stroke and cancer. Air pollution disproportionately impacts those who live in less affluent areas, affecting the young, older people and those with underlying heart and chest conditions, leading to increased health inequalities.

The Lancashire and South Cumbria Directors of Public Health have identified action on air quality as a sub-regional priority and hosted an Air Quality Summit on 28 February 2018 to improve our understanding of air pollution and the associated health risks, share good practice, build awareness and identify opportunities for further action. The event was attended by over 60 people including Elected Members, Local Government Public Health, Planning and Transport and Environmental Health, Public Health England, special interest groups, citizen representatives and academics. Blackburn with Darwen was well represented, with the event opened by the Executive Member for Health and Adults and chaired by the Director of Public Health.

Following the Summit a report was launched on 21st June 2018, to coincide with national Clean Air Day, setting out some of the key proposals from the event. Details of the report can be found via the Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria website www.healthierlsc.co.uk. To join the Lancashire and South Cumbria conversation about improving air quality follow #AirQualityLandSC.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE IS CHANGING LIVES

We know that substance misuse wrecks too many lives in our local communities. But even for hardened drug misusers, there are always alternatives, which is a key reason why the Public Health team commissions a Drug and Alcohol Service which promotes 'recovery' as one of its touchstones. Since the commissioning of Change Grow Live (CGL) in 2015, the rate of successful drug treatment and effective recovery has been amongst the highest in the country. An outstanding example of this is the local resident who transformed her life since accessing support from CGL and recently won the One Voice 'Woman of the Year' award. She still works with CGL, as a peer mentor helping others to change their lives too and was featured in the Shuttle on 24th May 2018.

The local Youth Justice Board is also very receptive to the long term benefits of investing in prevention and the Youth Justice Service continues to work really well with a number of commissioned Public Health Services. They run joint health and wellbeing clinics with local substance misuse services, including the Go2 young person's team, to tackle the root causes of offending and risk taking behaviours. Both services have worked together more recently to encourage the development of a wider integrated offer which will be piloted from the Everybody Centre in Blackburn to include other services, including Brook, Lancashire Mind, Lancashire Care NHS Trust and the Engage Team.

The latest figures from Public Health England confirms the impact, showing a really positive position for Blackburn with Darwen having the second lowest rate of young people in the Youth Justice System in the North West (per 1,000 10-18 year olds), with a similarly low rate of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

THREE GOOD RATINGS RECEIVED FROM CARE QUALITY COMMISSION

Following recent inspections St Aidan's Short Term Breaks, Shared Lives and Reablement were rated 'good' in all areas. Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspectors assessed whether the services in these areas are safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led with all 3 services receiving a 'good' rating in all areas.

The inspectors praised each of the team's enthusiasm, care plans, robust recruitment and selection processes and the support given to help service users maximise choice and control over their lives.

St Aidan's Short Term Breaks provides respite care for adults with a learning disability with Shared Lives offering vulnerable adults the chance to receive the care and support they need in a different setting to the family home, or the supported accommodation, in which they usually live. The Reablement Service works with people in their own homes to help them to maximise their independence after a period of illness, disability or loss of confidence.

Home First Service also now registered with the CQC. The service aims to prevent people staying in hospital for longer than they need and supports them back into the community. The new team is delivering high quality care and positive outcomes for local people.

NEW BUNGALOWS MEET HOUSING NEEDS IN DARWEN

New bungalows in Shorey Bank, Darwen are helping to meet local housing needs. The 34 two-bedroom bungalows on Frederick Street built in partnership with Together Housing and regeneration Specialists ENGIE have been built for older people in the area who need single-level homes with wheelchair accessibility. The wider doorways, easy access wet rooms and manageable gardens make the bungalows ideal for people with mobility problems.

The 34 bungalows, along with the neighbouring Riverside Heights housing with care scheme which is due to open in summer, have been purpose-built to provide high quality housing for older people. The development features fantastic facilities and provides older people with a wider range of housing options for the future.

Riverside Heights, has 85 stylish self-contained apartments available for rent. It includes a residents' lounge, restaurant and hair and beauty salon. Residents of the bungalows will be able to use the facilities of Riverside Heights, as will the local community.

Work has now started on a new Extra Care Housing project on Albion Street Blackburn. The scheme is due to be completed by the end of 2019 and will have 50 apartments for extra care and 24 Specialist Housing apartments. There will also be 35 units for Intermediate care, to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and support discharges which are being procured jointly with Health partners.

MEN'S HEALTH GROUP AT STANSFELD CENTRE

A men's health group for adults with a learning disability is being held at the Stansfeld Day Centre. The sessions are the result of collaborative working between health and social care agencies, and are supported by staff at the centre.

Six sessions have been held so far with the aim of the group being to share information and experiences about health matters. Subjects covered so far have included; smoking, diet, alcohol, physical activity, 5 ways to wellbeing and Screening.

The group is proving an effective way to help inform men with a learning disability about health issues in an easy to understand way.

Plans are now in place to set up a similar group for women with a learning disability.

TEACHING PARTNERSHIPS

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has been successful in securing Government funding to support the training and development of Social Workers.

A bid was submitted as part of the Greater Lancashire Partnership and secured just under a million pounds for Social Work development across the region. The Partnership includes three Local Authorities - Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council along with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) and Lancaster University.

Social Work Teaching Partnership are an accredited collaboration between Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) and employers which delivers high quality training for social work students and qualified practitioners and equips them to practice to specified standards in statutory settings.

The programme brings universities and local authorities together to deliver high quality development for social workers and to improve the recruitment and retention of Social Workers. It also provides an opportunity for organisations to encourage excellent practice and innovation and for social work students, newly qualified social workers and experienced social workers to gain relevant working knowledge skills, and practice.

Blackburn with Darwen are currently appointing Advanced Practitioners to work across the partnership and to deliver on the action plan to improve support for trainee Social Workers in Adults and Children's Services. This has already been a positive initiative and a good example of joint working /sharing learning opportunities with colleagues from across the North West.

COUNCILLOR PHIL RILEY

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

Ellison Fold Way

Works are progressing well on the Ellison Fold Way major transport project in Darwen. The new mini roundabout at Pole Lane / Priory Drive has been constructed and is now in operation. Priorities are changed on Pole Lane and sightlines have been improved through the removal of landscaping, with traffic slowed by carriageway markings and signage. Lining arrangements have also been updated at the Junctions of Bolton Road (A666) with Grimshaw Street and Watery Lane, to provide better sightlines, formalise right turning arrangements to improve road safety for all highways users.

Construction of a compact roundabout at the Sough Road / Grimshaw Street / Pole Lane junction has begun, and will address poor sightlines at the current priority give way junction, with dropped crossings and refuges to help pedestrians cross the road more safely.

The good weather has contributed to solid progress being made on the “Ellison Fold Way” Link Road, and the first phase of surfacing works at the southern end of the road are now complete. Grouting works to historical mine workings are ongoing, and are progressing in agreement with the Coal Authority.

Service diversion works are under way at Marsh House Lane / Priory Drive to enable the construction of a mini roundabout. The 30 mph single carriageway road includes separate footway and cycling facilities, and will include raised junction tables to keep speeds down. A landscaped area will be introduced on the western side of the new Link Road.

The project, funded by the Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership’s (LEP) Local Growth Deal is set to complete in early 2019.

Growth Programme Update – Housing

Good progress continues to be made on new housing sites in the borough with recent numbers being:

Brook View, Parsonage Rd: 59 completions, 19 reserved or exchanged. 7 plots remaining.

Kingswood Homes, Gib Lane Phase A: 16 completions with families moved in, and a further 12 plots reserved.

Wainhomes, Gib Lane Phase B: 44 completions, 13 exchanged. 22 remaining.

Story Homes, Gib Lane Phase C: 12 plots reserved out of the 15 released.

Red House Gardens (former Bear Hotel): 25 completions, 13 exchanged. None left.

Pole Lane: Kier Living expected to start on site soon.

Weavers Wheel

The new 16 mile Weavers Wheel cycling route which encircles Blackburn Town Centre has been officially launched by the Council. The Weavers Wheel features a series of ‘spokes’ into the town centre and ‘spurs’ to neighbouring towns and has been designed to allow flexibility, using all or part of the Wheel to access local employment, education, retail and leisure opportunities. The route also features artwork inspired by schools, community groups and organisations.

The launch culminated in the Weavers Wheel Cycle Fest which took place at Witton Park on Saturday 30th June where hundreds of visitors turned out to try a range of family-friendly activities, including free bike and helmet hire, led rides and bike doctor surgeries. Of those who completed a feedback survey on the day, 95% felt inspired to cycle more.

A Weavers Wheel booklet, detailing 18 different cycling routes for varying abilities, and a free 'Blackburn Cycling Routes' smartphone app are available to download from www.connectingeastlancashire.org.uk. All the rides feature step by step directions, maps, an overview of what you can look forward to seeing on your journey, as well as places to stop off for refreshments.

The Weavers Wheel has been funded through the LEP Local Growth Deal and forms a key part of the East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway which also incorporates the new Valley of Stone cycleway in Rossendale, National Cycle Route 6 and the Huncoat Greenway.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Thirteen electric vehicle charge points have been commissioned and will be installed in the coming weeks as follows:

Feilden St – 3 charge points

Brown St – 4

Weir St – 2

Varley St, Darwen – 2

Darwen Market rooftop – 2

Business Centres

Occupancy of the Business Centre units has improved, with the overall occupancy of the three centres at 97%.

Corporate Building Team

The team is currently fully resourced undertaking Corporate property repair, maintenance and refurbishment works & disabled facilities grant improvement work for Adults and Children's Services

Corporate Repairs & Statutory Compliance Team

The team has been promoting its property services functions to schools, which has seen the number of schools signing up to the service increasing from 10 to 18 schools.

Planning Update

Planning performance continues to be good, for the 2 year period up to March 2018 major applications determined within 13 weeks or within agreed extensions of time were at 98% (Government target 60%) and non-major applications determined within 8 weeks or within agreed extensions of time were at 97% (Government target 70% from 2018).

Update on Darwen Town Centre and Blackburn Bid

The renewal process for Blackburn Town Centre BID's next 5 year term is underway. Business consultations and a draft Business Plan are being shared with town centre businesses prior to a formal voting period in October. The success and achievements of the last 5 years are being promoted and feedback from businesses is encouraging. If the vote is successful a 5 year programme of investment totalling around £1.5 million will begin from January 2019.

Work will start on Darwen Market Square public realm improvements from July 16th through to the Christmas trading period. Eric Wright Civil Engineering have been appointed as contractors and they will base their welfare and management facilities inside the Market Annex. Information for businesses and the public will be available as promotional activity to support the market traders and town centre businesses throughout the period. We will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum for customers and traders.

A programme of summer activities for children during the Summer holidays is planned for both Blackburn and Darwen Markets to attract families into the Markets.

NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN CARE & CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION

Recent regional analysis and national publicity has pointed to increasing demand pressures on children's services. In particular, the North West region and the North generally has seen rising numbers of children in care over the past 12 months, with particular pressure around children and young people in older age groups with very complex social and behavioural issues. Over the past year, Blackburn with Darwen has moved towards the regional norm with a marked rise in the number of children in care placed in the most costly residential placements.

The number of Children in our Care is 346, a fall of 50 since the start of the new year, reflecting the impact of several recent initiatives, such as Family Group Conferencing and the Complex Case multi-agency Hub for high-risk domestic violence cases. The number of children subject to child protection plans remains high and steady at 263, and the total number of children and young people open to Children's Social Care remains high at 1,749. In addition, 591 children are being supported by Early Help services, 6 children have been adopted since April 2017 and 19 children are currently placed in adoptive placements.

FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT 2018, 14th-27th May

Foster Care Fortnight saw a really positive response on social media with 81 new followers and our posts viewed on nearly 25k screens. Over 4k people liked, commented and shared our posts spreading the fostering messaging further than ever before. We worked closely with local radio station 2BR over the fortnight and a number of our looked after children went to the station to be interviewed. The 2BR website was taken over and fully branded with LetsFoster.co.uk messages and adverts aired to spread the message.

The campaign closed by linking in with The Secret Santa charity which fundraises to provide presents for underprivileged children at Christmas, as well as making sure that older members of the community are not left alone. To raise money for the charity I, along with Youth MP, Elle Walsh, took part in a duct tape challenge raising £500.

ADOLESCENT REVIEW

To help shape the department's developing Adolescent Strategy, consultations have taken place with a cross section of young people, the children's workforce and partner agencies. A consultation with lead Members also took place on 5th July to explore the issues facing young people and how they can be supported. The borough-wide Adolescent Strategy has started to take shape to identify clear aims and priority areas and will look to address key challenges experienced by young people.

A key area of focus is to review the residential service and this area of business has been prioritised due to demand and pressure on the service. Work is underway to transform the offer which may involve consolidating the two Children's Homes to allow the service to extend the Adolescent Support Unit prevention offer.

NEW WEBSITE FOR YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES <http://bwd-yps.co.uk/>

The Blackburn with Darwen Youth Forum has launched a new Young Peoples Services (YPS) website. The site lists all current YPS provision as well as maps, photographs and contact information and gives advice, guidance and support on issues affecting young

people including mental health, bullying, substance misuse, sexuality, child sexual exploitation, bereavement, road safety, smoking cessation, online safety and contraception.

INCLUSION HOLIDAY CLUB FUN

Children and young people with moderate to complex needs enjoyed a packed programme of activities at the Inclusion Holiday Club programme over the Easter and May school holiday period. Activities included World Book Day celebrations and a Bear Grylls themed day with survival and camp craft activities, scavenger hunt and shelter building. The Blackburn Rovers Community Trust Inclusion Team delivered inclusive sports activities and the young people also enjoyed visits to Thornton Hall Country Park and swimming.

YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES EASTER PROGRAMME SUCCESS

The YPS Easter programme and family fun days were delivered across three centres in the borough. Children and young people enjoyed arts, crafts and sporting activities whilst learning new skills, developing friendships and keeping safe.

The MUGAS were delivered from 5 different locations with particularly good attendance at Olive Lane in Darwen and Greenfields. More young people joined in the fun this year compared with last, attracted by activities including Anderton Centre adventure days, barge residentials and Queens Park water fun.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE NETWORK SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The summer lunchbox campaign, in partnership with the Kingdom Outreach charity, is back for 2018 and whilst the offer will be universally available the Early Help and Support service will work with schools, children's social care, family support, and Troubled Families to promote to families most in need.

Children Centre volunteers will play a part again this year and specific recruitment through the boroughs portal for new volunteers is in place. The Early Help and Support service is also working with Food Power in Darwen, where some of their teenage 'experts by experience' of food poverty will be volunteering to support at Darwen and Higher Croft Children Centres.

The Centres will offer their usual summer activity programme wrapped around lunch time to provide an 'off for fun' programme and will feature family sessions on being active and creative. All the activities will have a focus on enabling children to be school ready and explore fine, gross motor, speech, language and social skills. "Toddler trails" which are short, story walks will be on offer to engage families.

INTEGRATION OF 0-19 HEALTHY CHILD PROGRAMME SERVICE

Front line Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) practitioners and administration teams are now based in the four 'hub' children's centres across the borough (Audley, Livesey; Darwen and Little Harwood). This co-location will support the move towards the integration of service delivery for children aged 0-19 and their families. We have already adopted an integrated service allocation process where the needs of children and their families are discussed and a joint decision made about the most appropriate support to be offered.

The plan for the coming year is to rebrand the integrated service, and consultation has been undertaken with children, young people, parents and staff. Marketing companies have been invited to develop a new name and brand, and the successful companies will be invited to pitch their ideas to a group of children and young people, Elected Members, partners and staff in July, after which a formal launch will be planned.

LONGSHAW NURSERY SCHOOL & CHILDCARE CENTRE - INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD

The local authority's application to the Secretary of State to remove the Governing Body at Longshaw Nursery School and Childcare Centre (LNSCC) was approved in March 2018. An Interim Executive Board (IEB) was established on 6th March 2018 to replace the Governing Body. The IEB has five members, each bringing a particular specialism covering school improvement, finance, HR, childcare and nursery provision. Initially, the IEB undertook various audits to establish an accurate picture of finance and staffing. Andrea Batley, head teacher at Longshaw Infants, has since undertaken a full analysis of all aspects of provision and will provide interim leadership until the end of this term. There will be a staffing restructure, revised safeguarding arrangements and building improvements. From September, the IEB will enter into a formal collaboration with Longshaw Infant School when Andrea Batley will take up post as Executive Head over both schools for 12 months.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

On 16th April, 2018 parents and carers of 2039 children applying for Blackburn with Darwen schools found out which primary school their child will be attending in September as reception pupils. Over 97% of children received an offer of a place at one of their three preferred schools with 88.14% being offered their first preference.

The Place Planning and Admissions Team continue to support the drive for online services with 90% of primary applications being made online. The greater use of online applications has led to savings this year. All parents who applied on-line this year were sent their child's offer letter via email, 1840 in total. Only 199 parents who applied by a paper application had their offer letters posted to them.

MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE

Pupils taking part in Wider Opportunities lessons were accompanied by the world famous Hallé Orchestra at a special concert at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall in June. The Wider Opportunities programme gives Key Stage 2 pupils the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in curriculum time. Other recent events have included the Mini Sing (Key Stage 1) performance at King Georges Hall with 520 pupils across 13 schools coming together to showcase their talents.

REVIEW OF HIGH NEEDS EDUCATION PROVISION IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to keep their provision for children and young people with SEND under review, and a funded independent review of Blackburn with Darwen arrangements has now concluded. Children and young people and their families and a range of professionals across education, health and care participated in the review and have attended feedback events where the findings, recommendations and initial action planning were discussed. The final report will be shared and published.

SEND REFORMS GOVERNANCE

A new SEND reforms governance structure has been put in place which includes the establishment of the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. This Board is chaired by the Director for Children's Services and membership consists of senior representatives from across education, health and children's and adult social care. A key role of the Board is to provide effective support and challenge to the implementation of the SEND reforms and to champion the local area's new 0 – 25 SEND Strategy.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 19 JULY 2018**

FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Last year's external income increased to £250,000 which was generated across the following:

- HGV/PSV testing lane
- Taxi testing/private MOT tests
- Private servicing/repair work
- External training (Midas and taxi driver assessment training)

This year we are looking to introduce a third MOT test lane to be located in the Blacksmiths shop within the Davyfield Depot. As part of the business case, we intend to utilise the new MOT lane to attract additional business, initially targeting employees at the surrounding industrial estates.

Negotiations are also ongoing with a number of other organisations to service and maintain their vehicles and undertake repairs to generate additional business for the Motor Vehicle Service Station.

YOUR CALL CLEAN UP VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

The figures for Your Call clean up events for May, is:-

May 2018 – 15 events, with 144 volunteers taking part

May 2017 – 15, events, with 292 volunteers taking part

We have also seen a huge increase in the number of community litter pickers over the last few months, with over 400 now registered with the council, of which 273 are registered on the Lancashire Volunteer Portal (LVP), with 25 more still in the process of signing up. Free litter cleaning packs are being distributed to residents as they register and work on developing sponsorship for the packs is continuing.

Resident leads on social media sites – Keep Darwen Tidy, a new group on Facebook, has done some great work to mobilise and motivate local people to action. The administrator works well with officers and the volunteers report daily on when and where they have cleaned and also post before and after photographs. A newer group, Keep Blackburn Tidy, is also developing with support from local Councillors, tackling the litter and flytipping issues around the town.

The improvement in the cleanliness of the areas they have targeted has been tremendous, with social and physical benefits the benefits also social as well as physical, with exercise being a key element to the work of the groups.

GDPR – all volunteers have been contacted before the May 25th ‘deadline’ and many have now signed up on the Lancashire Volunteer Portal.

GREY RECYCLING BIN COLLECTION

Contamination of recycling bins continues to be problematic, with the council planning to undertake a waste audit across the borough which will help highlight the contamination levels in recycling bins.

Collection tonnage for April and May :-

Year	April monthly tonnage	May monthly tonnage
2017/18	984	1190
2018/19	1078	1170

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

The number of sign-ups to the service continues to develop, with the latest figures being:-

- Households signed up as of 01/06/2018 = 13,776
- Households signed up as of 01/06/2017 = 12,770

The service is now in its 2nd year of operation as a chargeable service, with the overall signups for 2017 on target to be exceeded for the end of the year. The good weather in May has clearly helped the progression of the service.

FOOD BUSINESS OWNER BANNED

The former owner of a Chinese restaurant has been banned from running a food business following a prosecution for food hygiene offences.

The man, aged 48, who ran the former Guide Village restaurant, pleaded guilty to 14 offences relating to accumulated dirt and mould, grease and food debris covering walls, floors, food preparation areas, hand basins, fridges and cooking utensils. A “large dirty pan of chicken stock” was left uncovered on top of a cooking range for over two days. There were also failures to comply with food information regulations relating to allergies and the maintenance of food safety records.

Blackburn Magistrates’ Court imposed fines totalling £5840, and awarded the Council full costs of £3385. The Magistrates also imposed a prohibition order which prevents the man from being in charge of a food business in the future.

MORE FOOD BUSINESSES SIGNING UP FOR HEALTHY OPTIONS

More food businesses are applying to be members of the Council's Recipe 4 Health scheme. The scheme, which is run by Public Protection and Public Health, aims at making healthier choices available for members of the public who are eating out. The scheme is free of charge to businesses, who receive advice and guidance from Environmental Health Officers on food allergy labelling, healthy alternatives on menus, and of course good food hygiene.

Recent awards have gone to two primary schools, a children's day care centre and three nursing homes. In total, 207 businesses have received the R4H award in the Borough so far, and the full list can now be found on the Council's website.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE & CULTURE

COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 19 JULY 2018

ARTS AND HERITAGE

Painting on Tour

An atmospheric painting of a rural scene owned by Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery has gone on loan.

Evening – The Watering Place will be on show at the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne until September 16 as part of the exhibition [Edward Stott: A Master of Colour and Atmosphere](#).

It is the first major exhibition in more than 40 years of the work of the Rochdale-born artist who is described as “the poet-painter of the twilight”. It marks the centenary of his death. Stott (1855-1918) trained in Paris and was influenced by French impressionism. He later settled in Amberley in Sussex.

Evening – The Watering Place was purchased by Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery in 1913 and was previously on display in the museum’s Victorian Gallery.

A Master of Colour and Atmosphere also includes works from Towner’s collection, as well as those on loan from national institutions including the Royal Academy of Arts, Manchester Art Gallery and the National Trust.

Blackburn Open walls 17- 21 July The Street art project returns to Blackburn town centre this July, this year it will be bigger and bolder as it has gained a grant from Arts council England. Not only will there be work created by international artists but workshops, an exhibition at Prism Gallery and the ‘Unselfie’ truck taking portraits of local residents. The project will end with a tour around all the new works on the afternoon of the 21st July.

FESTIVAL OF MAKING 2018

The 2nd annual Festival of Making took place in Blackburn Town centre on weekend of 12 and 13 May and attracted a significantly larger attendance than 2017 with over 140 different activities across more than 30 town-centre venues which included 40 hands-on workshops.

There were many highlights including the amazing 34-tonnes of advanced manufacturing technology in a truck with virtual reality opportunities to dismantle a jet engine; an incredible clay sculpture which grew over the course of the weekend outside of the museum, the cardboard cinema and the installation of '@The making of an Indian Wedding' in the market

Full evaluations are still being worked on but below are just a few of attendees feedback:

'Such a creative festival bringing diverse communities together! Brilliant all round. Been buzzing from yesterday's performance and up close interactive audience participation dances. Blackburn THANK YOU – magnificent community'

'loved the variety of hands-on workshops, the fact that you couldn't remain spectator, everything around you was full of life and joy. I also loved the yellow line drawn so you couldn't miss anything.'

'Fabulous day @festofmaking a celebration of art, creativity manufacturing and making. Blackburn you should be proud!'

'It was great. I love the way that Blackburn tells the story of its making heritage too in a very 21 century way. You should go.'

LIBRARIES

Library Loans – at a time when national trends are showing a decline Blackburn with Darwen libraries have increased resource loans performance by 2% in comparison with the previous year. The figures include e-book, e-audio and e-magazine usage.

As part of the **Digital Borough** Workstream the library service has led on the mapping of council facilities and help available to citizens to "get online", access digital services, apply for UC (Universal Credit) and subsequently manage their claims. A spreadsheet listing the venues, Monday to Saturday access, resources and assistance offered is being shared both internally and with partners to support effective signposting. The exercise has highlighted the need for additional support in Darwen and from 11th June the library is now offering a weekly 2 hour IT drop-in on Monday afternoons in addition to the existing programme of free basic IT courses held on Thursdays.

VENUES

April and May saw high profile names playing at KGH; Russell Brand entertained a sell out audience in April and the Manchester band, James was the fastest ever venue sell out in just under 5 minutes and played one of just 7 gigs to an enthusiastic crowd last month . A warm-up date for Squeeze was also popular drawing a big audience to the Windsor Suite. The Summer comedy programme has included a third date in 7 months for Jason Manford and 2 sell out nights of Sarah Millican.

LEISURE

The Weavers Wheel cycling route will be launched on Saturday 30th June in Witton park. The event will include a family fun day with a range of activities to try out, led walks and healthy lifestyle stands. It marks the start of Blackburn with Darwen's Walking and Cycling Festival that takes place from Saturday 30th June until Sunday 8th July 2018. For a full programme of activities go to www.refreshbwd.com.