

Public Document Pack

Executive Board

Thursday, 13 February 2020

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room A

Address: Blackburn Town Hall

AGENDA

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

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
Minutes - January 2020 **4 - 13**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **14**
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 4pm on the day prior to the meeting.
6. **Questions by Non-Executive Members**
To receive written questions submitted by Non-Executive Members no later than 4pm on the day prior to the meeting.
7. **Youth MPs Update**
To receive an update from the Youth MPs along with any issues they would like to raise.
8. **Executive Member Reports**
Verbal updates may be given by each Executive Member.

Leader

- 8.1 **Impact of National Policy of Austerity in Blackburn with Darwen**

Austerity Impact Report	15 - 21
Adult Services and Prevention	
Children, Young People and Education	
8.2 Fostering Report Quarter 2	
Quarter 2 Fostering Report	22 - 37
Fostering Quarter 2 Report	
Environmental Services	
8.3 Contract for the sorting and processing of kerbside collected recyclables	
Contract - kerbside recyclables P1	38 - 41
8.4 Replacement of Vehicles for Environment and Highways Teams	
Replacement Vehicles P1	42 - 45
Public Health and Wellbeing	
Digital and Customer Services	
Growth and Development	
Finance and Governance	
9. Corporate Issues	
9.1 Climate Emergency Plan	
Climate Emergency Action Plan report	46 - 74
BwD Climate Emergency Action Plan	
9.2 Sale of Plot C, Partnership Way, Blackburn	
Pt 1 Sale of Plot C Partnership Way Shadsworth Blackburn	75 - 78
Annex 1 Plot C	
9.3 Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	
Corporate Revenue Monitoring Q3	79 - 87
Qtr 3 2019-20 Revenue Monitoring Appendix 1	
Qtr 3 2019-20 Revenue Monitoring Appendix 2	
9.4 Corporate Capital Budget Monitoring Report	
Capital Monitoring 2019 - 2020 Qtr3	88 - 98

QTR 3 2019-20 Capital Monitoring Appendix 1
QTR 3 2019-20 Capital Monitoring Appendix 2

10.	Matters referred to the Executive Board	
10.1	Petition: Warrington Street, Blackburn	
	Petition Warrington Street	99 - 103
	Warrington Street Appendix 1	
10.2	Petition: Application for Local Space Designation (Whitehall Area)	
	Petition Local Green Space	104 -
	Application Local Green Space	130
	Signatures Redacted	

PART 2 – THE PRESS AND PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

11.1	Replacement of Vehicles for Environment and Highways Teams	
	Replacement Vehicles P2	131 -
		134
11.2	Contract for the sorting and processing of kerbside collected recyclables	
	Contract for kerbside recyclables P2	135 -
		138
11.3	Sale of Plot C, Partnership Way, Blackburn	
	Pt 2 Sale of Plot C Partnership Way Shadsworth	139 -
	Blackburn	141

Date Published: Wednesday, 05 February 2020
Denise Park, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE BOARD Thursday, 9th January, 2020

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

Councillor Maureen Bateson MBE
Councillor Mustafa Desai
Councillor Andy Kay
Councillor Mohammed Khan OBE
Councillor Quesir Mahmood
Councillor Phil Riley
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Damian Talbot

PORTFOLIO:

Children, Young People and Education
Adult Services & Prevention
Finance & Governance
Leader of the Council
Digital & Customer Services
Growth & Development
Environmental Services
Public Health & Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

Councillor John Slater

NON-PORTFOLIO:

Leader of the Conservative Group

ALL IN ATTENDANCE:

Uday Akram

Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed as present to the meeting. Apologies had been received from the Deputy Youth MPs Corey McPartland and A'Aishah Patel.</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 14th November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.</p>	
4	<p><u>Equality Implications</u></p> <p>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.</p>	
5	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p>No questions had been submitted by members of the public.</p>	
6	<p><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></p> <p>No questions had been submitted by Non-Executive Members.</p>	

	Item	Action
7	<p><u>Youth MPs Update</u></p> <p>The Youth MP, Uday Akram, updated the Executive Board on recent events and activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fifth annual Takeover Challenge event on the 28th November on Knife/Gang crime at Ewood Park. Over 100 young people representing the strategic youth alliance organisations attended and participated with Princes Trust ambassador & Pride of Britain award winner Hezron Brown as guest speaker. Fantastic feedback was received from both the young people and professionals who attended. Following this event the Youth Forum were in the process of producing a YPS Youth Work curriculum pack on Knife/Gang crime, and would be seeking support and advice from YPS, the Youth Justice Service and Every Action has a Consequence. The curriculum pack would be shared throughout the strategic youth alliance. • Working with Children's Services to produce a young person's version of the Adolescent Strategy, with a draft version being produced, which could be easily read and for young people to understand what services were available, what these services offered and how and where they could be accessed. • This weekend 9 young people would be participating in the annual BwD Youth MP candidate residential. During the weekend young people would be participating in democracy youth work curriculum sessions and team building activities and would be producing their 1 minute campaign video which included their manifestos for the next year. The Youth elections would take place from Monday 27th January – Friday 7th February in all secondary schools, youth clubs and partner youth organisations. The announcement would take place in the Council Chamber from 4.30pm on Monday 10th February, and the Executive Board were invited to attend. 	Noted

	Item	Action
8.0	<p><u>Pennine Lancashire Integrated Care Partnership</u></p> <p>A report was submitted which provided context to the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council position in relation to the Pennine Lancashire Integrated Health and Care Partnership (ICP).</p> <p>The report outlined the progress made to date between the Council and the ICP, and detailed the future intentions of the ICP to progress key aspects of integrated health and social working in Pennine Lancashire, and attached to the report was a paper that outlined the next steps in delivery of the Pennine Plan.</p> <p>The paper also set out the proposed structure of Governance and Boards through which the ICP proposed to work in order to deliver the Pennine Plan.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>2.1 Notes the progress that has been made between the Borough and the ICP.</p> <p>2.2 Notes future intentions of the ICP to progress key aspects of integrated health and social working in Pennine Lancashire.</p> <p>2.3 Notes the proposed structure of Governance and Boards through which the ICP proposes to work in order to deliver the Pennine Plan.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.1	<p><u>Environmental Services</u></p> <p>Councillor Jim Smith verbally reported that he was pleased to advise that £135k of Section106 funding would be spent on improvements to the play area at Corporation Park.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
8.2	<p><u>Procurement of Digital and Customer Portal</u></p> <p>Members received an update on the procurement of the new Digital Customer Portal and were asked to approve the award of the contract to the successful bidder with the associated financial implications.</p> <p>The Executive Board previously noted the works in relation to the project in the report presented on the 12th September 2019. Following the tender process, which was outlined in the report, it was recommended to award the contract to Supplier A as they had the highest overall score.</p> <p>The new DCP would provide a platform for the Council to continually digitise services across all areas of the authority. The DCP would provide future opportunities to incorporate more and more services, rationalising IT applications and continually reutilising the forms and workflows already developed.</p> <p>The report also outlined the future phases in relation to the programme.</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>RESOLVED -</p> <p>That the Executive Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to the approval of the Capital Programme at Finance Council in February 2019, the Executive Board is asked to approve the reallocation of £850,000 from the earmarked ICT Capital Reserve, to commence the programme of works to replace the Council's current Customer Contact Portal (CCP) with a new Digital Customer Portal (DCP) and progress with phase 1 and 2 of the project. • Approves the awarding of the contract to the successful bidder. • Notes the future phases in relation to the programme. 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.3	<p><u>Growth Deal 3 - South East Blackburn</u></p> <p>The Executive Board received an update on progress made with the Growth Deal 3 South East Blackburn major transport scheme package, which recommended acceptance of main contractor prices and which requested agreement to the application for Full Approval being made to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.</p> <p>The wider Pennine Gateways Growth Deal 3 project would deliver key transport infrastructure improvements at three of the main gateways into Blackburn with Darwen off the M65 Motorway at Junctions 4, 5 and 6. Investment at these adjoining gateway locations would extend the concept of the Hyndburn – Burnley – Pendle Growth corridor to the M65 Growth Corridor and would release the potential of a number of adjacent strategic sites to attract and accelerate new development and housing opportunities. Major transport improvements would act as a catalyst for new housing and commercial development, contributing to the delivery of the Council's adopted Local Plan targets for new homes, businesses and jobs.</p> <p>The project would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve congestion on the Haslingden Road corridor to / from Royal Blackburn Hospital and M65 Junction 5 • Improve air quality at Blackamoor Junction (which is a designated Air Quality Management Area) • Facilitate future housing and employment growth in the South East of Blackburn <p>The improved highway network would be able to cope with the expected increase in traffic and trip generation following the development of associated Local Plan housing and employment site allocations across Blackburn with Darwen.</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>The report also outlined the contract tender and financial implications of the project.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the Full Approval application to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership 2. Gives approval to accept the main contract tender subject to confirmation of Full Approval acceptance from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board 3. Approves the bringing forward of capital funding into the financial year 2019/20 to front fund statutory undertakers advanced costs 4. Notes that further reporting will be made at appropriate stages within the project's progression 5. Gives approval to the Director of Growth and Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development to make amendments to the Full Approval application, as part of the final Lancashire Enterprise Partnership approval process. 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>
8.4	<p><u>Darwen Town Fund Update</u></p> <p>Members received a report which provided an update on preparations regarding Government's invitation to the Council to develop and submit a Towns Fund Investment Plan to help secure a Town Deal for Darwen.</p> <p>Darwen was one of 101 places in England invited by Government to prepare an Investment Plan for submission by Summer 2020, as part of the new national Towns Fund programme. Government had published initial guidance, with further and more detailed advice expected in early 2020 on funding eligibility, capital/revenue mix, programme timescales and wider business-case requirements.</p> <p>The report sets out the Council's proposed approach to forming a Darwen Deal Board, as required by Government, and in developing a robust Darwen Investment Plan, including engagement activities with residents and businesses.</p> <p>The report also referenced the need for Government to extend the geographical area in scope, as the proposed Towns Fund boundary for Darwen failed to recognise key opportunities, connections and communities relevant to developing a comprehensive place-focused Investment Plan.</p> <p>In moving the recommendations in the report, Councillor Phil Riley advised of two amendments to the Board membership, firstly that Jake Berry MP would now be a full member of the Board (rather than an observer) and also that a Darwen Councillor from the Borough Council would have a place on the Board, and he invited Cllr John Slater to nominate and let him know who his nomination</p>	

	Item	Action
	would be in due course.	
	RESOLVED –	
	That the Executive Board:	
	1. Notes the contents of this report;	Noted
	2. Agree the proposed membership of the Council's advisory Darwen Deal Board, as outlined in section 2 of this report;	Approved
	3. Authorise the Chief Executive and Director of HR, Legal and Governance, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to finalise and publish by 31 January 2020 the governance arrangements and terms of reference of the Council's advisory Darwen Deal Board, as outlined in section 2 of this report;	Approved
	4. Though noting the proposed Towns Fund boundary for Darwen, request the Chief Executive and Director of Growth and Development to engage with Government to extend the proposed geographical scope to include linked opportunities and established connections within and between Lower Darwen, Hoddlesden and Edgworth; and	Approved
	5. Request the Director of Growth and Development and Chair of the Darwen Deal Board to present the draft Darwen Investment Plan, for consideration and approval at a future meeting of the Executive Board, and to provide progress updates as required.	Approved
8.5	<u>Disposal of Brookhouse Industrial Estate, Blackburn</u>	
	It was reported that the Council owned a number of commercial investment estates across the Borough. As part of the ongoing strategic review of Council assets, Brookhouse Industrial Estate had been identified as one where realising a capital receipt would better serve the Council than continuing with ongoing resource intensive management to receive a rental income stream. It was recommended, therefore, that the Council disposed of the premises by way of auction.	
	RESOLVED –	
	That the Executive Board approves the disposal by auction of land and buildings referred to in this report on the terms recommended.	Approved
8.6	<u>Local Development Scheme</u>	
	A report was submitted which advised that work has begun on the preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough. This would replace the adopted Core Strategy (adopted in January 2011) and the Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development	

	Item	Action
	<p>Management Policies (adopted in December 2015). There were three key reasons why this was now a clear priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to legislation and planning regulations which required authorities to have an up to date local plan; • The need to bring the evidence base up to date with particular requirements to have a clear understanding of housing and economic trends and potential future needs within the Borough and how this related to neighbouring authorities; and • To maintain momentum for growth with a pipeline of development sites. <p>New regulations brought forward by Government on 5 April 2018 required local authorities to review Local Plans and their Statements of Community Involvement at least every five years from the date of their adoption.</p> <p>Government expected local authorities to have in place an up to date Local Development Scheme to demonstrate to all relevant parties (e.g. local communities, developers, infrastructure providers) what the Council intended to do in terms of its Local Plan.</p> <p>Given the Council was progressing with preparing a new Local Plan, it was essential that an up to date LDS was in place to provide key information on how the Local Plan would be produced, and set out intended key milestones for the various stages that the Plan would go through until adoption.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Approve the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and agree to the updated timescales included to prepare the new Local Plan and additional Planning Policy documents.</p>	Approved
9.1	<p><u>Adolescent Strategy 2019-2023</u></p> <p>An Adolescent Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen had been developed to clearly set out in one place all the services and support for our young people aged 8 to 19 years.</p> <p>Over 600 young people, staff, partners and elected members had been consulted on what should be included, and this feedback had directly influenced the design of services and shaped future plans.</p> <p>For Blackburn with Darwen the definition of adolescence had been expanded to 8-19 years to be inclusive of younger children, as part</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>of the commitment to prevention work. This also ensured that all the children and were represented in the strategy and the development of the Blackburn with Darwen offer.</p> <p>The strategy supported young people who collectively had a wide range of needs, and ensured that provision and intervention was offered across Universal, Targeted and Specialist services and across all levels of need (Continuum of Need and Response).</p> <p>Imran Akuji, Head of Adolescent Services, delivered a presentation, highlighting the key elements of the strategy.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board: approves the Blackburn with Darwen Adolescent Strategy (2019-23) (Appendix A).</p>	Approved
9.2	<p><u>BSF PFI Refinancing Phase 2 Update</u></p> <p>Further to the Executive Board report in July 2017, which gave delegated authority to enter into subsequent Private Finance Initiative (PFI) re-financing arrangements if financially beneficial to the Council, an update was provided on the recent refinancing exercise for the Phase 2 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme – Witton Park High School and Blackburn Central High School with Crosshill, the funding for which was originally put in place as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in 2010.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board :</p> <p>Notes the outcome of the recent refinancing exercise for the Phase 2 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme – Witton Park High School and Blackburn Central High School with Crosshill, the funding for which was originally put in place as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in 2010.</p>	Noted
10.1	<p><u>Petition: Grey Bin Collection, Azalea Road, and Granville Road, Blackburn</u></p> <p>Members received a report detailing a petition received from residents of Azalea Road and Granville Road, Blackburn regarding recycling grey bin collection issues affecting their properties.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board: issue the response to the petition received, appertaining to:-</p> <p>2.1 Contamination – remind residents what to place in their grey bin</p> <p>2.2 Ensure the Biffa collection crew drag bins if their vehicle is not a narrow bodied RCV</p> <p>2.3 Move the properties to collection points for collection from</p>	Approved

	Item	Action
	January 2020 (customers drag bins)	
	AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING	
11.1	<p><u>New Digital Customer Portal</u></p> <p>Further to the report submitted at agenda item 8.2, an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>RESOLVED -</p> <p>That the Executive Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to the approval of the Capital Programme at Finance Council in February 2019, the Executive Board is asked to approve the reallocation of £850,000 from the earmarked ICT Capital Reserve, to commence the programme of works to replace the Council's current Customer Contact Portal (CCP) with a new Digital Customer Portal (DCP) and progress with phase 1 and 2 of the project. • Approves the awarding of the contract to the successful bidder. • Notes the future phases in relation to the programme. 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>
11.2	<p><u>Growth Deal 3 - South East Blackburn</u></p> <p>Further to the report submitted at agenda item 8.3, an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the Full Approval application to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership 2. Gives approval to accept the main contract tender subject to confirmation of Full Approval acceptance from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board 3. Approves the bringing forward of capital funding into the financial year 2019/20 to front fund statutory undertakers advanced costs 4. Notes that further reporting will be made at appropriate stages within the project's progression 5. Gives approval to the Director of Growth and Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>

	Item	Action
	Development to make amendments to the Full Approval application, as part of the final Lancashire Enterprise Partnership approval process.	
11.3	<p><u>Disposal of Brookhouse Industrial Estate, Blackburn</u></p> <p>Further to the report submitted at agenda item 8.5 an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board approves the disposal by auction of land and buildings referred to in this report on the terms recommended.</p> <p>Signed at a meeting of the Board</p> <p>on Thursday, 13 February 2020</p> <p>(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	Approved

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: **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

DATE: **13TH FEBRUARY 2020**

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)

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF:	Leader
LEAD OFFICERS:	Chief Executive
DATE:	13 February 2020

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

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF NATIONAL POLICY OF AUSTERITY IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2010 the Conservative and Liberal Democratic coalition Government initiated its austerity programme. This signalled the start of an unprecedented level of financial challenges across the public sector which has led to significant service cuts across many areas.

Below outlines the headline changes for Blackburn with Darwen Council over this period:

- 36% reduction in funding income - £65.6million
- £542 reduction in real-term local government spending per head of population 2009/10-2017/18
- Largest reduction in Core Spending Power of all Unitary Authorities at 30.5% - £51.7million
- £13million increase in social care costs, vulnerable adults and children
- IMD ranked 9th most deprived local authority in the Country
- 5th lowest level of reserves compared to all other Unitary Authorities
- Real-term reduction in resources is significantly more due to absorbing costs of inflation, increase demand, pay awards.

Our statutory responsibilities to citizens are still the same.

Despite the Government's consultation in 2018 on the Fair Funding model we still await a formal response. This continued delay, annual financial settlements and piecemeal approach to additional project funding is exacerbating the financial pressures making longer term budgeting and planning extremely difficult. It is extremely alarming that the recent analysis by the Local Government Association (LGA) suggests that, under new proposed formula for adult social care, Blackburn with Darwen's 'share of need' will reduce by 21.7% for ages 18-64 and reduce by 11.8% for older people 65+.

Our ask of this new Government, is for Ministers and Civil Servants to fully engage with us and listen to our very real concerns and challenges. We ask that they work with us to find solutions to funding mechanisms that work for areas such as Blackburn with Darwen, with low tax receipts and high demand and direct new money to local authorities, which will enable them to achieve their promise of levelling up.

We want to work with the Government to develop a framework for the fair distribution of resources that recognises levels of deprivation, demand and an area's ability to raise income.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- a) Note the contents of this report which highlights the impact of the Government's austerity measures over the last 10 years.
- b) Agree that the Leader write to the Government to outline our concerns and request engagement in future policy development and funding allocations.

2. BACKGROUND

Due to the Government's national policy on austerity, the Council has had to develop and deliver numerous savings programmes across the Council over the past 10 years. These saving programmes have been implemented to address the reduction in income, to absorb the impact of inflation (including the impact of the National Living Wage), to respond to rising demand for statutory services and to continue to support our crucial regeneration and growth programme.

Since 2010, our available income has reduced by 36%, that's £65.6million

Core spending power measures the overall revenue funding available for local authority services. The Council has had the largest reduction of core spending of all Unitary authorities at 30.5%, that's £51.7million and the 32nd largest reduction out of all 350 local authorities in the country.

Since 2010 we've had to realign our budget to meet demands. For example, spend on statutory social care for vulnerable children and adults has increased by £13m but we've had to cut our education services by £48million, our highways and transport services by almost £7million, our housing services by £7million and our planning and development service by £10million.

These extreme financial challenges, coupled with rising demand for services due to high levels of deprivation has meant that we have had to use our reserves just to deliver services.

We now have the 5th lowest level of reserves as a percentage net of revenue compared to other unitary authorities, as shown by the recently developed CIPFA financial resilience index.

The Centre for Cities report published in January 2019 outlined that between 2009/10 – 2017/18, Blackburn with Darwen had the 5th largest real-term fall in total local government spending across the country and the 2nd largest in the North West.

However, our statutory responsibility to citizens is still the same, demand is rising and expectations are high.

Our relationship with our community has helped us to mitigate some of the effects of the Government's damaging austerity measures, by keeping vital services running. However, we can't continue to rely on the goodwill of volunteers; services need to be sustainable for the long term. We are doing the best we can with the resources we have available as reported to Policy council through our Corporate Plan and performance reporting in December.

We have always been good at bringing additional ad-hoc funding into the Council, such as Growth Deal, Sports England, Arts Council etc and we manage some of these funding programmes on behalf of partners within and beyond the borough in the wider sub-region. However, this reactive approach to piecemeal funding as and when it is made available exacerbates our challenges making it difficult to plan future delivery of council services and appropriate investment.

Whilst the funding is welcome, it adds to the burden on local authorities to bid for and administer these programmes, responding to different government departments and funding bodies when a more joined up approach is often required to tackle some of the most difficult entrenched and inter-generational issues such as

homelessness, poor housing quality, lack of skills for employment and anti-social behaviour.

We are pleased to hear that the Government is planning to 'rip up' spending plans to divert funding to the North, but we need assurance that this new approach will benefit council service delivery in areas such as ours, and not just strategic infrastructure investment to the core Northern cities which too often fails to be inclusive of the wider area.

The Government launched a consultation on the principles of the new fair funding formulas in late 2018 but has yet to issue a full response. We understand the government are still to make a decision on whether deprivation will be a measure on the 'foundation formula' which covers services such as libraries, parks and waste collection. Formulas for adult social care, public health and children's services are likely to be based on formulas by the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Education respectively. However, demands are difficult to predict and the wider social profile of an area must be taken into account.

Elected Members may be aware of the recent Local Government Association (LGA) analysis which provides an illustration of the impact of the proposed adult social care relative needs formulas which are being considered for implementation in 2021/22. (<https://www.local.gov.uk/adult-social-care-relative-needs-formulas-lga-illustration-january-2020>). Their analysis is based on work behind the new formula undertaken by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) in 2018. Population is the biggest driver in this formula. We would like to see formulae based on relative need, levels of deprivation and high cost complex cases.

It is extremely alarming that the analysis by the LGA suggests that, under this new proposed formula, Blackburn with Darwen's 'share of need' will reduce by 21.7% for ages 18-64 and reduce by 11.8% for older people 65+. The LGA is calling for no local authority to see its funding reduce and for the Government to publish official illustrations on the changes in funding as soon as possible.

We will lobby for the Fair Funding formulas to be truly 'Fair'.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Wellbeing and demand for services

As reported to Policy Council in December 2019, nearly 40% of Blackburn with Darwen's children and young people are living in poverty compared to a national average of 27%. The Government's introduction of austerity policies such as universal credit, changes to child tax credit and benefits freeze have all impacted on our residents.

Elected members will be well aware of the economic and social profile of our Borough as outlined on our website in the recently published Borough Outcome measures <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/facts-and-figures>.

Latest IMD statistics tell us that we are ranked 9th most deprived local authority in the country, have a higher than average number of people unemployed (4.7% compared to 4.1% nationally) and we have 5,900 workless households. We have higher than average benefit claimants 4.8% compared to 2.9% national average. Life expectancy is lower than national average and that of Lancashire at just 76.9 years for males and 80.3 years for females. Skill levels are low with 29.3% of our residents achieving NVQ level 4 or above compared to a national average of 39% and 12.4% of our residents have no formal qualifications at all compared to a national average of 7.1%.

We have one of the lowest income per household in the country and are amongst the Local Authorities most affected by recent welfare reforms. The Borough is experiencing a significant challenge to working, but low-income families and as a result, has growing rates of child poverty and some of the worst lower super output areas in England for levels of deprivation.

All of these factors cause stressful environments in households which impacts on health, mental health and social wellbeing leading to an increase in demand on local council services. Below outlines some of the impact on services during the period of national austerity:

	2010	2019
Number of Looked After Children	365	403
Looked After Children rate per 10,000 population	94	105
Number of children open to children's social care	1520	1852
Number of young people identified as young carers	Data not available	174
Number of people in residential and nursing care aged 65+	524	582

Financial impact

This increase in demand has raised the costs of delivering services at a time when funding has been reduced, resulting in less available resources for ongoing prevention, early help and intervention and economic investment.

Since 2017, the number of people aged 65+ in residential and nursing care has risen from 496 to 582 increasing costs by £4.172million per year. Similarly, our annual costs for Looked after Children has increased by £5.8million per year since 2010/11.

General inflation costs also have an impact on our spending capability, as with any other organisation. The uplift of the national living wage by £1.02 since April 2016 is welcome news for our low income residents, however we are finding that contractors are passing on their increases to us, through fee increases, which we are expected to absorb within existing resources alongside nationally agreed pay awards for our staff also funded within existing resources. We have restructured our pay spine to reflect these increases and 56% of our staff have reached the top of their grade. The Government need to be prepared to fund additional costs associated with the rise in national living wage costs. We also have increased employer pension costs following the triennial valuation of the Local Government Pension Fund which has increased our contributions for which there is no additional funding.

We welcome the recent additional funding for both the NHS and social care and are keen to see what the new Government's spending priorities are in the Chancellor's next Budget on 11th March 2020. We know that the budget will prioritise the environment and build on recent announcements to boost spending on public services with new hospitals, more nurses and more police officers.

The Government has also announced a new policy agenda of 'unite and level up', promising to raise the economic performance of areas like Blackburn with Darwen towards those of London. We are pleased that the Government plan to shift their focus from boosting national economic growth towards improving the wellbeing of people living in poorer areas and narrowing the productivity gap between regions. They have also indicated that there will be plans implemented to improve social care in this parliament, although it is not clear when this will start. The pledge to increase school funding at both primary and secondary school is also welcome.

However, this new approach from the Government needs to happen soon and it's important that new investment is directed at local services. Infrastructure investment is important but the benefits of this will not be realised for some years. Increasing demand for local, every day services is happening now and it's becoming extremely challenging to manage services on the funding changes we have seen over the last 10 years.

For this current financial year, we are forecasting an overspend on the Children's Services budget of £4.8million and £300,000 on Highways due to increased demand for services and the costs of commissioned placements for children, often with complex needs. Further details will be reported to Finance Council on 24th February. This financial spending forecast, particularly for Children's Services will continue into 2020/21.

The recent Financial Resilience Index published by CIPFA indicates that the council is at high risk and has low financial resilience due to the low level of reserves we have at our disposal; the level of our reserves compared to our net revenue expenditure, based on the data contained within the 2018/19 Revenue Outturn Return, ranks us as the 5th lowest, at 17.65%, when comparing the same indicator for all other unitary authorities. This compares with areas such as Portsmouth at 143.48%.

The current funding model isn't suited to areas such as Blackburn with Darwen. New Homes Bonus and the Adult

Social Care Precept favour areas with a larger proportion of houses in the higher council tax bands, strong housing growth and high land values.

We have limitations as to how much income we can raise ourselves. Based on the average council tax per dwelling in the Borough, a 1% increase would equate to £10.06, compared to affluent areas such as Rutland that would raise an average of £19.30 per dwelling. We have the 4th lowest average council tax per dwelling of all unitary authorities and 58% of our properties are all Band A.

As elected Members may be aware, the Government encouraged Councils to take full advantage of the council tax freeze grant which they introduced for the financial periods 2012-13 and 2015-16. Given the detrimental impact of the recession on our residents and the impending impact of benefit changes through universal credit, the Council decided to accept the grant rather than pass-on rising costs to residents through council tax increase. The grant provided a non-recurring income in the year, equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax. However, this Government policy has resulted in the Council having a lower tax base than those councils who felt able to continue to passport rising costs to residents.

The increase in the costs of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb), announced on 9th October 2019, will also impact on our ability to raise funds. We currently use this loan facility to fund strategic investments which will have longer term benefits for the borough. Whilst the Government is concerned that the previous low interest rates for this fund was responsible for encouraging speculative and risky investment by councils, for us, access to such cost effective borrowing is the difference between growth and stagnation. This hike in interest rates means that we will have to revisit our capital programme and pare this back to ensure the revenue costs of borrowing are affordable and the impact of these costs on our short-term ability to deliver services.

We were pleased to work with our Lancashire local authority colleagues to form a Business Rates Pool Pilot for 2019/20 enabling us to retain 75% of our growth in business rates, with a percentage of this growth top-sliced by all Pool Members for Lancashire-wide strategic economic growth. We expected this to be a pre-cursor for full national roll out of the new BRR Scheme by the Government however the programme is now due to end in March 2020 with no national scheme in place.

We are reporting on our financial position in more detail at Finance Council 24th February. Despite positives in the Budget settlement relating to the additional funding for social care, we still expect to have to implement a savings programme of £4.7million for 20/21, in addition to the existing in-year savings for 19/20. The cost pressures remain in Children's social care which, to date, have not received the same targeted resource intervention as adult social care. We are working closely with our NHS partners in the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) and the Pennine Lancashire Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) but until there is a thorough review and a holistic approach to health and social care funding, it's difficult to provide seamless support to individuals and offering the ability for early intervention and prevention services.

The status quo is no longer an option.

Elected Members will be aware that in October 2019 the Leader and Opposition Leaders sent a letter to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting an invitation from the Government to develop a business case to form a new larger Pennine Lancashire Unitary Authority. We firmly believe that this will strengthen the role of Local Government in the area, ensuring decision making closer to the people and the sustainability and stability of council services to our citizens and citizens across Pennine Lancashire.

We continue to support the development of a Lancashire Combined Authority, if the opportunity arises. However, this will only address strategic issues focussed on infrastructure, economic development and skills. It will not address the day-to-day needs of our citizens and our ability as a council to continue to deliver vital services.

Our ask, of this new Government, is for Ministers and Civil Servants to fully engage with us, listen to our very real concerns and challenges. We ask that they work with us to find solutions to funding mechanisms that work for areas with low tax receipts and high demand and direct new money to local authorities, which will enable them to achieve their promise of levelling up. The Fair Funding Formula has been promised for some time but continues to be deferred. We are extremely concerned that the new formula will not reflect levels of deprivation which impact on need, in particular complex need. We want to work with the Government to develop a framework for the fair

distribution of resources that recognises levels of deprivation, demand and an areas ability to raise income.

The Leader of the Council intends to write to the Secretary of State to voice our concerns and seek an initial meeting with his colleagues to explore in more detail the opportunities to find solutions to our immediate challenges.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications at this stage.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications at this stage.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Any resource implications will be managed within 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. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

No consultations have taken place.

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
-----------------	----------

CONTACT OFFICER:	Denise Park
DATE:	4 th February 2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	None

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Children's Services & Education

DATE: 13th February 2020

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Children's Services, Young People & Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: N

SUBJECT:

Quarter 2 Fostering Report from 1st July to 30th September 2019 with Appendix 1

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides information on the management and performance of the Local Authority's Fostering Service and is revised each Quarter. Quarter 2 provides analysis of the year and reflects upon data and any patterns within the Service to determine development and progress.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Notes the Quarter 2 Fostering Service Report which is available on the Council's website along with Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

The Fostering Service Regulations 2011 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services requires that the Council Executive:

- a) Receive written reports on the management, outcomes and financial state of the Fostering Service every 3 months;
- b) Monitor the management and outcomes of the services in order to satisfy themselves that the service is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children;
- c) Satisfy themselves that the provider is complying with the conditions of registration.

The Report has been written to address the areas identified above. It will be taken into account by OFSTED when inspecting the Service.

The Report is for the second Quarter of 2019 covering the period from 1st July to 31st September 2019 and provides a comprehensive overview of the Service.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

1. Quarter 2 saw a slight decrease in the number of children in our care, but an increase in the number of children and young people in independent fostering agency placements. There has been a consistent increase in the number of children placed with family and friends carers.
2. Quarter 2 continued to reflect that the highest group of children and young people in foster care are in the 11-15 year age group, with males remaining the largest gender group of children in foster care. There are 53% of children in foster care who are male, with only 7 children with disabilities being placed in foster care. Children with disabilities continue to have more likelihood of permanence plans in long-term residential provision, as opposed to in-house or agency foster placements.
3. The 11-15 year age group continued in this Quarter to make up the highest percentage (33%) of young people placed in agency foster placements. The 0-2 year age group also remained high in this Quarter for children placed in foster placements; the majority of this age group were placed in-house.
4. An audit of placement stability showed that babies removed at birth or who were removed due to non-accidental injury, often have at least three placements until they secure their permanent placement. This is largely due to the emergency nature of the first placement, and recommendations from the Judiciary to request parent and child assessment placements in care proceedings prior to securing a permanent placement of adoption or Special Guardianship.
5. Teenagers are another high percentage group who have three or more placements, consistently due to behavioural needs and challenges for foster carers to manage in the longer term. Changes in educational placement also influence significantly upon placement stability. It can be challenging for the young person to emotionally invest in further foster placements when the first has disrupted.

This Quarter has seen a lower than average number of enquiries, however this period is typically a quieter time than other months due to the summer holiday period in July and August. Out of the five Local Authorities that are looked after by the 'front door' service, we are currently sitting in second when it comes to enquiries per 10,000 for Quarter 2.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No policy implications identified

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The fostering budgets are closely monitored as part of the regular portfolio budget review.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report is required to meet statutory requirements as set out in the 'National Minimum Standards for Fostering.'

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No resource implications have been identified.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

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.

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.

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.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Pamela Price, Service Lead – Placement Services
DATE:	Amended 22/01/20
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Quarter 2 Fostering Service Report 1 st July to 30 th September 2019

Fostering Quarter 2 Report

1st July to 30th September 2019

Executive Report



Quarterly reports to the Executive Board are a requirement of the Fostering Service to meet Standard 25.7 of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services. They are a key part of the documentation considered by OFSTED when conducting a Service inspection.

Introduction

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Fostering Service aims to ensure that:

- The best foster carers are recruited for our children;
- All placements receive high quality support, effectively targeted according to need;
- Children are found permanent families without delay;
- Children and young people in foster care achieve the best possible outcomes.

Children in our Care in Foster Care

Quarter 2 saw a slight decrease in the number of children in our care, but an increase in the number of children and young people in independent fostering agency placements. It is positive to see that there has been a consistent increase in the number of children placed with family and friends carers. The number of children placed in our own in-house foster placements remained consistent from the previous Quarter 1.

Comparison of Figures

	Q4 31st March 2019	Q1 June 2019	Q2 Sept 2019
Number of Children in our Care	407	408	403
Number of CioC in Foster Care	262 (64%)	264 (64.7%)	269 (66.7%)
Number of children in in- house foster care placements	151 (37%)	148 (36%)	143 (35.4%)
Number of children in family and friends foster care	43 (10%)	50 (12%)	58 (14.3%)
Number of children in independent fostering agency placements	68 (16%)	66 (16.2%)	68 (16.8%)

Quarter 2 continued to reflect that the highest group of children and young people in foster care are in the 11-15 year age group, with males remaining the largest gender group of children in foster care. There are 53% of children in foster care who are male, with only 7 children with disabilities being placed in foster care. Children with disabilities continue to have more likelihood of permanence plans in long-term residential provision, as opposed to in-house or agency foster placements. Targeted recruitment and family finding for children with disabilities has taken place this Quarter, but has still maintained the outcome of residential placements for those with more significant disabilities or health needs.

The 11-15 year age group continued in this Quarter to make up the highest percentage (33%) of young people placed in agency foster placements. The 0-2 year age group also remained high in this Quarter for children placed in foster placements; the majority of this age group were placed in-

house. The figure for the ethnicity of children and young people in our care remains largely static and consistently higher for those in the white, British group at 80%.

Placement Stability

The Department uses a definition of placement stability based on 3 or more placements in a 12 month period that is calculated on a cumulative basis over the year. The average for England is measured against the figures for 2013/14 when it was 10.7%; the comparable authority percentage for the same year was 10.1%. Since August 2017, placement stability has been deteriorating. This is not an issue specific to the Fostering Service but reflects instability for all types of placements and is an issue for Local Authorities overall. The table below shows that placement stability has been steadily decreasing over the past three years. Disruption meetings are held for any long term matched foster placement that breaks down, and learning taken from the findings. An audit of placement stability showed that babies removed at birth or who were removed due to non-accidental injury, often have at least three placements until they secure their permanent placement. This is largely due to the emergency nature of the first placement, and recommendations from the Judiciary to request parent and child assessment placements in care proceedings prior to securing a permanent placement of adoption or Special Guardianship.

Teenagers are another high percentage group who have three or more placements, consistently due to behavioural needs and challenges for foster carers to manage in the longer term. Changes in educational placement also impact significantly upon placement stability. It can be challenging for the young person to emotionally invest in further foster placements when the first has disrupted. This is when the Service refers to REVIVE where consultations and assessments take place to support this group of young people and their carers.

Table of Performance Figures:

Performance Over time	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/19	To Date
CIOC per 10,000	96.00	98.00	105.28	104.25

Matching and Ethnicity

There have been two non-culturally matched placements in this Quarter, both of which have been successful and the Service has supported the foster carers where needed at an increased level. Two Nigerian, female siblings were placed with white, British foster carers and this was a very positive placement for a short period until they returned home to their parents.

There has also been a white, British female placed with Asian foster carers and again, this has been positive with support provided from the Service around her cultural needs.

Engagement with Children & Young People and the VOICE Group

Children in our care and care leavers continue to attend the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group, when appropriate. The Corporate

Parenting Board also included a care leaver who was part of discussions about service delivery and new proposals. During the school summer holiday period, 15 young people trained with skills to assist with interviewing, to ensure that they are actively involved in the recruitment and selection of key personnel working with young people. The Participation Officer held an event to re-launch the VOICE group in Quarter 2, and the group will commence in January 2020.

The views of children and young people are gathered via:

- Participation in the recruitment of staff/interview process
- Support Groups for Children/Events
- Foster Carer Annual Review Feedback
- Feedback from Social Workers/Supervising Social Workers
- The Investors in Children process
- Comments fed back to the Fostering Support Officer
- Looked after Child Review meetings and consultation

Feedback from Children in Foster Care:

The following comments have been made by children and young people in foster care, over Quarter 2, and also following a successful residential trip:

“We loved going on the barge, it was a lot of fun”

“We go on lots of walks in the mud with my foster carers, which is funny!”

“I like to show my social worker my bedroom when she comes to visit”

“I would really like to see my own mum more often, this makes me sad”

Birth Children told us:

“Me and X have the same hobbies, but sometimes he can be really hard work at home”

“She is just like my sister”

“He gets to do more activities than I do, sometimes that isn’t fair”

An Independent Reviewing Officer told us “the foster carers talk so positively about the child in their care, it is really lovely to see and how they promote positive outcomes”

Promoting Children’s Health, Emotional Development, Education and Leisure:

Foster families are provided with pre and post-approval preparation training on the importance and availability of health, education and leisure services to enable them to help children achieve their potential and enhance their emotional wellbeing.

Looked After Children and young people are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities in which they can succeed and are supported in achieving better outcomes. All local Looked After Children and care leavers are provided with a Be Active card, which enables them to access free sport and leisure activities within the Borough. Foster carers are provided with a MAX Card, which

offers heavily discounted access to a range of leisure parks and facilities around the North West. This is funded by the Fostering Service in partnership with the Foster Carer Association.

Children in foster care have regular medicals at the statutory frequency appropriate for their age. There is a Designated Nurse for Looked After Children, who takes an active role in following up health issues and assisting with health promotion work. Foster carers have a Health Passport for each child in their care, which is a record of all of the child's health details. Public Health funding has enabled the appointment of a Specialist Nurse to work with 'hard to reach' Looked After Children and care leavers.

There are currently 7 Looked After Children in foster care, who are registered as having a disability. Foster carers are provided with the relevant training and support to meet the specific needs of the child in placement and they are able to access support from the Children with Disabilities Team with aids and adaptations, Disability Links registration and information and advice where needed.

In relation to emotional wellbeing, Looked After Children have access to Clinical Psychology and related services through REVIVE and the East Lancashire Child and Adolescent Service (ELCAS) also known as Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The REVIVE Service is a partnership between Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Children's Services and East Lancashire Hospital Trust to provide emotional health support for children known to the Local Authority and is based at Duke Street. REVIVE delivers consultation to Foster Carers, training and direct intervention on emotional health and well-being. There were 29 referrals made to the REVIVE Service in Quarter 2, with 15 being Looked After Children. The highest age range for referrals to REVIVE were in the 6-10 year and 11-15 year groups, which is typical when considering placement instability.

As well as mandatory First Aid training, foster carers also receive training on a variety of health-related issues including 'Infectious Diseases in Childhood' and 'Managing Medicine.' Phase 1 of a 'Healthy Homes' training package for carers has been developed.

In line with Standard 8 of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, the Department implements a written education policy prepared in partnership with the Virtual Head Teacher and the Education Manager for Children in Our Care. The Virtual Head's role is to ensure that the educational needs of all Children in our Care are being met and that levels of achievement and aspiration among our children and young people are raised. Termly briefings are held with a group of social workers, managers and Designated Teachers and Head Teachers to consider ways to improve achievement and attainment.

The Pupil Premium allowance, previously paid to schools to support Children in our Care to achieve in school, is managed by the Virtual Head who has a system in place to administer and ensure the money is spent appropriately to enhance educational achievements. The Virtual Head quality assures all Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

The Education Manager, where necessary, actively intervenes with Schools to promote the needs of children in Foster Care. As part of the preparation and assessment process and through the Foster Carer Agreement, Foster Carers are set a clear expectation that they will promote and support children's educational attainment. The ways in which Foster Carers meet children's educational needs are monitored through the foster carer review process and supervisory visits. Foster Carers regularly receive training around 'Promoting Educational Achievement for Children in Our Care'.

Letterbox Club is available for all children in our care from Reception to Year 6 to encourage reading at home. Books and games are sent out on a monthly basis which are age appropriate. Feedback has been very encouraging from the children who have stated that they enjoy receiving their parcels and carers have stated that they are encouraging their children to read.

Transitions

Children and young people in foster care are supported to make a positive transition to adult life and Foster Carers attend training on 'Transitions' which focuses on their role in developing young people's skills to live independently, as they progress towards adulthood. The Children in Our Care Team and the Fostering Service also encourage carers and young people to consider 'Staying Put' and the Leaving Care Service also delivers courses for Foster Carers to develop their understanding of this. The training has been positively evaluated by carers and most indicate a willingness to work with 'Staying Put'. The Leaving Care Service attends Reviews to discuss Staying Put with foster carers for young people aged 17 years.

The Leaving Care Service has the Investing in Children Award, and the Service was rated as 'Good' by Ofsted from the last 2017 inspection. The Service is also working hard to encourage and support care leavers into apprenticeships, of which there were three young people this Quarter. The Leaving Care Service has achieved Staying Put placements this Quarter, and also continues to offer supported lodgings and supported accommodation which increases choice for young people leaving foster care and residential placements in favour of semi-independence. The Nightsafe at St Silas project will be completed in Quarter 3 and Local Authority referrals will be managed by the Leaving Care Team. Participation levels continue to be good with young people being involved in interviewing and various training programmes.

The Leaving Care Service has eight advisors. Three advisors are working with the 16 to 18 year old age group resolving issues with accommodation, education, training and employment and Staying Put. Five advisors are providing advice and guidance to the 21 to 25 year old age group, and in addition, all advisors have a caseload of at least twenty 18 to 21 year olds for whom they provide general support.

Children and young people with disabilities who are in our care are also referred at 17 years of age to Adult Social Care for an assessment of need prior to turning 18 years, and there is a period of twelve months for planning to be undertaken around post 18 years provision.

Care Planning

The Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2015 provide a revised definition of 'permanence' for Children Looked After, including for the first time the definition of a long term foster placement. The responsibilities of the Local Authority in assessing the ability of the foster carer to meet the needs of the child now and in the future, and identifying any support services needed to achieve this are also set out. Local Authorities are required to achieve long term matching within reasonable timescales. The Regulations introduce new duties for ceasing to look after a child.

The Fostering Service

The Fostering Service is structured into three teams, including the Permanence Team, which launched on 1st July 2018. The Team completes all assessments of family members/connected persons from Child Protection to Public Law Outline pre-proceedings, and Care Proceedings, as highlighted in the Ofsted Action Plan. There are four full time Social Workers and one working four

days per week. The Special Guardianship Social Worker is part time and continues to experience capacity issues due to the increasing number of Special Guardianship applications. One Agency Social Worker has secured a full time, 12 month contact to remain within the Team to assist with the capacity of assessments.

There are currently 39 family and friends foster carers approved, with 3 approvals during this Quarter. There has been one resignation due to achieving permanence through a Special Guardianship Order. There remains a vast amount of assessments being completed, with 119 assessments in Quarter 2, which is an increase of 6 from last Quarter.

There are two mainstream Fostering Teams in the Service, who focus upon family finding, assessment and supervision of Foster Carers, alongside recruitment. There are 93 mainstream foster carers approved to provide placements for children in our care and 12 for short breaks.

Three members of the Team have reduced their hours permanently which has resulted in a full time position being recruited to and the successful candidate will commence in post in Quarter 3 due to the period of notice in her current post. One supervising social worker has returned from maternity leave, and there are two agency social workers in post until the end of January 2020. During this Quarter, the Journey to Foster training has been delivered by the Service as preparation training for potential foster carers.

Fostering Support Officer Roles:

There are two Fostering Support Officers undertaking very different roles.

One Fostering Support Worker remains located within the REVIVE Service to enable a more cohesive approach to supporting children, young people and foster carers, and to achieve improvements in placement stability rates. Fostering Support will continue to develop the Saturday Club for younger children in foster care. The venue of this Club moved to Earcroft Children's Centre last Quarter and has been a popular choice.

Another Fostering Support Officer provides direct practical and emotional support to our Family and Friends Foster Carers, while also supporting our Fostering Panel process. The Fostering Support role is invaluable to the Service and is hugely beneficial for those foster carers who have complex placements and require an enhanced level of fostering support.

Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention

The table of figures below shows a comparison of Quarter 2 over the last 3 years in terms of approval and conversion.

2017/18	Enquires	ROI	Approval	Conversion
Q2	61	6	1	10%

2018/19	Enquires	ROI	Approval	Conversion
Q2	47	10	2	21%

2019/20	Enquires	ROI	Approval	Conversion
Q2	42	6	2	14%

This Quarter has seen a lower than average number of enquiries, however this period is typically a quieter time than other months due to the summer holiday period in July and August. Out of the five Local Authorities that are supported by the 'front door' Service, we are currently sitting in second place when it comes to enquiries per 10,000 for Quarter 2. Enquiries and registration of interest often do not result in approvals due to examples such as housing and bedroom space, personal family circumstances, and employment commitments.

Enquiries	Tameside	Liverpool	Bolton	Rochdale	BWD
Total	2.28	3.61	3.64	6.85	3.99

There has been a focus this Quarter upon recruitment, new technology and different approaches alongside regular events such as weekly Costa Coffee drop in sessions. The photograph on the front page of this report shows two of the Service's skilled and experienced foster carers who are supporting our recruitment events. The focus is to have foster carers fronting drop in sessions and events from a peer support approach.

Our Recruitment and Marketing Officer has secured advertising for the Service at Blackburn Rovers for the 2019/20 season on the Jack Walker Stand. The aim has been to use technology teamed with being visible in the community.

One approach was enabling an increase in the spending on Google Advertising, keeping Blackburn with Darwen Fostering Service visible online and nearer to the top agencies when potential foster carers are searching online. This aims to make the Service more competitive and increases our presence on Google to attract new applicants.

Quarter 2 has also seen the introduction of corporate rate gym membership in the Borough for currently approved foster carers. This is a new incentive in terms of foster carer benefits and supports their mental health and physical well-being.

The Fostering Service has a positive retention record and this Quarter saw only four fostering households resign but with largely positive outcomes for the children. This was due to reasons such as having a successful Special Guardianship Order granted, Adoption, a change in personal circumstances and retirement.

Regional Campaign

The regional 'You Can Foster' recruitment campaign has been live since September 2016 and has helped generate enquiries via the You Can Foster website. During this Quarter we have been informed that the 'You Can Foster' service will end in 2020 for all Local Authorities who have currently signed up to this contract. The 'front door' service of accepting enquiries and being the initial point of contact for five North West Authorities, will also cease in 2020. Planning and discussion about this going forward has commenced.

Foster Carer Training

There has not been any training during this Quarter, which is typical of this time of year over the summer period and school holidays. This will commence again in Quarter 3.

Fostering Panel and Review Panel

Quality assurance reports are completed at the Fostering Panel by the panel advisor, chair and panel members and are then sent to the social workers and their managers. Evaluation questionnaires for

applicants and carers attending the Fostering Panel are offered at the end of the Panel. During Quarter 2, there has been an increase in the number of foster carers attending the Panel for their annual review and making a verbal and written contribution. There were 25 annual reviews held in Quarter 2. The main Fostering Panel saw 3 mainstream approvals this Quarter.

Complaints

There was one complaint received in this Quarter from a mainstream foster carer, about limited contact with the Service due to the sickness absence of the supervising social worker. This matter was promptly addressed by a visit from the Team Manager to the foster carers.

Compliments

There were five compliments received in Quarter 2. One from an Independent Reviewing Officer who stated 'I just wanted to acknowledge the outstanding love and care provided by carers for the young person in their care. Their input has benefited the young person immeasurably. The progression and future outcomes are huge.'

A further two compliments have been received from foster carers for the support provided by the fostering support workers on the Fostering Team and REVIVE Team, whilst their supervising social worker was on sickness absence.

A compliment was received from the Adoption Manager who stated, 'I have just finished reading the carers report for the child written by the foster carer. I have to say that it is one of the best in terms of detail and giving insight into a child that I have read'.

Another compliment received was from an applicant at a fostering information evening, thanking the Fostering Service for their communication and information received. They went on to state, 'I would firstly like to thank the two staff who delivered and facilitated the presentation. It was delivered professionally and with transparency, extremely informative and all questions and concerns were accommodated with etiquette and with due diligence'.

Allegations

There has been one allegation against a mainstream foster carer, which resulted in LADO involvement and a Strategy Discussion. The outcome was advice provided to the foster carer, and no further action taken.

Serious Illnesses and Accidents

There have been 13 accidents over Quarter 2, which included hospital visits in relation to low-level illness, asthma and one minor injury. There have been four minor falls recorded which were treated appropriately by the foster carers.

Bullying Reports

There have been no reports of bullying this Quarter.

Specific Incidents and Restraints

There has been recording in relation to one young person who had four incidents, which related to their mental health. The REVIVE Team and ELCAS have been involved and a risk management plan was put in place.

Missing From Home

There have been 16 reported missing from home occasions this Quarter, which involved 6 young people all in agency foster placements. All have been reported to the Engage Team.

Exemptions

There have been 3 exemptions made this Quarter, all noted at the main Fostering Panel, and they are monitored closely by the supervising social worker. The fostering support worker provides additional support and ensures that the children's views are heard and taken into account.

Engagement with Foster Carers

Blackburn with Darwen has a Foster Carer Association (FCA), which meets regularly and has an Elected Committee. The Chair of the FCA sits on the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group. The FCA has its own website, which is used to communicate messages and news updates about events. The foster carer support group also meets regularly and is attended by the Children's Services Elected Member.

At the request of foster carers, membership of the Fostering Network moved in Quarter 1 to Foster Talk, which provides similar services to support foster carers. Foster carers also have access to independent support commissioned from the Fostering Network to provide support and advocacy services in the event of complaints or allegations.

A small group of foster carers are recruitment champions, who help drive recruitment forward and are involved with planning events, Skills to Foster preparation training, and manning recruitment stands and events.

The Fostering Service holds a foster carer forum and the next is planned for November. The event offers carers the opportunity to present their views about a range of issues related to fostering and to be involved in the future development of the Service.

A meeting took place in this Quarter between Senior Management and the FCA to promote a positive working relationship and to allow communication of issues and areas for development.

Short Break Foster Care

There are 12 short breaks foster carers approved. Short break carers attended a support group, held on 17 July 2019. Carers enjoy attending and are able to explore and share experiences about their role and this is a positive form of support.

Commissioned Placements

The request for commissioned placements in Quarter 2 remains high in respect of both independent fostering agency placements and increasingly costly residential placements required for adolescents. One particular trend continuing into Quarter 2 has been the request for parent and child assessment placements through care proceedings. Such placements are independent, and the weekly costing is significant.

Sibling group placements remain an additional pressure on the availability of any in-house placement and the budget.

The table below gives an overview of the types of placements for children in our care, but primarily the number of agency foster care and independent residential provisions funded from the commissioning budget.

Placement Type	
Adoptive Placements	14
Foster Placements (in-house)	143
Foster Placements (agency)	68
Friends & Family	58
Placed with Parents	49
Independent Living	0
Children's Homes (in-house)	4
Children's Homes (agency)	28
Secure	0
Prison/HMYOI	1
NHS	1
Residential Accom Not Subject to CH Regulations	16
Other	19
Residential School	2

Budget

Current placement pressures in-house and across the independent fostering agency landscape continue to place the commissioning budget under pressure. The Case Tracking and Commissioning Panel monitors placements and ensures that there are robust plans for those that could be brought back to in-house provision. The financial position across both of these areas is closely monitored throughout the year, with an overspend already confirmed for this financial year due to the demands of the Service with the numbers of children in our care, placement sufficiency and stability.

New Service Priorities and Updates for 2019/20:

1. The Service has a target of recruiting between 25 and 30 new sets of foster carers in 2019/20. **Quarter 2 update.** Monthly recruitment meetings are taking place and new approaches are being used such as Google Advertising and foster carers taking more of a leading role at recruitment stands. There have been three foster carer households approved this Quarter. Recruitment initiatives remain a priority for the Service.
2. A Team Development Day will be an annual event to value and support the staff, and ensure specific training and development areas are actioned. **Quarter 2 update: A Team Development Day will take place in January/February 2020 when new staff members have commenced in post.** Staffing issues have meant that this day has been arranged for this timescale.
3. The Fostering Service will further consider the staffing ratio in the Permanence Team, to ensure the increase in referrals and demand for connected persons and SGO assessments can be met to avoid drift and delay. This will also include a review of the workload and capacity of the SGO Social

Worker role in offering post-SGO support to families and carers. **Quarter 2 update: A Business Case is being prepared for executive decision making around workforce issues within the Fostering Service and Children's Services as a whole. The proposal is to request an additional full time, SGO Social Worker.**

4. The Revive Team will be reviewed in terms of staffing, workload capacity and developing a review process for evidencing that outcomes are being met and the impact of their therapeutic involvement. This will enable the Service to manage the referrals and to identify when their involvement can cease as outcomes and objectives are met. **Quarter 2 update: A Revive Team Development Day took place in Quarter 1 and staffing, capacity and development was key to discussions on the day. There will be decision making between CSC and CAHMS management to ensure that any currently unfilled posts are recruited to, and that the Team is fully staffed to be able to respond to demand.**

5. Foster Carer training will continue to develop, led by a Fostering Team Manager. The Service will focus on the development of online training, and the overall training offer in line with Foster Carer feedback such as the addition of Parent and Child Training, and more specialist courses that will enhance carer skills. The objective is to increase engagement and attendance.

Quarter 2 update: Training will recommence in October 2019. Planning will take place with Child Action North West around a joint training offer.

6. The management team will continue to monitor compliance with Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards and will increase the number of case file audits completed each month to support this.

Quarter 2 Update – The monitoring of compliance is ongoing and is central to the Team Manager role. Protocol has been updated to reflect the needs of the Service and all aspects of fostering can now be recorded on the database which will help the completion of the dataset. The IT Data Workshop was attended during this Quarter with plans commencing for greater digitalisation of the Service and online fostering application forms. A review of social worker caseloads to assist the update of the foster carer register has also taken place.

7. Fostering Panel development – The membership list will be developed to address difficulties in sustaining the pool of independent and social work members. A Panel Member training day will be held with a focus on family and friends fostering.

Quarter 2 Update – Recruitment and training has already taken place for new panel membership and we now have a larger cohort of members to ensure approvals can be considered without delay, and more panels held where necessary. Although this action has been addressed, the recruitment of panel members is an ongoing area of focus for the Service.

8. A new Participation Officer will be recruited and interviews will take place in May 2019. It is proposed that this part time position will be in place no later than July 2019. Recommencing the VOICE Group will also be part of this specific role and will be re-launched.

Quarter 2 update: The new Participation Officer commenced in role this Quarter. A re-launch of the VOICE group event has taken place and groups will take place from January 2020.

9. Placement sufficiency and stability will be a key area of focus, with areas for learning taken from disruption meetings and case auditing. The support offer for foster carers will be reviewed, with recommendations made about service development going forward about how to preserve vulnerable placements and support an increase with in-house placements.

10. Planning will commence to look at a new proposal for the end of the commissioned fostering front door service, and how this will be replaced and replicated where possible, within the Service.

Pamela Price

Service Lead, Placements

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Environmental Services

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Environment and Operations

DATE: 13 February 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Environmental Services

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES ☒ NO ☐

SUBJECT: Contract for the sorting and processing of kerbside collected recyclables

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 To update the Executive Board on the procurement of the sorting and processing of kerbside collected recyclables and to seek the Executive Board to approve the appointment of the successful bidder as the contractor for the service and make relevant changes to the revenue budgets.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Executive Board:

- Approves the appointment of Bidder 2 as the successful bidder
- Notes that the Council shall review options to minimise costs and report the outcome to Finance Council

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The existing kerbside recycling collection and processing contract (begun in 2010) with BIFFA is due to end on 30th April 2020. As Members will be aware, the collection service will be moving in-house and a procurement process was followed to secure sorting and subsequent processing of the collected materials. As a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), the Council has a legal duty to arrange for disposal of municipal waste and recycling from the Borough, and hence this contract is required.

3.2 The Council entered into a 10-year contract with BIFFA in 2010 for collection and processing and this contract will end in 2020. Following soft market testing, a procurement exercise was undertaken to procure a new collection and processing contractor. However for various factors, this did not yield any bids and the decision was taken to bring the collection service in house, and to progress with a sorting and processing contract.

3.3 Market conditions have markedly changed since 2010 and waste management companies all expressed the same view that they are no longer able to accept market risk on commodity prices for recyclables. They also required the Council to take risk (disposal costs) arising from non-recyclable items placed in recycling bins by residents. Reflecting this current and likely ongoing market uncertainty, the Council decided to procure a shorter 3 year contract, with an option to extend the

contract for up to 3 further years.

3.4 The scope of the contract is the acceptance of delivered loads of kerbside collected recyclables and the subsequent haulage, processing and end market reprocessing of the treated materials.

3.5 Soft market testing also indicated that the Council would likely benefit from increased market interest, bids, and lower contract costs if an option was included which collected fibre (paper and card) separately from glass, cans and plastic (DMR). This is because of the now restricted end markets available to fibre 'contaminated' with glass and/or with a higher moisture content (from the other DMR items), as well as the lower subsequent processing costs.

3.6 The Council received 2 bids in response to the contract notice by the closing date of 22nd November 2019, from Bidder 1 and also Bidder 2. Bidder 1 was a non-compliant bid. The remaining and winning bid, from Bidder 2, was evaluated and obtained a high quality score of 34% (out of a possible 35%), a further 4% were allocated to Social Value (out of a possible 5%).

3.7 The bid from Bidder 2 was also evaluated on price and being a compliant bid, was scored a maximum mark of 60, giving them a total score of 98%.

3.8 Council Officers met with representatives from Bidder 2, to clarify their bid in a number of areas, affecting pricing and processing, with the resultant feedback satisfactory to the Council.

3.9 The Executive Board recommendation is to award the contract to Bidder 2.

3.10 The bid contains a number of options for the service that could result in savings for the Council which will be explored and reported back to Finance Council.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

4.1 The Council was aware that the tender may only attract a small number of bids, since the waste management companies who can provide the service needed, are small in number, as they would be required to have a site within or local to the Borough, and a network of off-take contractors available to take the materials into various reprocessing facilities across. The Council was not and is not in a position to provide a transfer station for the use of all interested bidders, in order to attract more bids.

4.2 The Council was also aware that many Councils are placing contracts on the market at this time and hence bidders have to pick and choose carefully where they allocate their limited procurement resources.

4.3 Under the terms of the contract, the service cost will be adjusted with the contractor every 3 months in line with the payment mechanism. The key determinants will be the commodity prices, as measured and published independently by Letsrecycle.

4.4 The Council is aware that if it fails to minimise contamination (non-recyclable materials) being placed in the recycling bin, it will see the costs of recycling increase.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council is undertaking its procurement in line with council policies, its statutory duties and seeking to divert waste from landfill.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The current contract price with BIFFA includes kerbside collection as well as sorting, haulage and processing. Moreover, the pricing mechanism and contract terms are different, hence a direct comparison with the new contract rates is not directly possible.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council is acting in its capacity as a Waste Disposal Authority.

7.2 The procurement process was in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

7.3 All contracts and contract variations will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The existing resources within the council will administer this contract.

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

10.1 Soft market testing consultations were undertaken with a number of potential service providers prior to the commencement of the procurement process.

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:	Tony Watson
DATE:	22 January 2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Held by the author, but including the Lancashire Municipal Waste Management Strategy

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Environmental Services

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Environment and Operations

DATE: 13th February 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Environmental Services

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES ☒ NO ☐

SUBJECT: Replacement of vehicles for the Environment and Highways Teams

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council's vehicle replacement programme has identified that the Environment and Highways Teams have a number of vehicles that are too old and need replacing and have a number of hired vehicles on the fleet.

The Environment Street Cleansing Team has two bulky collection vehicles that are thirteen years old and need replacing. The Environment Pest Control Team has two vehicles that are fourteen and sixteen years old that need replacing.

The Highways team has two 7.5 tonne tippers that are 16 and 17 years old and need replacing. There are five 3.5 tonne tippers that are hired in and need replacing with our own fleet vehicles. There is a gritter and a Blacksmiths van that are both 14 years old and need replacing. The telescopic loadall that is shared by Highways and the Environment Team is currently hired in and needs replacing with our own fleet vehicle. There is also a van that is 14 years old and a minibus used by the Parking Team that is 14 years old and both need replacing.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Executive Board;

1. authorise the replacement of these old and hired vehicles as part of the Council's vehicle replacement programme and
2. authorise an initial increase in the capital programme of £532,000 in respect of the estimated costs, but note that following purchase, Officers would seek to enter into a 'sale and leaseback arrangement' if it was financially beneficial to do so.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council has two frontline vehicles that are utilised for bulky collections, fly tipping and bin deliveries throughout the Borough. The two vehicles are now thirteen years old and becoming increasingly unreliable with increased maintenance costs, resulting in the vehicles being off the road, replacement considered for hiring in at additional costs, plus also lost productivity for the aforementioned collections. These vehicles must be fit for purpose to ensure that the work is completed and income generated from the bulky collection service and trade waste service, as well as ensure that fly tipping is removed in a speedy fashion.

The Council has four frontline vehicles that are utilised by the Environment Pest Control team. Two of these vehicles are thirteen and sixteen years old and becoming increasingly unreliable with increased maintenance

costs resulting in the vehicles being off the road, replacement considered for hiring in at additional costs, plus also lost productivity for staff who are unable to attend appointments made for residents who report pest infestations. For one of these vehicles, we can no longer procure certain parts for and the other is at the stage where it is no longer economically viable to keep spending money on maintenance.

The Highways Team has a fleet of tippers that it utilises for the repair and maintenance of the roads and footpaths within the borough. Two of these are 16 and 17 years old and becoming increasingly unreliable, resulting in the vehicles being off the road, which has a knock on effect on productivity. Five of these tippers are hired in and while the hire vehicles are fit for purpose, they are not the most economical way of providing the service with vehicles.

Purchasing Council owned vehicles through the Capital Leasing Programme would see a significant saving over the five-year period even after taking in to account the extra associated costs for tax, tyres and parts. These costs would be nominal for the first three years due to the three-year's warranty placed on the vehicles by the dealerships. Should the Highways Team need to reduce in size over the coming years then five other tippers could be returned to the leasing companies.

The Highways team has a fleet of six gritters and a loading shovel for loading the salt. The oldest gritter is almost 15 years old and is becoming unreliable. Replacing this would also free up the newer demountable gritter so that it can be used for carrying tarmac during the winter periods without the need for keep swapping over the demountable bodies. The loading shovel that is currently hired in is used for loading the gritters with salt, loading the tippers with stone and used by the Environment Team in the Waste Transfer Station. This is not the most economical way of providing a vehicle and significant savings would be achieved from purchasing a Council owned vehicle.

The Highways Team has a box van that is used by the Blacksmiths and is almost 15 years old and becoming increasingly unreliable. The corrosion on the underside of the vehicle is at the point where extensive plating and welding will be required in the future and is at the stage where it is no longer economically viable to keep spending money on maintenance.

The Highways Parking Team have a minibus that is also almost 15 years old and needs replacing due to reliability issues. At the same time, the Head of Highways would like to purchase an electric van to replace the 65-plate van currently used by the Parking team. The 65-plate van would then be utilised by the Highways supervisors in place of their current van that is almost 15 years old.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The main cause for concern in not replacing these vehicles would be reliability, which could result in a shortage of vehicles to provide the services, thus affecting service delivery around the borough and jeopardising the income generated by the Department, as well as customer service.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Priority 6 for the council identifies that the council will 'make your money go further', which this report aims to provide.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated capital costs of the replacement of the vehicles is £532,000.

The Council would seek to finance the purchase of the new vehicles through a "sale and lease back" deal. Assuming this was the best option, the Council would lease the vehicles over a five-year period, with the lease costs to be borne by the Environment and Highways revenue budgets.

If leasing was not the most economic or a viable option, the Council would finance the vehicles through prudential borrowing. The Environment and Highways budgets would then be adjusted to finance this cost.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council as a Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) has a legal duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide waste collection and disposal services in the borough.

A procurement exercise will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules and Contracts shall be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement Team.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The procurement of the new vehicles can be accommodated within 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. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultation with the Head of Environment, Head of Highways and the Highways Operations manager has taken place to identify the best option going forward to deliver the service.

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
-----------------	----------

CONTACT OFFICER:	Martin Eden, Director of Environment and Operations Neil Bolton, Fleet Transport Manager
DATE:	05/12/19

**BACKGROUND
PAPER:**

Procurement guidelines for the Council.

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Executive Member for Growth and Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Growth & Development

DATE: Thursday, 13 February 2020

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

Climate Emergency Action Plan

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and set a target to be carbon neutral by 2030. This report presents for consideration a draft Action Plan to support the Council's carbon neutral ambitions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- i. Approve the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan, enclosed at Annex 1;
- ii. Note the intention to hold a local Citizens' Inquiry on the Climate Emergency;
- iii. Note the proposal to submit the Action Plan to the Council Forum meeting in March;
- iv. Request an annual update report on progress in delivering the Action Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

A special report, published in 2018 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, warned that there is just a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a minimum of 1.5°C if substantial consequences for the planet and people are to be avoided. The report triggered a reaction around the world and led to local and national governments declaring a climate emergency and setting targets to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by between 2030 and 2050. The UK's national government and devolved administrations have done so, along with almost 70% of UK local authorities.

Blackburn with Darwen Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and set a target to be carbon neutral by 2030. The attached draft Action Plan sets out what the Council has done to date to tackle climate change and the actions it proposes to take to achieve its carbon neutral goal.

The actions are set out under the objectives for the plan, which are to:

- Make sound climate-related decisions;
- Create a resilient & attractive Borough;
- Be lean & clean with resources and energy;
- Travel lightly; and
- Capture more carbon

Some of the actions are already underway. Councillor Jane Oates has been appointed Climate Change Champion, procurement processes are being reviewed and the Council's Local Plan is being updated. Others need more development work and agreement with residents and partners. The Action Plan will evolve as costs, benefits and resources change, and new priorities emerge.

A Citizen's Inquiry into the climate emergency is scheduled for Spring 2020. This involves a representative group of local residents in discussing, hearing evidence and making proposals that will help inform the Council's Action Plan and the everyday actions of residents, businesses and partners. A third party is commissioned to run the Inquiry. They will randomly invite a large number of individuals and systematically recruit a group of around 30 that reflects the diversity of the Borough's population. The process is guided by an Oversight Committee of key stakeholders, including the Council.

Implementation of the Action Plan will be overseen by an officer working group, co-opting members from external organisations as required on a task and finish basis. The group will report to the Council's Management Board through the Director of Growth & Development. Interim progress reports will be made to the Executive Member for Finance & Governance with annual updates provided to the Executive Board.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Production of an Action Plan is a requirement of the Council's climate emergency declaration. It is a statement of what is required if the borough is to be carbon neutral by 2030. The main risk to the Plan is lack of finance needed to deliver the changes required. It is important, therefore, to work in partnership with residents, business and other sectors to find solutions, and to persuade Government of the need to both support and invest in places committed to delivering change. Production of the action plan fulfils one of the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration pledges.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Action Plan needs to be acknowledged as a key part of the Council's policy framework, informing and being informed by the Corporate Plan and its underpinning strategies, including the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the plan has financial implications that will have to be weighed against the Council's other priorities as detailed business plans for each action emerge.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Governance structures will need to be put in place to oversee the implementation of the plan.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Time, expertise and commitment will be required from both officers and members Officer to implement the Action Plan.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

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.

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.

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.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Gwen Kinloch, gwen.kinloch@blackburn.gov.uk
DATE:	20/01/2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	



FOREWORD

Climate change has been recognised as one of the gravest threats ever faced by humankind. It needs to be addressed in an urgent manner.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has declared a climate emergency and set a goal to be net carbon neutral by 2030 to tackle climate change.

Across the Borough, the Council and partners have already made progress and taken steps to address climate change. From encouraging residents to recycle more, to take up energy efficiency grants to help with the cost of installing loft and cavity wall insulation and to cycle more.

However, tackling climate change requires everybody - local authorities, communities, government and businesses - to take action together. This, our first Climate Change Action Plan, has been developed to steer action across Blackburn with Darwen and deliver on our Corporate Plan objective to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Action Plan sets out what needs to be done in the local area to contribute to the battle against climate change through resource efficiency, emissions reductions and behavioural change to help reduce future climate change and to adapt to the climate change impacts which are already inevitable.



People: A good quality of life for all of our residents

Place: Community pride in a vibrant place to live and visit

Economy: A strong and inclusive economy with continued growth

Council: Delivered by a strong and resilient council

FOREWORD

The Council has outlined the following objectives:

- » **Sound Decisions** – To use resources sustainably so as not to add to the burden of climate change emissions in Blackburn with Darwen or elsewhere
- » **Resilient & attractive borough** – To align policy to climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives to create sustainable places where people want to live, work and visit and capture the benefits to health and the economy from the move to a climate-friendly borough
- » **Lean and clean** – To use energy more efficiently and generate more locally from renewable sources; cut waste and improve recycling
- » **Travelling lightly** – To make and facilitate the transition to cleaner, greener fuels and more active travel;
- » **Capturing more carbon** – To store carbon naturally by increasing tree cover, protecting soils and enhancing natural habitats.

We cannot do this alone. We will hold a Citizens' Inquiry to identify actions that individuals, communities, organisations and decision-makers could take and we will work with other bodies in the public, private and voluntary sector to learn what they may already be doing to tackle climate change. We know too, that Blackburn with Darwen is just a small part of the problem and we need action at national and international level to help us reach our carbon neutral target. The Council will lobby Government for the support it needs. The plan will evolve to reflect actions being taken across the Borough and we will report progress annually to full Council.



Denise Park
Denise Park
Chief Executive



V McGurk
Councillor Vicky McGurk
Executive Member for Finance and Resources

ACTION SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will:

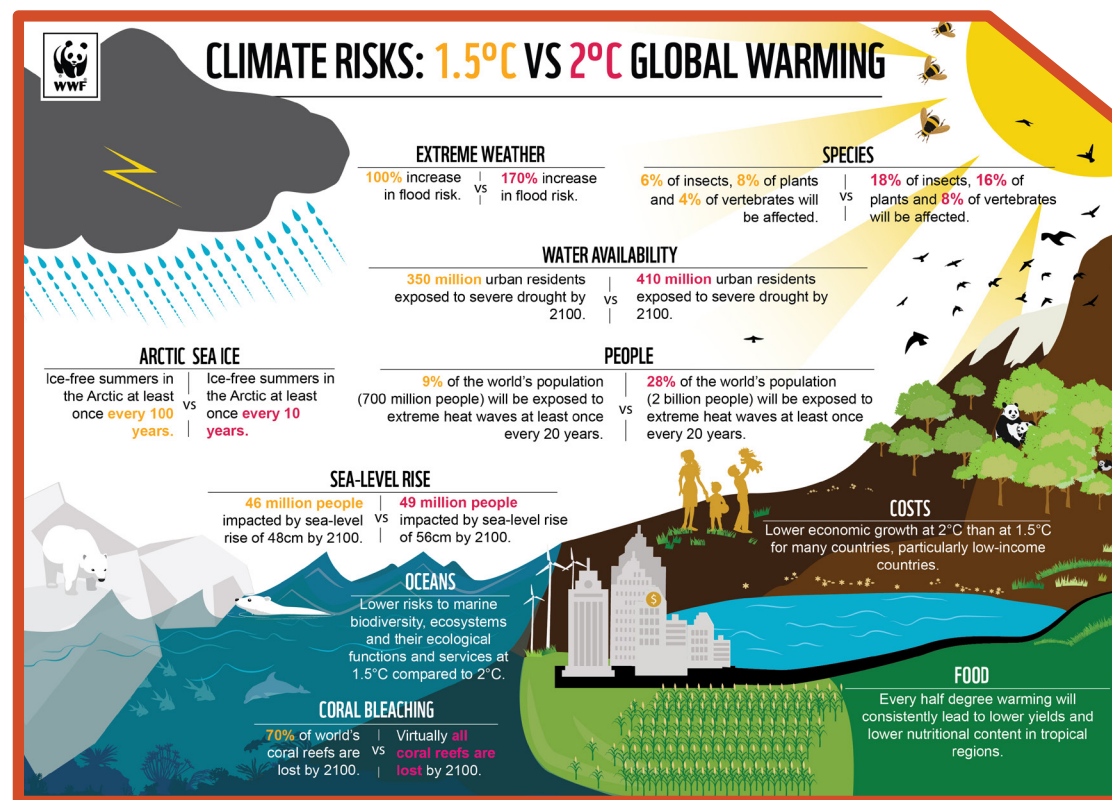
Sound Decisions	Account for emissions in decision making
	Revise procurement policies and procedures to ensure environmental impact is considered as part of all major procurements.
Resilient & Attractive Borough	Align Council policy with our climate emergency objectives
	Review and update our plan to adapt to the changing climate to ensure a resilient borough
	Take what steps we can to facilitate improvement of homes in the borough to reduce emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
	Exploit the opportunities arising from the move to a low carbon economy
Lean & Clean	Invest in clean energy and efficiency measures throughout the Council estate and support renewable energy generation in the borough
	Reduce the household waste generated in the borough, increase recycling and maximise the benefit from residual waste
Travelling Lightly	Reduce emissions from transport and increase active travel
Capture more carbon Basis for change	Work with landowners to plant more trees and protect and enhance natural carbon stores
	Work with residents and partners to raise awareness of and to take action to tackle climate change
	Identify a Climate Emergency Champion and provide regular reports on action plan progress to Council and residents
	Actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target

INTRODUCTION

The Earth is warming up fast – faster than any other time in the planet’s history. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal, have caused global temperatures to rise by almost 1°C above pre-industrial levels. This degree of difference is causing more extreme weather events and sea level rises worldwide, putting people and the environment at risk.

In 2015 world nations, including the UK, signed up to the [Paris Agreement](#) to keep global temperature rise to well below 2°C and make every effort to keep the rise to no more than 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions”.

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that global warming is on track to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 and 3-5°C by the end of the century, if it continues to increase at the current rate. Limiting it to 1.5°C to avoid catastrophic impacts on natural and human systems requires rapid and far-reaching action across all sectors NOW.



The difference in the impacts of just 0.5°C are shown in the above infographic:

In response to the IPCC report the UK, in June 2019, passed [laws](#) to end its contribution to global warming, setting a target to be net carbon zero by 2050. This means any emissions would be balanced by schemes to offset an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, such as planting trees to capture and store carbon dioxide.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The UK makes a relatively small contribution to global emissions of greenhouse gases – just 1.1% of total emissions. In 2018, each person in the UK was responsible for 5.5 tonnes of CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere. The UK is also a net importer of emissions from other countries that produce food, goods and services on our behalf, increasing each person's emissions by at least 50%.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has long been aware of climate change and taken steps to cut emissions and adapt to more extreme weather. But, the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing it from happening must be humanity's number one priority. The Council recognises it is part of the problem and needs to transform how it operates and change mind-sets if it is to redress the balance between climate-related considerations and other, often competing, priorities. Protecting the environment is the top priority for young people in Blackburn with Darwen, as identified by the 2019 Making Your Mark Campaign. The Council needs, with other local authorities, to show leadership in taking action. It remains, of course, the role of national Government to improve leadership and coordination over UK climate policy implementation.

In acknowledgement of the urgency of the situation the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to work with residents and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

The [Declaration](#) made by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in July 2019, in summary, notes that:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world;
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has already made some positive progress, but this is not enough. More can and must be done;
- Action from all parts of society is necessary and local government has a responsibility to lead the way.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The Council believes that:

- All levels of government (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown. Local councils that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority;
- Bold local climate action can deliver economic and social benefits in terms of new green jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as much improved well-being for Blackburn with Darwen residents.

The Council decides to:

- Declare a Climate Emergency
- Commit to a target of making Blackburn with Darwen carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- Request an update report within six months setting out the immediate actions the Council has taken and will take to address this emergency and meet the 2030 target.
- Work with partners across our towns and across the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans and drawing on local and global best practice.
- Actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan sits alongside and informs the Council's principal plans strategies which, collectively, deliver our Corporate Plan objectives, in particular, reducing our carbon footprint, creating a safe and clean place to live and visit, and promoting pride in the area and environment.



THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES AND THEIR SOURCES

Greenhouse gases are essential for life on Earth, but in too great quantities, they are responsible for the excess warming of the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the dominant driving force in global warming and accounts for about 80% of the UK's greenhouse gases. Atmospheric levels are higher than they have ever been and rising.²

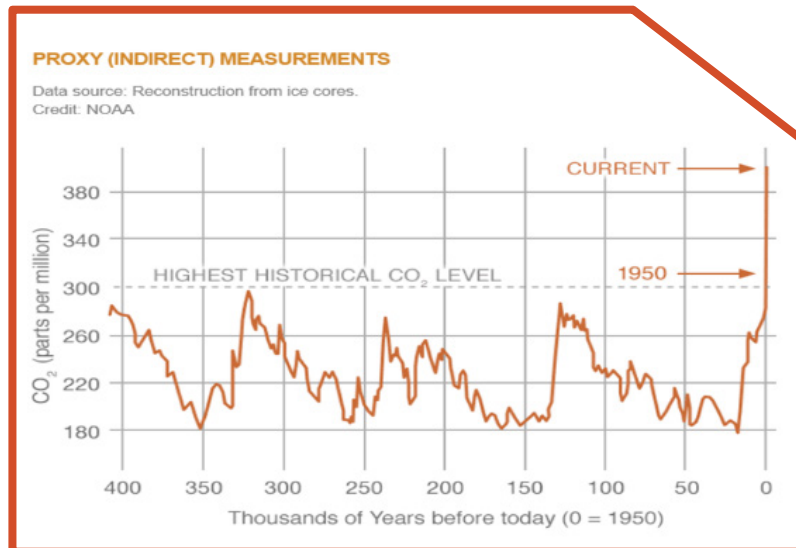
Greenhouse gases are released when we burn fossil fuel to generate the energy needed to power and heat our homes, businesses, schools and hospitals, produce goods and services, supply and dispose of water and transport people and merchandise. Greenhouse gases are also released from ploughing the soil, from deforestation, waste disposal sites and belching livestock.

From production to consumption, food is responsible for 30% of global emissions and has many negative environmental impacts, such as dependence on fossil fuels, loss of biodiversity and depletion of natural resources.

The UK, in 2017, emitted 460 million tonnes of greenhouse gases from the sources shown³. Emissions are down 43% on 1990 levels, mainly because the UK has swapped coal for renewable energy from sun and wind to generate electricity. Provisional figures for 2018 suggest the downward trend is continuing. Emissions from transport, however, continue to buck the trend, having risen 6% in the last three decades, as ever increasing mileage wipes out the benefit of more fuel-efficient vehicles.

These figures do not include imported goods, which are accounted for where they are made, or international shipping and aviation. Reducing emissions from shipping is possible, but cutting emissions from aviation is likely to happen only with a reduction in demand for flying⁴.

Emissions from Blackburn with Darwen have fallen as a result of the changes in how electricity is generated and because electrical equipment, homes and cars have become more energy efficient. In 2017, 624,000 tonnes of CO₂ were emitted Blackburn with Darwen homes, road transport and industry and commerce.



² NASA The Causes of Climate Change <https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

³ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy: 2017 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-2017

⁴ Bows-Larkin, A., Traut, M., Gilbert, P., Mander, S., Walsh, C., & Anderson, K. (2012). Aviation and shipping - privileged again? (Tyndall Centre Briefing note 47). Manchester: Manchester University.

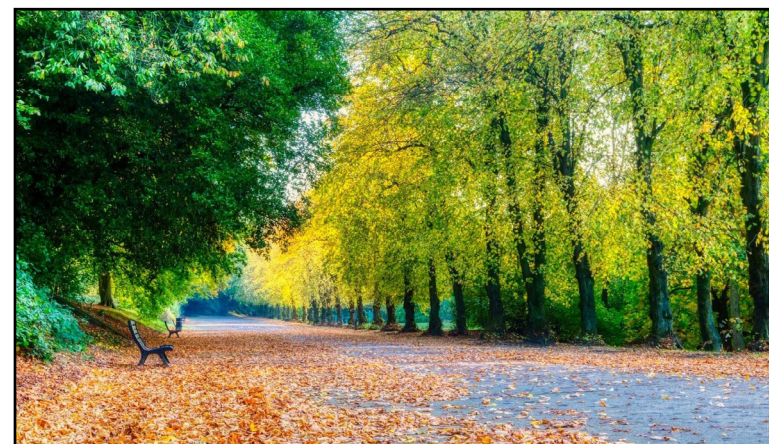
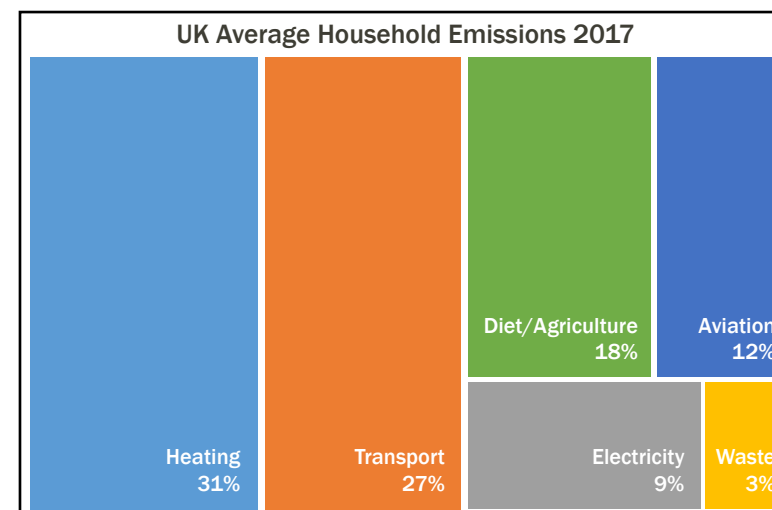
THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES AND THEIR SOURCES

The sector split in the borough is:

Sector	BwD	UK
Domestic	34%	27%
Transport	26%	36%
Industry & Commerce	41%	37%

Households were responsible for one-quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2017, an average of around 9 tonnes per household. Increasing car ownership and number of flights taken are thought to be the reasons why emissions by household have not been falling in recent years.

Open green space in the town and countryside, forestry and agriculture all have a vital role to play in capturing and storing carbon. The land in Blackburn with Darwen held at least 4,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2017, as well as providing vital habitat for wildlife, and services for people such as recreation, shade and flood defence.



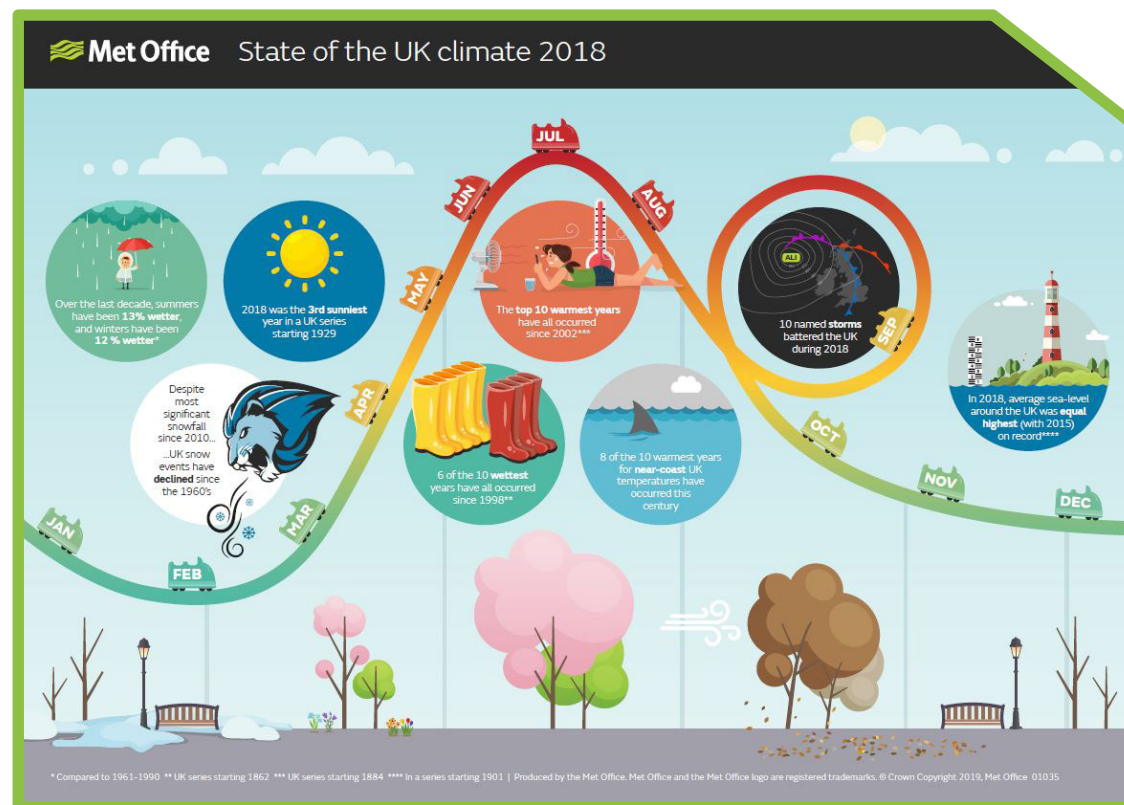
THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already affecting the UK and other countries around the world⁵ as a consequence of rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought, extreme rainfall, and coastal flooding.

The main threats are:

- **Flooding risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;**
- **Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;**
- **Risk of shortages in the water supply for people agriculture and industry;**
- **Risks to wildlife and habitats**
- **Risks to food production**

Vulnerable people, whether because of age, disability, ill health or low income, tend to be more badly affected by climate change. For example, the number of deaths increased around the same time as the hottest day on record (July 2019) in the UK⁶. This could be because the most vulnerable people such as those with pre-existing respiratory or cerebrovascular diseases are more susceptible to death during heatwaves.



⁵ www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-headline-findings-2.pdf

⁶ Office for National Statistics, Do summer Heatwaves Lead to an Increase in Deaths? Oct 2019 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/articles/dosummerheatwavesleadtoanincreaseindeaths/2019-10-07

WHAT THE COUNCIL IS ALREADY DOING

The Council has addressed the risks and pursued the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through its role as:

- Community leader – helping local people to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts;
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are energy efficient

The Council's Corporate Plan requires all departments to take active steps to reduce our carbon footprint and create a safe and clean environment. Strategic plans, particularly its land use and transport plans, contain policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, the risk of flooding from river and surface water must be assessed and suitable mitigation measures put in place; charge points to help the transition to electric vehicles are normally a condition of large, new development.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is part of Cosy Homes in Lancashire ([CHiL](#)), a collaboration of Lancashire local authorities that delivers domestic energy efficiency schemes pan-Lancashire. CHiL works to improve the energy efficiency of Lancashire homes, address health inequalities exacerbated by living in cold damp homes, reduce fuel poverty, tackle seasonal excess deaths and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector.

Electric vehicle charge points have been installed in 5 public car parks in Blackburn and Darwen to help the transition to electric vehicles. A range of multi-modal transport schemes, funded by the Council's Local Transport Plan to improve rail (Blackburn to Manchester rail services), bus (Pennine Reach), walking and cycling infrastructure and services (Weavers Wheel) have been progressed. The Council is delivering the Connecting East Lancashire project to promote and encourage sustainable transport choices.



WHAT THE COUNCIL IS ALREADY DOING

Insulation, first time central heating and new boilers have been installed in the homes of some of the borough's most vulnerable residents, providing more comfortable living conditions and taking them out of fuel poverty as well as reducing emissions. These schemes have been made possible by the availability of funding initially from national government and now through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme. Improvements carried out in the borough in 2017 saved at least 627 tonnes of CO₂. CHiL also offers residents in the region access to energy efficiency grants, affordable heating solutions, energy advice and support on a range of money saving energy measures to help residents heat and insulate their homes.

The amount of household waste sent to landfill instead of recycling, composting or energy from waste has a marked effect on emissions of greenhouse gases. Today, residents generate 30% less waste than they did in 2006/07, but also recycle very much less. Indeed, the recycling rate in Blackburn with Darwen at 30% is one of the lowest in the country. If the residual waste can't be incinerated for energy then it is sent to landfill and emissions increase markedly. The Council has launched a campaign and is preparing an action plan to increase the recycling rate to 65% and send 70% of residual waste to an energy from waste plant by 2030. In 2019, the Council granted planning permission for an Energy to Waste plant to be constructed in Lower Darwen. The plant will generate enough electricity to power every home in the borough.

Between 2014 and 2016 the Council replaced 17,500 street lamps in the Borough with LEDs, cutting primary electricity consumption by 5 million kilowatt hours (62%) and CO₂ emissions by 2,600 tonnes a year.

Since 2005 the Council has cut emissions from its own buildings by a third by encouraging staff to use energy wisely and installing energy efficient equipment such as LEDs, new boilers and voltage optimisation.

Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up is Blackburn with Darwen's food, physical activity and healthy weight strategy to tackle health inequalities which aims, amongst other things, to reduce food waste and the carbon footprint of the food system. UK households throw away approximately 7 million tonnes of food, most of which could have been eaten, £450 worth per household or £700 for a family with children⁷. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions it would be the equivalent of taking 1 in 4 cars off the road if all food waste was eliminated.

In addition to acting to mitigate the impact of its activities on climate change, the Council must reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change that are inevitable due to past and current greenhouse gas emissions. Adapting to climate change is essential if the borough is to remain resilient in the face of the changing climate. Actions that the Council is taking to adapt are outlined in its [Adaptation Strategy](#), which is to be updated in 2020.

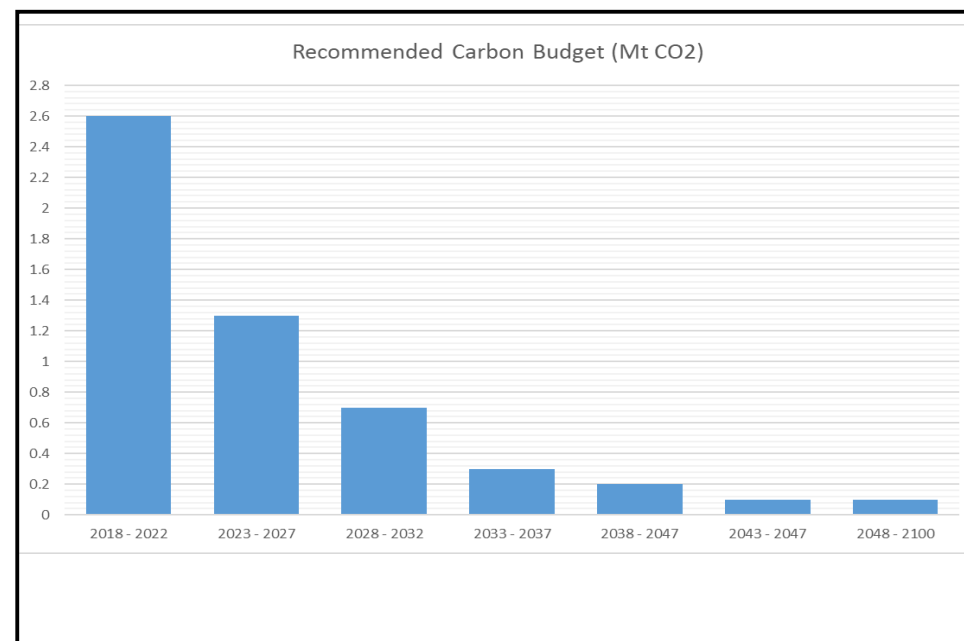
⁷ Eat Well Move More Shape Up Blackburn with Darwen's Food Physical Activity and Healthy Weight Strategy 2017 – 2020

CARBON REDUCTION PATHWAY

In spite of past activity much more needs to be done and more quickly. The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Manchester⁸ has calculated carbon budgets for every local authority in England. For Blackburn with Darwen to make its fair contribution towards a global temperature target of 1.5°C, the borough needs to stay within 4 million tonnes of CO₂ between 2020 and 2100. At current emission levels the budget will be used up in 7 years so a 13% reduction every year is needed, about 81,000 tonnes in the first year.

Local authorities are well placed to drive and influence action on climate change through the services they deliver, their regulatory and strategic functions, and their roles as community leaders, major employers and large-scale procurers. However, it is not all in the Council's control or sphere of influence, nor does the authority have the resource and expertise to tackle everything. It is important to work in partnership with residents, particularly young people, business and other sectors to find solutions and to be prepared to lobby government on the big issues that need a national or even an international response.

Partner organisations will include East Lancs Hospital Trust, Blackburn College, the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Blackburn Hive, the Environment Agency, social landlords, Council for Voluntary Services, Transdev, faith groups, Electricity NW, United Utilities, youth groups, and neighbouring councils.



⁸ Dr Jaise Kuriakose, Dr Chris Jones, Prof Kevin Anderson, Dr John Broderick & Prof Carly McLachlan, Setting Climate Commitments for Blackburn with Darwen, Quantifying the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement for Blackburn with Darwen, November 2019

ACTION PLAN

The Council intends to be pro-active in tackling climate change, taking what action it can, encouraging others to take action and lobbying government to provide the support needed to help the borough be carbon neutral by 2030.

This plan sets out the main proposals and initial actions that the Council intends to take, underpinned by the following objectives:

- Sound Decisions – To use resources sustainably so as not to add to the burden of climate change emissions in Blackburn with Darwen or elsewhere.
- Resilient & attractive borough – To align policy to climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives to create sustainable places where people want to live, work and visit and capture the benefits to health and the economy from the move to a climate-friendly borough.
- Lean and clean – To use energy more efficiently and generate more locally from renewable sources; cut waste and improve recycling.
- Travelling lightly – To make and facilitate the transition to cleaner, greener fuels and more active travel.
- Capturing more carbon – To store carbon naturally by increasing tree cover, protecting soils and enhancing natural habitats.

To provide the basis for change we must aim for:

- Wider understanding of the climate emergency
- Stronger partnerships and networks
- Adequate resourcing of the investment needed to match the scale of the challenge
- Evidence informed action and sound governance



ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan will deliver on the Council's Corporate Plan ambition to enable residents to achieve a good quality of life in a vibrant and thriving place, with strong community values and an inclusive society. All of the actions have benefits other than cutting emissions of carbon dioxide, such as to health from better air quality, more active travel and healthier diets, reductions in fuel poverty, economic regeneration and creation of local jobs, and lower energy bills. Furthermore, increasing resilience to climate change risks can result in avoided costs from flood damage to buildings, infrastructure and services, enhanced green spaces and improved health. We recognise that there may be tensions between conflicting goals that we will have to resolve as we implement our plan. We may also be limited in our ambition if the national policy context is not strengthened and no additional resources are made available.

Our Plan is a preliminary document to be developed in collaboration with residents and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Our proposals will be subject to more detailed investigation to determine costs, benefits and priorities and to enable the Council to set out a comprehensive timetable for action, investment and lobbying. We want to share intelligence and secure locally determined contributions from all sectors to help meet our carbon neutral objective and incorporate actions by partners into the plan.

Our preliminary Action Plan is set out below. We propose to open dialogue with partners and residents, beginning with a Citizens' Inquiry, early in 2020. The review of our internal procedures to ensure CO₂ emissions are accounted for in decisions is already underway. The work needed to produce business plans for each action will get underway from early in 2020.



www.imperial.ac.uk/news/190946/things-about-climate-change/

ACTION PLAN

Page 64

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Sound Decisions	We will account for emissions in decision making	<p>The Council recognises that its decision making processes don't currently achieve an adequate balance between climate change related considerations and other priorities. We are committed to improving our processes to improve how we account for carbon in our decisions. We propose to review and revise our internal reporting and procurement procedures to help us identify sources of emissions, and the most cost-effective ways to reduce them. The Council is developing a new Social Value policy in which environmental considerations will play an important factor.</p> <p>The Council will find the most appropriate and cost-effective means of providing training for staff and elected members in support of procedural changes.</p> <p>Directors of Public Health will publish a climate emergency section in their Annual Public Health Reports</p>	By mid-2020
	We will revise procurement policies and procedures to ensure environmental impact is considered as part of all major procurements		On-going
			From 2020/21
Resilient & Attractive Borough	We will align Council policy with our climate emergency objectives	As plans and strategies are prepared the Council will ensure that they address its climate change objectives. These include its departmental service plans as well as its Financial Strategy and statutory plans such as the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan (LTP4), both of which are in the process of being updated. The Council recognises that the Local Plan is the vehicle to set a consistent framework on many key climate change and related matters.	In line with timescales for plan preparation e.g. Local Plan: Examination early 2021
	We will review and update our plan to adapt to the changing climate to ensure a resilient borough	The Council's Adaptation Strategy will be reviewed in the light of the latest UK climate projections and the associated action plan updated.	September 2020

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Resilient & Attractive Borough	We will take what steps we can to facilitate improvement of homes in the borough to reduce emissions and tackle fuel poverty	A large part of the Borough's housing stock is in poor condition and energy inefficient. Some 14% of households live in fuel poverty, meaning more than 10% of their income is spent on energy bills. Responsibility for the energy efficiency of a dwelling lies with the owner or the landlord. The Council will continue to work with partners to secure funds, provide advice, promote the benefits of energy efficiency measures and enforce minimum standards in the private rented sector.	On-going
		The Council is preparing a Fuel Poverty Strategy to guide where it should focus its limited resources and identify where additional assistance from Government is needed.	June 2020
		The Council will continue to work with Lancashire local authorities and the County Council through Cosy Homes in Lancashire to secure Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding to undertake energy efficiency measures that improve living conditions for vulnerable people and those on low incomes.	On-going
	We will exploit the opportunities arising from the move to a low carbon economy	Decarbonisation of energy and development of the circular economy are major opportunities for clean development and new jobs and skills. The Council will use its influence with the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and other local/national public/private partners to progress technology and relevant product and process innovation to support changes required. It will work through networks, such as the Hive, and Growth Lancashire to identify champions who will encourage the business sector to cut emissions from all parts of its operation, including transport and supply chains.	From 2020 On-going

ACTION PLAN

Page 66

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Lean & Clean	We will invest in clean energy and efficiency measures throughout the Council estate and support renewable energy generation in the borough	The Council will assess its estate to identify opportunities for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations. It will draw up business plans to help it identify the costs and benefits and prepare an investment plan to 2030.	December 2020
		The Council will work with partners to identify opportunities for renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures in the borough and prepare an investment plan to 2030 for viable schemes.	December 2021
	We will reduce the waste generated in the borough, increase recycling and maximise the benefit from residual waste	The Council has an objective to increase its recycling rate from 30% to 65% by 2030, reducing contamination by separation of recyclables and sending the residual waste to an energy-from-waste plant. An action plan to achieve this goal is being prepared and the publicity campaign is already underway.	From 2023
		The Council is reviewing and refreshing its internal systems for office recycling to minimise what is sent to landfill. The Council will review its purchasing to ensure it uses single-use plastic only where necessary and will also encourage staff to find alternatives such as re-useable water bottles and coffee cups.	From December 2019
		An audit of Blackburn and Darwen Markets will be undertaken to find cost-effective alternatives to single-use plastics, identify waste streams and how these can be minimised and improve recycling rates. Blackburn and Darwen Markets aim to showcase sustainable business practices.	September 2020
	We will seek increased transparency from the Council's Pension Fund managers in relation to the coherence of Pension Fund Investment choices	The Council will call for increased transparency from its Pension Funds managers to ensure investment choices align with its Climate Change strategy	2020

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Page 67 Travelling Lightly	We will reduce emissions from transport and increase active travel	The current Local Transport Plan (LTP3 2011-2021) aims to reduce carbon emissions from transport to help achieve a low-carbon and resilient transport system. Encouraging active travel, better public transport and preparation for electrification of vehicles are key to this strategy. The plan is to be updated (LTP4 2021 onwards) and the review process will examine existing policy to ensure it can help to deliver the Council's carbon neutral goal. The strategy will be accompanied by a detailed implementation programme with potential schemes to be delivered in the short (by 2025), medium (by 2030) and long term (by 2040).	On-going
		The Council will develop an investment plan to move its fleet from fossil to clean fuel by 2030.	On-going
		We will investigate ways to reduce emissions from staff business travel and commuting and introduce cost-effective solutions as quickly as possible.	September 2020
		We will work with local taxi drivers to find ways to cut emissions from the 27 million miles driven in the borough every year.	September 2020
Capture more carbon	We will work with landowners to plant more trees and protect and enhance natural carbon stores	Owners and occupiers have a vital role to play in managing their open land as a carbon 'sink' as well as its main use for, e.g. agriculture, recreation or wildlife, whether in the urban areas or the countryside. The Council will, with key landowners and environmental organisations, assess opportunities for improvements and set out how these might be implemented and by whom. This would include protecting existing moorland and trees, identifying appropriate sites for tree planting, ascertaining how moorland habitats could be enhanced and at the same time help with flood attenuation and promoting environmental stewardship to farmers. The role of urban parks, public open spaces and private gardens will also be considered.	March 2021

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Basis for change	We will work with residents, schools and partners to raise awareness of and to tackle climate change	We will hold a Citizens' Inquiry into the climate emergency. Held over a number of sessions, it will involve a representative group of residents receiving and debating information about climate change and making recommendations for what residents, the Council and other can do about climate change. These recommendations will inform the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. Recommendations are disseminated and shared with key stakeholders, including residents.	Spring 2020
		A communications plan will be prepared to manage the dissemination of information and advice to residents, partners and others during development and implementation of the plan. This will include information on matters of individual choice such as food, diet and consumption of goods and services including air travel.	Spring 2020
		We will address the climate emergency with the borough's schools through the School Council.	2020
		The Council will support the Blackburn with Darwen Youth Forum, the Youth MP and two Deputy Youth MPs to engage young people in tackling the climate emergency.	2020
		The Council will work with other Lancashire local authorities and public bodies to tackle the climate emergency.	Ongoing

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Detail	Timescales
Basis for change	We will identify a Climate Emergency Champion and provide regular reports on action	<p>Member and officer leads will be identified and a governance structure agreed.</p> <p>The plan will be presented for approval to Executive Board. It will be updated as proposals are worked up in greater detail, investment implications evaluated and schemes prioritised. Partner organisation proposals to cut emissions will be documented in the plan.</p> <p>The first amendment to the action plan will assimilate recommendations arising from the Citizens' Inquiry into the plan.</p>	<p>March 2020</p> <p>February 2020</p> <p>Summer 2020</p>
	We will actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target	The Council will lobby Government as necessary as it identifies where support and/or resources are required to achieve its carbon neutral objective.	On-going

WHAT YOU CAN DO

While individuals alone may not be able to make drastic emissions cuts that limit climate change to acceptable levels, personal action is essential to tackle climate change and raise awareness of the importance of the issue. Using your voice and taking action as a consumer, a customer, a member of the electorate and an active citizen, will lead to changes on a much grander scale.

1. Tell the government to act now	<p>Time is running out to stop catastrophic climate change. The solutions are out there, and if we act quickly, we can make them a reality.</p> <p>Individuals need to exercise their rights both as citizens and as consumers, putting pressure on the government and on companies to make the system-wide changes are needed.</p>
2. Take action in your community	<p>Right now, people just like you are coming together to develop practical, local solutions and make their towns and cities more climate-friendly. Find out what's happening near you.</p>
3. Power up on plants	<p>After fossil fuels, the food industry is one of the most important contributors to climate change – meat and dairy production is responsible for 14% of global emissions.</p> <p>You don't have to go vegetarian or vegan to make a difference. By reducing your consumption of animal protein by half, you can cut your diet's carbon footprint by more than 40%.</p>



WHAT YOU CAN DO

<p>4. Top up your fitness</p>	<p>Petrol and diesel cars spew out lots of climate-changing emissions. They also increase air pollution, which poses a serious threat to public health.</p> <p>Top up your fitness and tackle climate change at the same time by cycling or walking.</p> <p>Too far? Hop on the bus or train.</p> <p>If driving is unavoidable... Investigate trading in your diesel or petrol car for an electric or hybrid model. A fully electric vehicle could save 2 tonnes of CO₂ per year. Or try car sharing.</p> <p>When behind the wheel, drive smoothly and switch off the engine when you park up.</p>
<p>Take the train, not the plane</p>	<p>Flying is one of the fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Consider taking your next holiday in the UK or hop on the train if you're heading to Europe.</p> <p>At work, try video-conferencing and when flying is unavoidable, choose a standard class seat as that will use the plane's capacity more efficiently than first or business class.</p>

Page 74



WHAT YOU CAN DO

6. Save energy at home

Being energy efficient doesn't mean going without a warm and well-lit home or making big sacrifices. Many energy efficiency measures are low-cost and may even save you money.

Small changes at home will help you use less energy, cutting your carbon footprint and your energy bills:

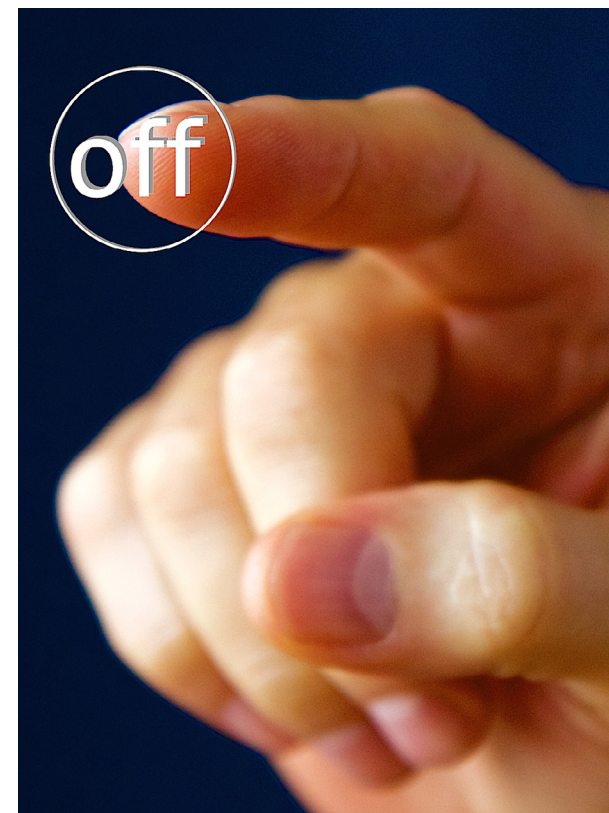
- Put on an extra layer and turn down the heating a degree or two;
- Turn off lights and appliances when you don't need them;
- Replace light bulbs with LEDs;
- Make simple changes to how you use hot water, like buying a water-efficient shower head.

Make sure your home is energy efficient. Check the building has proper insulation, and consider draught-proofing windows and doors. If you are in rented accommodation, lobby your landlord to make sure the property is energy efficient.

These measures could reduce an average household's emissions by 0.6 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

Switching energy supply to a green tariff is a great way to invest in renewable energy sources – and could save you money on bills too.

Generating energy from renewable sources is getting easier and cheaper to do and worth checking if it's appropriate for your home. Low-carbon generation could save 1.25 tonnes of CO₂ per year for the average home.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Page 73

7. Cut consumption and waste	<p>Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle</p> <p>Everything we use as consumers has a carbon footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid single-use items and fast fashion, and try not to buy more than you need; • Shop around for quality items that last a long time; • Put your purchasing power to good use by choosing brands that align with your new green aspirations; • Give unwanted items a new life by donating them to charity; • Avoid wasting food; • Let brands know if you think they are using too much packaging <p>Help the Council to recycle as much of your waste as possible. Reducing and sorting waste could reduce emissions from the average home by 0.25 tonnes of CO₂ per year.</p>
8. Invest your money wisely	<p>Are your savings for the future being used to make that future worse? Find out where your money goes and choose a bank or pension provider that invests in the type of things you agree with.</p>
9. What if I just can't avoid that flight, or cut down on driving?	<p>If you simply can't make every change that's needed, consider offsetting your emissions with a trusted green project to compensate for that unavoidable flight or car trip. A web search will help you find the right company. Off-setting is a far cry from a solution to climate change, but it helps.</p>
10. Talk about the changes you make	<p>Share your experience with your family, friends, customers and clients. Talk positively and honestly about the ups and downs. Social scientists have found that when one person makes a sustainability-oriented decision, other people do too, so you will make a difference, no matter how small it seems.</p>



Sources: 9 things you can do about climate change, Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment, an institute of Imperial College London (2019) www.imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/

Ten simple ways to act on climate change, BBC (2018) www.bbc.com/future/article/20181102-what-can-i-do-about-climate-change

What can I do to stop climate change? Travel, food and more, FoE (2019) www.friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change/what-can-i-do-to-stop-climate-change

The Fifth Carbon Budget, How every household can help reduce the UK's carbon footprint, Committee on Climate Change (2016) www.theccc.org.uk/



@theshuttle



@shuttlebwd



@bwdcouncil

For more information on our Climate Emergency Action Plan please visit www.blackburn.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Growth and Development
Executive Member for Finance and Governance

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Growth & Development

DATE: Thursday, 13 February 2020

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: Blackburn South East;

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

Sale of Plot C, Partnership Way, Shadsworth, Blackburn

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 To seek approval for the sale of Plot C Partnership Way, Shadsworth, Blackburn to a special purchaser

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

2.1 Approves the sale of Plot C, Partnership Way, Shadsworth, Blackburn subject to the terms and conditions outlined in this report.

2.2 Authorises the Director of HR, Legal and Governance Services to complete the necessary legal formalities.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Plot C, Partnership Way, Shadsworth, Blackburn comprises approximately 4.618 acres of commercial development land and was originally advertised on the open market for sale on a 125 year leasehold basis by tender with a closing date of 21st May 2015.

3.2 The sale was to be preceded by a 2 year conditional building licence, with 20% of the overall purchase price to be paid upon grant of satisfactory planning consent as a non-refundable deposit.

3.3 Two offers were received and a preferred bidder selected.

3.4 The preferred bidder intended to secure the site to enable expansion plans comprising of a new high tech manufacturing plant of approximately 100,000 sq. ft.

3.5 The conditional building licence was entered into in August 2016, to expire in August 2018, with a "longstop" date of February 2019 if the development was at an advanced stage but not fully completed by August 2018. Satisfactory planning permission was obtained in 2016 and a non-refundable deposit paid.

3.6 During the period of the conditional building licence, the preferred bidder saw significant expansion of their business nationally, with the acquisition of a rival company. This doubled staff numbers and increased depots across the UK. Due to the scale of this expansion, a significant finance liability was taken on by the preferred bidder, which meant that there were insufficient funds to undertake the proposed development of Plot C at the time.

3.7 The conditional building licence expired and the Council retained the deposit paid in 2016. Meetings with the preferred bidder's representatives were arranged to discuss options going forward. The preferred bidder confirmed they still intended to acquire the site, and that it held strategic importance to them, in part due to a new contract they had won to be the sole supplier of certain products to a large national company.

3.8 The preferred bidder can be considered as a special purchaser under the Local Government Act 1972. The Council commissioned an independent valuation from a RICS Registered Valuer, to report on the market value of the site, and also the uplifted value when taking into account special purchaser status.

3.9 A deal has been agreed for the sale of the freehold interest in the site for a figure above that quoted in the independent valuation. A covenant is to be included restricting the use of the site to B2 industrial. Each party is to bear their own costs in relation to the transaction.

3.10 The transaction is forecast to be completed by the end of the financial year 2019/20.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

4.1 The preferred bidder have agreed to the uplifted sale price for the site and accepted the loss of their initial deposit from 2016, reflecting their special purchaser status. It is recommended the Council proceeds with the transaction.

4.2 Should the transaction not be completed then the Council will proceed to tender the site on the open market.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The disposal method accords with the Council's approved policy for disposals.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council will receive a capital receipt this financial year.

6.2 Each party will cover their own legal costs.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The disposal method complies with the Council's legal obligations for such transactions and with the Council's Disposal Policy 2019.

7.2 Under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is obliged to obtain best consideration for its assets upon disposal. The sale price to the special purchaser is justified through the independent valuation prepared by a RICS Registered Valuer.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Legal and surveyor resources will be required to complete the transaction.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

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.

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.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The proposal has been subject to consultations between Council Officers, Executive Members, and Legal and Planning departments

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

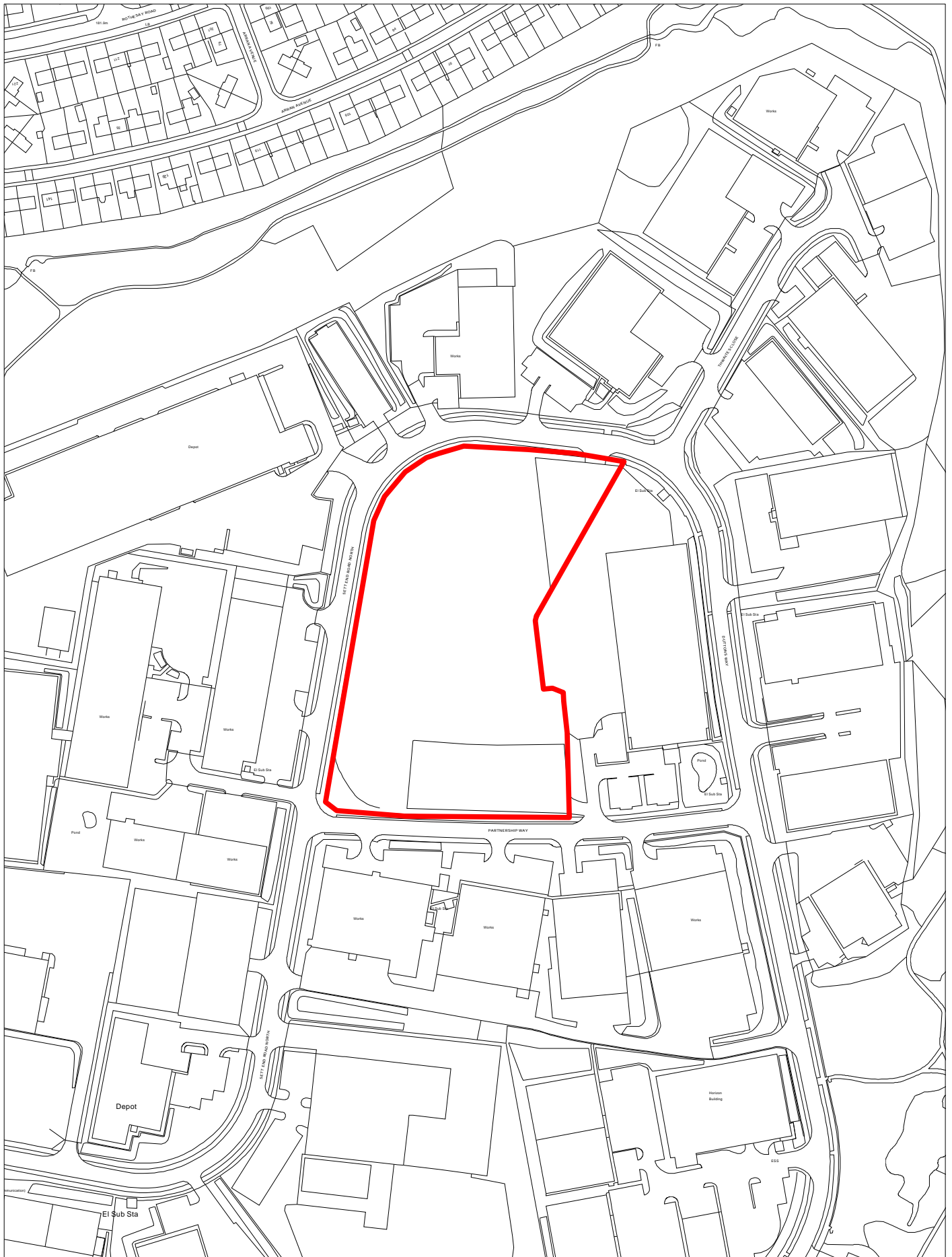
The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect 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 Jones, Growth Programme Director
DATE:	28 th October 2019
BACKGROUND PAPER:	None

ANNEX 1 - PLOT C, PARTNERSHIP WAY, SHADSWORTH, BLACKBURN



Scale 1:2500

© Crown copyright and database rights 2014
Ordnance Survey licence number: 100019493

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Finance and Customer Services
DATE:	13th February 2020

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 3 - 2019/20

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To report the overall revenue financial position of the Council, highlighting any significant issues and explaining variations in the third 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 balance of £8.876 million in the unallocated General Fund revenue reserve.

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

- Actual revenue expenditure at 31st December 2019 in relation to controllable budgets across all portfolios was £79.888 million, which is 68.44% of the current budget. Further details relating to the financial position of each portfolio are outlined in Section 6.
- Subject to Executive Board approval of the proposed adjustments, General Fund unallocated reserves are £8.876 million at 31st December 2019 compared to the minimum level of unallocated reserves agreed at Finance Council in February 2019 of £4.0 million.
- Based on the information currently available, Earmarked Reserves available for discretionary use within the Council are £10.235 million at 31st December 2019 compared with a balance of £14.464 million at 31st March 2019, with a further £12.560 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 2019-22, as approved at Finance Council on 25th February 2019.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 CASH LIMITS AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE

6.1.1 Revenue Budget Overview

In light of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2019/20 and the financial constraints on the authority, the Leader and the Executive Members continue to work with Officers to review the allocation and use of resources including continued review of all expenditure and income budgets, of contractual commitments and property holdings and the implementation of savings plans, set within the context of the Council's statutory responsibilities and corporate priorities.

A balanced budget for 2019/20 was approved at Finance Council on 25th February 2019. This was predicated on estimates and assumptions that are not without risk;

- Risk that the forecast and provisions for demand are outstripped
- Risk that the expected income streams are not realised
- Risk that the use of strategic reserves may not be possible

These pressures, savings and risks will be continuously monitored throughout the financial year and reported to Executive Board.

6.1.2 Performance Against Controllable Budgets

Appendix 1 details the portfolio controllable budgets approved by the Executive Board in November 2019 together with the details of the adjustments recommended to the Board for approval in this report

The principle issues for each portfolio at the end of the second quarter of the year are as follows:

Adults & Prevention Services

Based on latest information and present levels of demand, the financial forecast for the portfolio for 2019/20 is predicted to be an underspend of £167,000. Pressures on the Commissioning budget have reduced during this period due to a reduction in activity on Supported Living Services and the recovery of NHS contributions for complex cases that have been subject to review.

There is potential for further underspend within the portfolio as complex cases continue to be reviewed, however, this is predicated on delivering savings agreed as part of the budget setting process, managing any increases in demand during the winter months and any financial risks arising during the remainder of the year, e.g. the transition of individuals into Adult Social Care from Children's Services.

Current monitoring in the area of Neighbourhood and Prevention Services, after allowing for the requested budget transfers, has identified some minor budget pressures but these are expected to be mitigated as the year progresses.

Public Health & Wellbeing

The Public Health budget is projected to breakeven in 2019/20 based on the position at the end of the third quarter of the year.

Subject to the approval of the budget adjustments requested in Appendix 1, the area of Leisure and

Culture is also predicted to break even for the year. Since the last quarter monitoring report, budget pressures in the area of Halls & Entertainment have been reduced due to an improvement in secure bookings for events. The portfolio will continue to review and contain any budget pressures arising as the year progresses to work towards a break even position at outturn.

Children, Young People & Education

The current projected position has increased significantly since that recorded in the report for the six months to 30th September and is now showing an overspend of £4.8 million based on current levels of demand. The majority of the overspend is attributable to the number of children that currently have to be placed in expensive externally commissioned placements which has resulted in that particular budget overspending by £4.1 million. In addition there are substantial pressures against both Special Guardianship Orders (£500,000) and the Fostering Service (£650,000), as well as a number of other smaller, but still significant, pressures across other budget areas. The reported overspend figure does not factor in any future increases in demand during the remainder of the year and there is still the potential for a number of existing placements to be extended.

The portfolio continues to mitigate demand pressures as far as possible and is utilising underspends on other areas of activity to offset placement pressures in order to bring the portfolio to the current forecast overspend of £4.8 million. The portfolio has implemented a new Duty and Advice service to manage the “front door” and assessment activity more effectively, and they continue to explore options to re-focus and build capacity, in our more cost-effective ‘in-house’ services. In its first six weeks of operation the new Duty and Advice service has had a positive impact. The numbers of referrals have decreased on average by 37% each week, however these strategies will take time to implement in order to affect real change and before we see fewer numbers of ‘looked after’ children and a resultant reduction in the cost pressures.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The High Needs Block of DSG is forecasting an overspend of £1.322m. This is due to an increase in the number of children with Special Educational Needs across all settings, including mainstream schools and in both independent special schools and those maintained by the Authority. Provisional DSG allocations for 2020/21 have been announced and include an increase in the level of High Needs funding. The first call on this funding will be to meet the demand pressures experienced in the current financial year, which are forecast to continue into 2020/21.

Schools and Education funding from DSG is monitored by the Schools Forum and reports are considered on a regular basis. DSG remains as a ring fenced grant and any surplus or deficit will be managed through the specific DSG reserves.

Environmental Services

The portfolio continues to forecast a breakeven position for the year end, containing pressures relating to waste budgets, selective licensing income and public protection services and the delivery of savings targets.

Growth & Development

Whilst at the end of the previous quarter the portfolio had identified pressures arising from the Mall Market, the Bus Station and shortfalls against in-year savings targets, it was forecasting to contain these within the overall portfolio budget, mainly from one off savings including income from major planning applications. At the end of the third quarter however continued pressures arising from the Highways budgets, and reactive maintenance pot hole works in particular, now mean it is unlikely that all the pressures can be managed within the overall budget. As such, based on current projections, the portfolio is reporting an overspend of £100,000 by 31st March 2020.

Digital & Customer Services

Based on the current projections, due to restructure and a number of vacancies, the portfolio is predicting to underspend by approximately £250,000 by the end of the financial year.

Finance & Governance

The portfolio has identified cost pressures for the year which it is working hard to contain, including pressures on the Legal Services budget from the increase in the number of childcare legal cases and other prosecutions, and pressures driven by occupancy rates on the Cathedral Quarter and the Mall. A number of actions are underway to offset this and as such the portfolio is forecasting to breakeven at 31st March 2020.

6.2 GENERAL FUND UNALLOCATED RESERVES

Summary of movement	£'million
Unallocated reserves at 30th September 2019 (as reported to Executive Board in November 2019)	6.937
Transfers (from) Unallocated reserves	
Transfers to Unallocated reserves	
Building Schools for the Future PFI refinancing gain	0.972
Savings in respect of interest and debt repayment costs	0.308
Reimbursement in relation to back-dated VAT claim on Leisure	0.348
Transfer from Highways third party insurance claim reserve – released following a review of all insurance provisions / reserves	0.311
Balance on Unallocated General Fund reserves at 31 st December 2019	8.876

6.3 EARMARKED RESERVES

Taking account of the adjustments highlighted at Appendix 2, the level of Earmarked reserves held for discretionary use by the Council at 31st December 2019 will increase to £10.235 million compared with a balance of £9.858 as at 30 September 2019.

Summary of movement	£'million
Earmarked reserves at 30 th September 2019 (as reported to Executive Board in November 2019)	9.858
Carry forward of grant funding to 2020/21	0.324
Transfer of funds set aside for Winter Pressures from contingency to Demand Pressures reserve	0.764
Transfer to unallocated reserves from Highways third party insurance claim reserve – released following a review of all insurance provisions / reserves	(0.311)
Utilise earmarked reserves to support the Local Plan	(0.250)
Utilise Developer's Contributions (S106) to fund a contribution to a community group	(0.005)
Funding from the Part Year Effect reserve for pay protection costs following workforce review	(0.055)
Budget increase to fund the cost of Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancies	(0.090)

Balance on Earmarked reserves at 31 st December 2019	10.235
---	--------

Other Earmarked reserves, held largely in respect of schools, are £12.560 million.

Details of the requested application of reserves are shown 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

Not applicable.

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:	V1
-----------------	-----------

CONTACT OFFICER:	Julie Jewson extn 5893
-------------------------	-------------------------------

DATE:	24th January 2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A

	Adults and Prevention Services	Public Health & Wellbeing	Children, Young People & Education	Environmental Services	Growth & Development	Digital & Customer Services	Finance & Governance	Schools & Education (DSG)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Controllable Budget approved at Executive Board November 2019	50,817,720	2,770,354	31,581,289	8,708,415	7,721,591	5,648,806	10,686,192	(941,000)	116,993,367
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves									
Request to carry forward part of the 2019/20 Social Integration funding (Year 2 of a 3 Year Programme) to maintain the programme team into the financial year in advance of confirmation of Year 3 funding	(270,000)								(270,000)
Request to carry forward part of the final year funding for Strengthen Communities - Volunteering in Lancashire (SCVL) European Social Fund project	(54,000)								(54,000)
Utilise earmarked reserves to support the Local Plan					250,000				250,000
Utilise Developer's Contributions (S106) to fund a contribution to a community group				5,000					5,000
Funding from the Part Year Effect reserve for pay protection costs following workforce review		54,800							54,800
Budget increase to fund the cost of Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancies	24,700			28,200	12,000	7,500	17,400		89,800
Technical budget adjustment for recharge to DSG			(500,000)						(500,000)
									0
Transfers (to)/from unallocated reserves									
Reimbursement in relation to back-dated VAT claim on Leisure - transfer to unallocated reserves		(348,900)							(348,900)
									0
									0
Transfers (to)/from contingency									
									0
Release of Grants and Contributions brought forward from 2018/19									
									0
Virements between portfolios									
Re-alignment of budgets following portfolio changes (Registrars)						(117,359)	117,359		0
									0
Other budget adjustments									
									0
									0
Revised Controllable Budget as at 31st March 2019	50,518,420	2,476,254	31,081,289	8,741,615	7,983,591	5,538,947	10,820,951	(941,000)	116,220,067

DETAILS OF GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVES FOR USE BY THE COUNCIL

	Balance at 30 September 2019	Requested Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves in Qtr 3		Balance at 31 December 2019
	As reported to Exec Board November 2019	Release of grants and contributions b fwd from 2018/19	Other transfer to /(from) reserves	Q3
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Welfare, council tax and business rates reforms				
Welfare and council tax reforms	178			178
Brexit Preparation				
Brexit Preparation Funding	315			315
Investment in assets and infrastructure				
Office Accommodation and property improvements	812			812
Highways winter maintenance	24			24
Support for the Local Plan	200		(200)	0
Flood Defence	77			77
Support for Other Resources and Transformation projects				
Legal Advice Reserve	105			105
Partnerships & Transformation	78			78
Insurance risk investment fund	43			43
Support for People Services				
Schools Improvement (SSIF)	184			184
YOT partnership	150			150
Music Services	117			117
Disabled Facilities Grants	289			289
Future Demand Pressures	1,035		764	1,799
Better Care Fund	372			372
Support for Place Services				
Investment to support business rates growth	370		(50)	320
Place Shaping Investment Reserve	250			250
Contingent sums to support future downsizing and transformation programmes				
Support for future redundancy costs	591		(90)	501
Support for part year effect of future savings plans	1,242		(55)	1,187
Digital Programme	964			964
Amounts b/fwd from previous year(s) in respect of unspent grants and contributions				
Transformation Challenge Award	64			64
SEN / SEND Reform Grant /SEND Prep for Empl	183			183
Transforming Lives	37			37
One Public Estate grant	163			163
Electoral Grant	57			57
DCLG Transparency Code New Burdens	13			13
Adult PSS - Local Reform and Community Voices	108			108
Adult PSS - War Pensions Disregard	30			30
Flexible Housing Support Grant (FHSG)	48			48
FHSG Top-up	15			15
Homelessness Reduction Act New Burdens Funding	67			67
Social Integration funding			270	270
Strengthen communities - Volunteering in Lancashire (SCVL) ESF project			54	54
Amounts committed in future year budgets/MTFS				
Budget carry over for implementation of Concerto (Property system)	20			20
Budget carry over for Intack Depot driveway	10			10
CCTV Hub carry forward	73			73
Development Investment Fund (Capital)	1			1
Underspend on PFI codes	13			13
Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire (SCVL)	74			74
Reserves held for specified purposes				
Developers Contributions (S106 Income) *	(142)		(5)	(147)
Future Maintenance of Wainwright Bridge	306			306
Future Maintenance of Witton Park 3G Pitches	25			25
Future remediation costs in respect of former landfill sites	400			400
Highways claims anticipated for years up to current year but not yet received	611		(311)	300
Art Acquisitions Fund	16			16
W. Ferrier Bequest (for museum re Kathleen Ferrier)	20			20
Allowance for contingent liabilities (e.g. MMI)	250			250
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES FOR DISCRETIONARY USE	9,858	0	377	10,235

DETAILS OF GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVES FOR USE BY THE COUNCIL

	Balance at 30 September 2019	Requested Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves in Qtr 3		Balance at 31 December 2019
	As reported to Exec Board November 2019	Release of grants and contributions bfwd from 2018/19	Other transfer to /(from) reserves	Q3
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Other Earmarked' Reserves				
Reserves held in respect of joint arrangements and charitable bodies				
Darwen Market Traders Association	2			2
Joint Building Control Account	201			201
Turton Tower Charity	59			59
LSCB Safeguarding Partners Fund	155			155
Reserves held in relation to schools				
Dedicated Schools Grant - Surplus	6,993			6,993
LMS Schools Balances	5,150			5,150
TOTAL 'OTHER EARMARKED' RESERVES	12,560	0	0	12,560
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	22,418	0	377	22,795
UNALLOCATED RESERVES	6,937	0	1,939	8,876

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Finance and Governance

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Finance and Customer Services

DATE: 13th February 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: All

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES ☒ NO ☐

SUBJECT: CORPORATE CAPITAL BUDGET AND BALANCE SHEET MONITORING REPORT 2019/20 – Quarter 3 (9 months to 31st December 2019)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To report the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31st December 2019, highlighting key issues and explaining variations in the first 9 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 2019/20 has now decreased from £33.372 million, as approved by Executive Board on 14th November 2019, to £28.941 million. The net variation of £4.431 million (detailed in Appendix 2) reflects;

- variations made to reflect the approval of programmes during the third quarter of the year (£0.624 million of which £0.250 million will be funded from existing capital budgets)
- further variations during the third quarter of the year, for which approval is requested (reductions of £0.176 million)
- slippage and re-profiling of budgets during the third quarter of the year (reduction of £4.629 million).

b) As at 31st December 2019, the capital expenditure across the portfolios was £17.481 million (representing 60% of the current, revised projected capital spend).

c) The estimate of capital receipts expected in 2019/20 is £3.7 million; £1.319 million has been received in the first nine months of the year.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The information contained within the report accords with the capital strategy and the three year budget forecast within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-22, as approved at Finance Council on 25th February 2019.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The variations in projected spend and resource availability for 2019/20 are summarised by portfolio in Appendix 1. Variations in spending are set out in Appendix 2.

The capital programme for 2019/20 has decreased by £4.431 million in the third quarter, the major capital variations to note are as follows:

6.1.1 New Approved Capital Schemes

Several capital schemes (new schemes and amendments to existing schemes) were approved in the third quarter of 2019/20 and have now been added to the capital programme as follows:

Scheme	Amount	Approved By	Date Approved
Adults and Prevention Services			
Albion Mill – to be funded from Disabled Facilities Grant	£250,000	Executive Member Decision	22.11.19
Growth and Development			
11-13 Blakey Moor – funded from Corporate Property Investment Fund earmarked scheme	£127,000	Chief Officer Decision	20.12.19
Surface Water Remodelling - £26,000 in relation to 2019/20 and 19,500 in relation to 2020/21	£45,500	Director of Environment & Operations - Grant Application	17.10.19
Finance and Governance			
15a Town Hall Street Roofing – funded from Corporate Property Investment Fund earmarked scheme	£221,000	Executive Member Decision	20.12.19

6.1.2 Environmental Services

Old Bank Lane Car Park

Signage is to be put up on this site and it is estimated that costs to be incurred in 2019/20 will be about £40,000. A request is made to slip the remaining £78,000 of budget to 2020/21 to be used for costs expected to be incurred next year.

6.1.3 Children's Young People & Education

There have been several requested variations to the programme in respect of schools at 31st December:

Scheme	Slippage £	Transfers Between Schemes £	Other Variations £
Two Year Old Grant	214,000	-	(2,000)
Newfield ASD – to fund overspend on the scheme	-	-	96,000
Audley Infants and Juniors Heating System	-	200,000	-
Audley Juniors Roof Repairs	247,000	(200,000)	-
BCHS/Crosshill SEN – options reviewed and scope of scheme reduced	-	-	(136,000)
Turncroft Nursery Boiler – emergency works to be funded from schools maintenance grant	-	-	30,000
Other Schemes – minor variations, over/underspends on several schemes	-	-	58,000
TOTAL VARIATIONS	461,000	-	46,000
Funded by:			
Capital Allocations	-	-	(7,500)
Contingency	-	-	53,500
VARIATIONS FUNDING	-	-	46,000

The significant variations to note are:

Two Year Old Grant

This is grant funding for two year old nursery placements and is not time bound; there are currently no further schemes identified to utilise this grant.

Audley Infants and Juniors Heating System/Audley Juniors Roof Repairs

Works are not expected to start on the heating system scheme until 2020/21. Approval is requested to transfer £200,000 from this scheme to Audley Juniors Roof Repairs and to slip the remaining £247,000 in to 2020/21. The variation on the Audley Juniors Roof Repairs scheme arises from an asbestos removal required, which was more complex than was originally envisaged, and the original scheme being phased. The roofing scheme is now to be completed as a whole this year. A further £200,000 will be requested for the heating system scheme in 2020/21.

Slippage

A number of schemes are expected to complete in the new financial year and as such, the budget profile will need adjustment to reallocate budget from 2019/20 into 2020/21; work is currently being undertaken to quantify the value of slippage required:

- Avondale Kitchen
- Feniscowles Heating
- Shadsworth Heating
- St Cuthberts SEN
- Belmont Drainage and External Painting
- BCHS/Crosshill SEN
- Audley Infants Remodel Reception Classroom

6.1.4 Growth and Development

Cathedral Quarter Office Block Fit Out Costs

Works are due to commence on the fit out for a new tenant and it is estimated that costs to be incurred in 2019/20 will be about £13,000. A request is made to slip the remaining £38,000 budget to 2020/21 so this can be used for future potential fit out costs to facilitate lettings.

Darwen 3 Day Market

The Darwen Market Square scheme was practically complete earlier this year and is currently in a 12 months defects period with retention released in Summer 2020. The scheme is currently overspent by £463,000, due to additional costs relating to the demolition of the 3 day market; design and project management fees; changes in paving materials due to quarry closure; design changes; replacement of heritage railings; and other highways works. In addition, urgent works to the Market Hall and Annex to accommodate both relocated and new traders, and create a new entrance for the Annex have contributed to additional spend. Other sources of capital funding relating to the investment in the Councils assets and highways are being investigated to address this, as such, no adjustment has been made to the scheme budget at this time but this will be reflected in the quarter 4 report.

Blakey Moor

Approval was obtained for funding of £127,000 for the acquisition of 11-13 Blakey Moor in an Officer Decision on 20/12/2019. This funding will come from the Corporate Property Investment Fund.

There has been a 12-month delay on the works on Blakey Moor Terrace due to difficulties in securing vacant possession of the properties. A request to extend the project delivery deadline in to 2021 has been submitted to National Lottery Heritage Fund. Only one Council Property Grant has been delivered to date, these delays are due to consideration of the future use of the buildings and scheme changes as a result of increased anti-social behaviour in the area. Approval is therefore requested to re-profile £2.0 million in to 2020/21.

Bank Top and Griffin Clearance

There are some outstanding properties to be purchased in relation to this scheme, which are not expected to complete in 2019/20. Approval is therefore requested to slip £186,000 in to 2020/21.

Growth Team Housing Schemes

Approval to slip the allocations in respect of the following on-going Growth Team Housing Schemes is requested:

Scheme	£
Equity Loans	150,000
Empty Homes Cluster	10,000
Land Release Fund	155,000
Group Repair (Inner NW/Inner SE/Darwen)	3,000
TOTAL	318,000

Reel Cinema

The tenant has requested some variations that they will be funding which has increased the build time on the project. Approval is therefore requested to re-profile £673,000 in to 2020/21.

Surface Water Remodelling

A grant has been received for local surface water mapping and modelling works. The total of this grant is £45,500 of which £26,000 is expected to be spent in 2019/20 and £19,500 in 2020/21, therefore a budget has been added to the capital programme in both years for these amounts.

6.1.5 Digital and Customer Services

The following capital schemes are expected to be completed under budget; the underspend can therefore be transferred back to the Corporate ICT Earmarked Scheme:

Scheme	Amount Transferred back to Corporate ICT Earmarked Scheme
Desktop Refresh	£113,000
Protocol Mobile App Project	£41,000

Corporate ICT Schemes - Slippage

A request is made to approve the re-profiling of the Corporate ICT schemes as listed below

These are continuing schemes which are not expected to fully complete in 2019/20:

Scheme	Slippage Requested
Desktop Refresh	£24,000
Core Infrastructure Programme	£170,000
Ticketing System King Georges Hall	£55,000
Legal Services Case Management System	£50,000
Corporate Website	£60,000
Protocol Mobile App Project	£2,000
Replacement Unix Servers	£4,000
Town Hall IT Infrastructure Upgrade	£100,000

6.1.6 Finance and Governance

Carbon Management Plan

There is one project within the scheme due to complete in 2019/20, for which the costs are estimated at £44,000. Therefore approval is requested to slip £70,000 in respect of this scheme in to 2020/21 for use on future carbon management capital projects.

Corporate DDA Work/Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2

Approval is requested to transfer £169,000 from the Corporate DDA Work scheme into the Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2 scheme. The Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2 scheme has encountered some delays and therefore approval is requested to re-profile £340,000 from this scheme into 2020/21.

6.1.7 Earmarked Schemes

Corporate ICT Earmarked Scheme

It is requested to slip £3.116 million from the 2019/20 in to the 2020/21 and Future Years Programme. The balance of the Corporate ICT Earmarked Schemes for the 2020/21 and Future Years Programme, will be used to support the capital costs of the ongoing digitisation of the Council's infrastructure.

Corporate Property Investment Earmarked Scheme

Approval is required to slip £650,000 of this Earmarked Scheme allocation from the 2019/20 programme to meet the costs in future years. This will be utilised to help the Council fulfil its future growth and development plans.

6.2 CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Actual capital receipts at the end of December 2019 were £1.319 million; 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 and Customer Services, her staff and the Council's independent Treasury consultants Arlingclose, and options for optimising borrowing requirements are actively reviewed.

Interest rates, having slightly increased in the run up to the end of the financial year 2018/19, have stabilised and are expected to remain at current levels in the near future. This should reduce overall borrowing costs for 2019/20. To date, it is now projected that:

- (a) MRP will be £205,000 lower than anticipated in the Original 2019/20 Estimates (as a result of lower 2018/19 outturn capital spend),
- (b) net interest costs will be £326,600 lower (reflecting lower rates),
- (c) distributions totalling £971,760 have been received in respect of the refinancing of Phase 2 of the Building Schools for the Future - Private Finance Initiative.
- (d) there will be at least £121,300 in additional Lancashire Education Partnership interest and dividends.

	Original Budget	Current Budget Quarter 1	Current Budget Quarter 2	Movement Quarter 3	Current Budget Quarter 3
Interest and investment income	(100,000)	(150,000)	(170,000)	(1,068,100)	(1,238,100)
Debt interest payable	12,927,900	12,802,900	12,773,300	(132,000)	12,641,300
MRP	6,731,000	6,556,000	6,526,000	-	6,526,000

Total	19,558,900	19,208,900	19,129,300	(1,200,100)	17,929,200
--------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------	-------------------

The current borrowing and investment position is as follows:

	Amounts at 31/03/2019 £'000	Amounts at 30/09/2019 £'000	Amounts at 31/12/2019 £'000
Short term borrowing	41,000	37,000	42,000
Long term borrowing	156,264	152,031	152,031
Transferred debt re Local Government Re-Organisation	14,738	14,443	14,443
Recognition of debt re PFI arrangements	65,130	64,272	64,272
Investments made by the Council	24,475	16,505	18,395

The totals include the debt recognised on the balance sheet as a result of accounting adjustments in respect of bringing the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) school buildings in to use which are financed through Private Finance Initiatives (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 categories of debt and the total outstanding debt in the respective areas at a single point in time, i.e. 31st December 2019. The table also shows the corresponding level of debt at the same point in the last financial year.

	Position at 31/12/19	Position at 31/12/18
Council tax		
Current year arrears (£000)	13,842	12,748
Previous year arrears (£000)	11,921	10,688
Total Council tax arrears	25,763	23,436
Collection rates	78.2%	78.8%
Business rates		
Current year arrears (£000)	8,988	9,059
Previous year arrears (£000)	2,495	2,540
Total Business rates arrears	11,483	11,599
Collection rates	80.4%	80.49%
Housing Benefit		
Overpayments balances (£000)	2,961	3,165

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:	V3.0
-----------------	-------------

CONTACT OFFICER:	Jody Spencer-Anforth (Ext 507748) Julie Jewson (Ext 5893)
-------------------------	--

DATE:	29 th January 2020
--------------	-------------------------------

BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A
--------------------------	-----

Overall Capital Monitoring 2019/20

Costs

	Approved Programme 2019/20 (Finance Council) £'000	Programme Approved At Executive Board November 2019 £'000	Requested Variations 2019/2020 (See Appendix 2) £'000	Revised 2019/20 Capital Programme As at 31 December 2019 £'000
Adults and Prevention Services	1,504	2,236	(22)	2,214
Children, Young People & Education	1,765	6,376	(461)	5,915
Environmental Services	0	221	(78)	143
Public Health & Wellbeing	0	1,195	0	1,195
Growth & Development	22,767	20,304	(3,062)	17,242
Digital & Customer Services	1,668	2,086	(619)	1,467
Finance & Governance	2,914	954	(189)	765
Total Predicted Expenditure	30,618	33,372	(4,431)	28,941

Resources

- Department for Education	1,252	5,823	(461)	5,362
- Department for Transport	4,799	4,822	0	4,822
- Disabled Facilities Grants	1,861	2,525	0	2,525
- Other Grants	1,981	2,196	(960)	1,236
Government Grants	9,893	15,366	(1,421)	13,945
Unsupported Borrowing	12,847	12,821	(2,655)	10,166
External Contributions	7,578	3,911	(355)	3,556
Revenue Contributions	300	1,274	0	1,274
Total Resources	30,618	33,372	(4,431)	28,941
Difference	0	0	0	0

Earmarked Schemes

Corporate ICT	3,393	3,052	(2,962)	90
Corporate Property Investment	1,000	1,000	(998)	2
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	0	1,549	0	1,549
Total	4,393	5,601	(3,960)	1,641

2020/21 and Future Years

Approved Programme 2019/20 and future Years (Finance Council) £'000	Programme Approved At Executive Board November 2019 £'000	Requested Variations 2019/2020 (See Appendix 2) £'000	Revised Future Capital Programme As At 31 December 2019 £'000
2,796	2,796	0	2,796
526	526	461	987
0	101	78	179
0	0	0	0
7,744	14,546	3,235	17,781
0	232	465	697
0	3,080	410	3,490
11,066	21,281	4,649	25,930
0	0	461	461
3,299	3,299	0	3,299
3,322	3,322	0	3,322
245	1,087	1,006	2,093
6,866	7,708	1,467	9,175
524	5,227	2,827	8,054
3,676	8,046	355	8,401
0	300	0	300
11,066	21,281	4,649	25,930
0	0	0	0
0	0	3,116	3,116
1,000	2,214	650	2,864
0	0	0	0
1,000	2,214	3,766	5,980

Scheme variations to 2019/20 Capital Programme

	Capital Programme Approved By Executive Board on 14th November 2019 £ 000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Requested Variations Qtr 3 2019/20 £ 000	Total Capital Programme at 31 December 2019 £ 000	Approved Programme 20/21 and Future Years approved by Exec Board November 19 £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Requested Variations £'000	Total Programme 19/20 and Future Years £'000
Adults and Prevention Services								
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,935	0	0	1,935	2,476	0	0	2,476
Telecare Project	227	0	0	227	320	0	0	320
Riverside Heights Extra Care Scheme Site (formerly Shorey Bank)	22	0	(22)	0	0	0	0	0
Blackburn Town Centre Security	52	0	0	52	0	0	0	0
	2,236	0	(22)	2,214	2,796	0	0	2,796
Children, Young People & Education								
Disable Facilities Grant	503	0	0	503	526	0	0	526
Two Year Old Grant	231	(214)	(2)	15	0	214	0	214
Schools capital programme								
Capital allocations	2,378	0	8	2,386	0	0	0	0
Audley Juniors	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
St Barnabas and St St Pauls	706	0	0	706	0	0	0	0
St Thomas CE Primary School	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Newfield ASD Demolition	0	0	96	96	0	0	0	0
Turton/Edgworth Primary School	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Audley Infant and Junior - New Heating System	447	(247)	(200)	0	0	247	0	247
Audley Junior - Roofing Works	281	0	200	481	0	0	0	0
Belmont	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Longshaw Junior	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Lower Darwen	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Roe Lee Park Classroom Works	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Shadsworth Juniors	40	0	26	66	0	0	0	0
Audley Childrens Centre	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Avondale Kitchen	150	0	0	150	0	0	0	0
Feniscowles Kitchen	97	0	0	97	0	0	0	0
Griffin Park - Kitchen	100	0	20	120	0	0	0	0
Intack - Kitchen	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Shadsworth Infants - Heating	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
Brookhouse Primary - Remodel Toilets	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Brookhouse Primary - Upgrade Fire Alarm	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
Daisyfield - Junior Toilets	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Longshaw Infants - Fire Alarm	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
Belmont Ramp	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
St Cuthberts SEND	180	0	0	180	0	0	0	0
Belmont Drainage and External Painting	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
Audley Infants Remodel Reception Class	220	0	0	220	0	0	0	0
St Michaels and St Johns Kitchen Canopy	20	0	6	26	0	0	0	0
Meadowhead Infants external works and lighting	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
Griffin Park - Windows	25	0	(10)	15	0	0	0	0
Feniscowles Drainage	15	0	14	29	0	0	0	0
Turton/Edgworth Windows	40	0	0	40	0	0	0	0
Meadowhead Junior Boiler	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
BSH/Crosshill SEN	436	0	(136)	300	0	0	0	0
Longshaw Nursery Asbestos Removal	15	0	0	15	0	0	0	0
Feniscowles Asbestos Removal	15	0	0	15	0	0	0	0
Roe Lee Park - Boiler	41	0	0	41	0	0	0	0
Turncroft Nursery Boiler	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	0
Contingency	80	0	(54)	27	0	0	0	0
Project Management Fee	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	0
	6,376	(461)	0	5,915	526	461	0	987
Environmental Services								
Old Bank Lane Car Park	131	(78)	0	53	0	78	0	78
Land Remediation Scheme	90	0	0	90	101	0	0	101
	221	(78)	0	143	101	78	0	179

Public Health & Wellbeing								
Witton 3G Pitches	1,168	0	0	1,168	0	0	0	0
Woolridge	27	0	0	27	0	0	0	0
	1,195	0	0	1,195	0	0	0	0
Growth & Development								
Assistance to Industry	229	0	0	229	300	0	0	300
Cathedral Quarter Office Block Fit Out	51	(38)	0	13	0	38	0	38
Darwen 3 Day Market	152	0	0	152	0	0	0	0
Blakey Moor	3,000	(2,000)	127	1,127	519	2,000	0	2,519
Local Transport Plan	2,644	0	0	2,644	4,032	0	0	4,032
National Productivity Investment Fund - Fabric Borders	1,950	0	0	1,950	450	0	0	450
Growth Deal 3 (Pennine Gateways)	3,867	0	0	3,867	6,300	0	0	6,300
Darwen East Corridor	176	0	0	176	0	0	0	0
Bury Fold Brook	14	0	0	14	0	0	0	0
Birch Hall Ave diversion appraisal	57	0	0	57	0	0	0	0
Pottery Farm Alleviation	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Pallet Farm Environment Grant	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
Waterfall Study	75	0	0	75	0	0	0	0
Bank Top and Griffin Clearance	214	(186)	0	28	0	186	0	186
Group Repair (Inner NW/InnerSE/Darwen)	3	(3)	0	0	0	3	0	3
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	96	0	0	96	507	0	0	507
Refurbishment Loans	10	0	0	10	80	0	0	80
Equity Loans	150	(150)	0	0	0	150	0	150
Empty Homes Cluster	10	(10)	0	0	350	10	0	360
Other Acquisition costs	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	10
Development Investment Fund	303	0	0	303	0	0	0	0
Capacity Funding	37	0	0	37	0	0	0	0
Affordable Warmth Grants	35	0	0	35	0	0	0	0
Reel Cinema	6,833	(673)	0	6,160	1,498	673	0	2,171
Land Release Fund	224	(155)	0	69	500	155	0	655
Acquisition of Blackamoor Inn	155	0	0	155	0	0	0	0
Surface Water Modelling	0	0	26	26	0	0	20	20
	20,304	(3,215)	153	17,242	14,546	3,215	20	17,781
Digital & Customer Services								
Corporate ICT - Montr & Mgmt, service systems & op	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Public Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - WAN Connectivity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Digitisation of Planning Service	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Finance System	23	0	0	23	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Microsoft EA	102	0	0	102	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Desktop Refresh	557	(24)	(113)	420	112	24	0	136
Corporate ICT - Core Infrastructure Programme	834	(170)	0	664	0	170	0	170
Coprorate ICT - Ticketing System KGH/DLT	83	(55)	0	28	0	55	0	55
Corporate ICT - Legal Services Case Management System	117	(50)	0	67	0	50	0	50
Corporate ICT - Corporate Website	130	(60)	0	70	0	60	0	60
Corporate ICT - Protocol Mobile App Project	64	(2)	(41)	21	0	2	0	2
Corporate ICT - Replacement Unix Servers	10	(4)	0	6	0	4	0	4
Coprorate ICT - Microsoft Office 365	43	0	0	43	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Town Hall IT Infrastructure Upgrade	100	(100)	0	0	120	100	0	220
	2,086	(465)	(154)	1,467	232	465	0	697
Finance & Governance								
Carbon Management Plan	114	(70)	0	44	0	70	0	70
Land Remediation Schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate DDA Work	169	0	(169)	0	0	0	0	0
Griffin Lodge	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	300
Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2	671	(340)	169	500	2,780	340	0	3,120
15a Town Hall Street roofing	0	0	221	221				
	954	(410)	221	765	3,080	410	0	3,490
Portfolios Total	33,372	(4,629)	198	28,941	21,281	4,629	20	25,930
Earmarked schemes:								
Corporate ICT	3,052	(3,116)	154	90	0	3,116	0	3,116
Corporate Property Investment	1,000	(650)	(348)	2	2,214	650	0	2,864
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	1,549	0	0	1,549	0	0	0	0
Total	5,601	(3,766)	(194)	1,641	2,214	3,766	0	5,980

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Environmental Services

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Environment and Operations

DATE: 13 February 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Environmental Services

WARD/S AFFECTED: Little Harwood and Whitebirk

KEY DECISION: YES ☐ NO ☒

SUBJECT: Petition received regarding rodents in Warrington Street Blackburn affecting a number of homes.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Petitions received by the Council require a response following a report sent to the Executive Board. This report is in response to the petition received from households in the above area and invites the Board to issue a response as outlined below to the issues raised.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board: issue the response to the petition received.

3. BACKGROUND

The petition (copy attached) asks the Council to address the issue of rodents in their homes. The residents cite that they have had an issue for the past 3 years of rodents being in their homes. They claim that they have rang the Pest control department but this has not been resolved.

Data from Warrington Street regarding rodent issues

Historical reports received from residents from Warrington Street, with regard to rodents over the past 5 years, has identified 38 complaints having been received, of which seven of the complaints having been received since 1st April 2019 until the present day.

2015/16 = 11 complaints

2016/17 = 8 complaints

2017/18 = 4 complaints

2018/19 = 8 complaints

2019/ Present = 7 complaints

Pest control officers have visited the site following the complaints taking the appropriate actions to deal with the issue however, rodents will always go to areas where there is a food source.

Advice given to residents

In order to help combat any rodent issue there are certain things the residents need to do to assist with the as followings:

- Ensure that their properties are maintained both externally and internally (this includes the drainage system), removing any access and egress points
- Ensure that all waste (especially food waste) is disposed of both correctly and responsibly in the designated receptacles.
- Do not throw food out to feed the birds, as this will provide a food source for rodents.

The Pest Control Officers, at their visits, do advise occupiers of any works which need carrying out and it is the home owner's responsibility to carry out this work and ensure their properties are kept free of rodents. For each complaint, up to 3 visits are provided by the Pest Control Officer.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The pest control team act on numerous request for rodent issues across the borough and do eradicate problems from properties, however, unless the residents follow the above advice which is provided at the time of visit, rodents will return, due to a readily available food sources and access points. In Warrington Street it has been identified that some residents do leave waste out loose, which includes food, within their properties and in the back street, which encourages rodents.

From the 1st April 2018 the authority has received 15 reports of waste related issues for Warrington Street, 14 from Providence Street and 3 from Beardswood Street that back on to Warrington Street and the fly-tipped waste has been removed on each occasion. The council has also provided cages vehicles on the following dates 15th June 2019, 4th November 2017 and 10th June 2017 in this area for residents to get rid of unwanted items. The residents of the area will be leafleted for the end of January 2020, explaining the need to manage their waste properly. The council also operates a clear all policy and any extra bagged refuse left in the back street is cleared at the same time as the refuse collection service.

If residents do have extra waste, they can take the items to the household waste recycling centre or use the bulky waste collection service provided by the council. The council also offers a free pest control service for residents that have rodent issues.

The leaflet provided to the residents will contain advice and guidance on the matter.

Residents have also received guidance within the refuse and recycling calendar that was provided in December 2019, on collection days and arrangements.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The council provides a free pest control service to householders at present.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council operates as the Waste Collection Authority and can make a charge for any household waste that is not contained within a wheeled bin. Additionally, the Council does not have to provide a pest control service to householders, as it is not a statutory service, although the Council does have statutory responsibility for the treatment of rodents on its own property. Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, it is the occupier's responsibility to keep their land free from vermin. This is an ordinary petition and the response proposed is within the range set out in the Council's petition scheme within the constitution.

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

The Council will reply to the lead resident as indicated above.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

This is an ordinary petition and the response proposed is within the range set out in the Council's petition scheme within the constitution. It is also compliant with equality legislation and an equality impact assessment and health impact assessment have been considered.

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

CONTACT OFFICER:	Tony Watson, Head of Environment/ Phil Winstanley/Environment Manager (Operations)
DATE:	24/01/2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Held by the report authors

RECEIVED

06 JAN 2020

05 January 2020

To Little Harwood Councillors and MP Kate Hollern

The Residents of Warrington Street and Beardsworth Street, Little Harwood have signed a petition regarding the issues we are having with mice and rats in our homes. We have had this issue for the past 3 years. Residents have rang the pest control department but this has not been resolved.

This is a very serious matter, residents are seeing mice in their homes and can hear them in ceilings and lofts. Our Children are getting ill. Something URGENTLY needs to be done. We await your reply within 7 working days.

Name Address Tel Number Signature

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Growth and Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Growth & Development

DATE: Thursday, 13 February 2020

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: Billinge and Beardwood;

KEY DECISION: N

SUBJECT:

Petition regarding application for Local Green Space Designation on Land at Whitehall Road, Blackburn

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to inform the Board that a petition has been received from residents in relation to Council owned land at Whitehall Road, Blackburn. They wish to see the land designated as Local Green Space in the Local Plan and thus protected from development.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:
Notes the petition. The site will be considered for designation through the on-going Local Plan review process.

3. BACKGROUND

In August 2019, an Executive Member Decision report was published for the Growth & Development and Finance & Governance Portfolios regarding "Affordable Homes Infill Development Sites Disposal". The report identified three potential development sites which the Council's Asset Management Group were considering for disposal, and sought Executive Member approval to authorise officers to progress the scheme details. One of these sites was Land at Whitehall Road, Blackburn.

A petition containing 17 signatures, with supporting document, was received on 16th December 2019 in relation to the site. The petition requests that the site should be designated as Local Green Space within the Local Plan, and therefore protected from development.

Residents have set out why they believe that the site should receive the Local Green Space designation within a supporting document (see Appendix 1).

At the time of the Petition Report being prepared, no planning applications relating to the site have been received by the Council.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The site will be considered for designation through the on-going Local Plan review process. As a result there is no further action required at the present time.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Council is currently working on its new Local Plan and decisions relating to the use of particular sites will be determined through this process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Part 7 of the Council's Constitution relates to Petitions. This is considered to be an 'ordinary' petition as it is signed by at least 6 local people. This Part also sets out the general parameters of the potential responses or feedback formats that the Council ought to consider in response. This report's recommendation is considered under Part 7 to be an appropriate form of response to formally consider the substantive application.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

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.

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.

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.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Laura Ainscow-Gorst, , laura.ainscow-gorst@blackburn.gov.uk
-------------------------	---

DATE:	07/01/2020
--------------	------------

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION

Whitehall Road Playing Field, Blackburn

Date of application – 16/12/2019

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE (LGS) DESIGNATION	3
Appendix 1 – Documentation showing the field as a playing field and as Protected Open Space	10
Appendix 2 – Site Photographs.....	12
Appendix 3 - Letters of Support.....	14
Appendix 4 – References	23

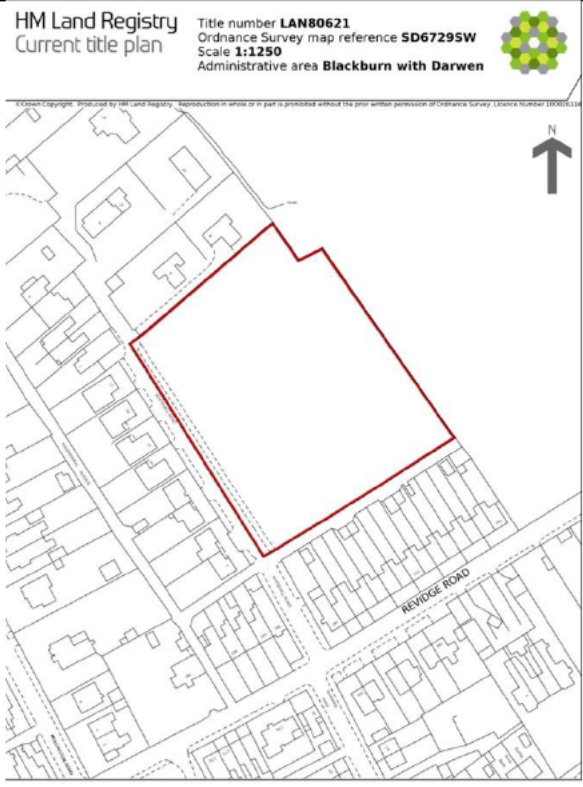
Application produced by the Whitehall Road Neighbourhood Forum

Name	Address	Signature


Amendment History

Date	Issue	Reason for change
16/12/2019	1.0	Initial Issue
06/01/2020	2.0	Aligned response to section 2.1- Size of Proposed Green Space to BwD PDF and inserted additional photograph in Appendix 2

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE (LGS) DESIGNATION

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Whitehall Road, Blackburn, Lancashire. Land identified in Title number LAN80621	✓
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i>	
		✓
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
	Whitehall Road Neighbourhood Forum	✓
1.4	Ownership of site if known Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land and parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.	
	Blackburn with Darwen Council (Formerly Blackburn Corporation)	✓
1.5	Photographs of site	
	See Appendix 2	✓

1.6	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
	<p>The field serves a surprising amount of the local area, children from Revidge Road, Whitehall Road and Ravenswing use the field as a safe play area with no main roads to cross, making dens in the trees at the boundary of the field and enjoying the freedom of using the green space for all manner of games. Per National Planning Policy Framework and Natural England guidance, natural green spaces should be within easy walking distance of the local community:</p> <p>There are a number of groups from the wider area that use the field for football training, one group bring goals and use it for goalkeeper one to one training whilst the sports teacher from Lammack school uses it for football training with some children.</p> <p>Young children from other areas come to play football. This also allows opportunity for other children to participate, socialise and make new friends.</p> <p>In the Summer the field becomes a focal point for the neighbourhood with family groups enjoying food and socializing. A community barbeque was held last year which was attended by a wide number of local residents from different cultural backgrounds and age groups .</p>	✓
2	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
2.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>	
	2.13 Acres	✓
2.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	
	NO.	✓
2.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
	Yes, the site is part of a parcel of land bought in 1925 by the council. The development of the houses on Whitehall Road has been around the land which borders Whitehall Road on one side, the rear of Revidge Road at the South, houses at the North and the golf course at the East. The field acts as the focal point for the local community and brings neighbours together.	✓

3	Need for Local Green Space	
3.1	<p>Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need.</i> <i>Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i></p>	
	<p>The Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard states that ‘no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace’;</p> <p>Whilst Corporation Park is within a relatively short distance of the area it is necessary to cross a busy main road with a difficult junction to reach the park. Local children have the freedom to play on the field in safety as their parents can see them from their houses.</p> <p>There is a real community feel to the field, everyone stops to chat, there are no gangs of youths hanging around intimidating people as there often are in the Park and both young and old and those with special needs appreciate the environment whether it is for keeping physically fit , walking the dog, getting in tune with nature or just having a safe green space to support mental health.</p> <p>There are families with children with learning disabilities who come to the field to allow their children that safe space; one of the local families have a child with such severe autism that a telegraph pole which had been installed outside the family home had to be moved* and they fully support the efforts to retain the field as a green space where their child and others can play. *As reported in Lancashire Evening Telegraph on September 28th 2019.</p> <p>The field is a rare asset, it is a small local area of grassland that isn't part of a public park, it isn't a dumping ground for rubbish nor does it attract drug users or troublemakers. It is an area where children can use their imagination and play outside and supports the physical and mental well-being of the local residents.</p> <p>The recommendation made in English Nature Research Report No. 153, Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities (Harrison et al., 1995, p6-7), is that a definition of natural greenspace should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "sites awaiting redevelopment which have been colonised by spontaneous assemblages of plants and animals; • land alongside water-ways, transport and service corridors which, although perhaps once deliberately landscaped or planted are now mixtures of planted and spontaneous assemblages; • tracts of 'encapsulated countryside' such as woodlands, scrub, heathlands, meadows and marshes which, through appropriate management, continue to support essentially wild plant and animal assemblages. Often these natural areas exist within the framework of formally designated public open space; • ponds, ditches, rivers, lakes and reservoirs; • the less intensively managed parts of parks, school grounds, • sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards and cemeteries; <p>incidental pocket-sized plots along residential and commercial roads, pathways, car parks and property boundaries.</p> <p>The criteria highlighted in green apply to this application.</p>	

	<p>In the Sustainability Appraisal for the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies SA Report April 2015. This Site is marked as Protected Open Space (see Appendix 1) and this document states that:</p> <p>The NPPF (National Planning policy Framework) identifies the importance of the social role of the planning system, which is defined as 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities', with a 'core planning principle' being to 'take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all'. The NPPF also outlines that high quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.</p>	
--	---	--

4	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
4.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
	As the map above shows the field is adjacent to Whitehall Road and Revidge Road.	

5	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>recreational value</u> (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
5.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
5.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required?</i> <i>Further information – Sport England</i>	
	We understand that the site has been used as playing fields for nearly 100 years, evidence that the field was denoted as ‘children’s playing fields’ in 1931 Ordnance survey map is included in appendix 1 and also at the time that 6 Whitehall road was built in the early 1960s is shown in appendix 1. The field is widely used for the following sports (see section 1.6 above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football • Cricket 	
5.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i>	
	There is extensive public access to the site from Whitehall Road	
5.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</i>	
	Yes, the site has been used for recreation since the land was sold to the council in the 1920s. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking the dog • Walking • Jogging • Children playing • Picnicking • Neighbourhood social events 	
6	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquillity</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
6.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	

	YES	
6.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	<p>The site is a haven of tranquility, despite being close to the busy Revidge Road. The site has views across the golf course and the houses at the North of the field are screened by trees. The traffic noise from Revidge Road is muffled by the houses and when walking on the field the only sounds are often bird song and children playing. The tranquility of the site is one of the reasons that it supports mental wellbeing and partly why the site is so valued by the families who have children with special needs who use the site. Retaining this area of tranquility is fully aligned to Blackburn with Darwen's stated strategy to become an Autism Friendly Borough.</p> <p>There is significant research which demonstrates the value of greenspaces on mental health and wellbeing. (see references for further examples). The Wildlife Trusts have commissioned Exeter University to undertake a literature review to identify existing work that assesses the health and wellbeing benefits of Natural environments (See references in Appendix 4)</p> <p>This document identifies current challenges to wellbeing in the UK including the fall in people's physical activity levels in everyday lives; the increase in obesity; growing mental ill health, dementia and social isolation; and continuing health inequalities.</p> <p>It reports that the New Economics Foundation (Nef) identified five evidenced-based actions to improve wellbeing: i) Connect; ii) Be Active; iii) Take Notice; iv) Keep Learning; and v) Give (Nef, 2008). Nef suggested that if each of these Five Ways to Wellbeing were built into daily routines, health and wellbeing would be enhanced.</p> <p>As this application demonstrates the Whitehall Road playing field is used for exercise, it brings people together (improving their connection to the Neighbourhood), and it provides residents a natural greenspace with exposure to nature.</p> <p>The Wildlife Trusts report goes on to identify that there is currently an increasing evidence base to show that exposure to the natural environment positively affects physical health and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The report also states that viewing nature from a window can lead to health and wellbeing benefits such as recovery from mental fatigue and improvements to mental wellbeing. The view of the field from the houses on Revidge Road and the houses on Whitehall Road which face the field is something that the local residents value highly but this research suggests that it could also be helping their mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The report concludes that local green space and nearby nature are vital for individuals regardless whether this consists of an urban park or a rural wilderness area. Being in the presence of nearby nature plays an important role in human health and wellbeing. Improved general health has been found to be related to increased access to green space regardless of the socioeconomic status of individuals. Perceived neighbourhood greenness is strongly associated with better mental and physical health, with those living in highly green areas being between 1.37 and 1.60 times more likely to have better health.</p> <p>Research has identified links between the amount of accessible green space in an area and psychological wellbeing, indicating that accessible green space helps recovery from stress, protects from future stress and improves concentration.</p> <p>Blackburn with Darwen's own Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document states that: 'The Health and Wellbeing Board is firmly committed to improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the borough's residents. Blackburn with Darwen has high levels of deprivation in certain wards, which contributes to the poor health issues. As such, the borough experiences significantly higher than average levels of poor health among its population. Furthermore, the health of people in Blackburn with Darwen is</p>	

	<p>generally worse than the England average. Particular issues are obesity and related illnesses, diseases related to smoking, and the effects of alcohol. The Council and its partners are also particularly concerned about the health of young people, both in terms of immediate term safeguarding and the potential long term consequences that aspects of their lifestyles will have for their health.'</p> <p>By designating the Whitehall Road Playing field as Local Green Space and protecting this area for future generations Blackburn with Darwen council can be seen to be acting in accordance with its stated principles above.</p>	
7	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></p>	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?	
	YES	
7.2	Evidence of richness of wildlife:	
	<p>The site contains grassland, which is marshy in places, particularly at its margin with the golf course. On the Northern side of the field there is a scrubland area adjoining a ditch which in turn joins with a small water course running at the side of the golf course. There is a small copse of trees in this scrub area which is dense with brambles and a thick tree hedge including Laurel, Damson, Elder, Holly, Hawthorn and Rowan which provide shelter and food for birds. The field forms part of a wider wildlife corridor with the golf course.</p> <p>The area supports a large newt population which are known to breed in the adjacent garden ponds (see photograph in Appendix 2 as an example). Residents from Revidge Road at the South and Whitehall Road at the North report seeing newts in their gardens, frogs are also observed.</p> <p>Bats can be seen hunting over the field and a Tawny Owl survey conducted by a local resident last year identified 5 pairs of Tawny Owls.</p> <p>Foxes and even Roe Deer have also been observed on the site as have Hedgehogs. In the BBC Countryfile list of the 10 most endangered species in the UK, the Hedgehog is listed at position 8. (see appendix 4)</p> <p>Bird species observed by residents include: Blackbird, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Goldcrest, Nuthatch, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Long tailed Tit, Magpie, Rook, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Tree Creeper, Dunnock, Wren, Robin, Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon, Kestrel and Sparrow Hawk. The Song Thrush is on the RSPB Birds of Conservation Concern 4 Red list of birds. The Tawny Owl, Bullfinch and Dunnock are all on the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 Amber list.</p> <p>A large number of orange tip butterflies can be seen which lay their eggs on the cuckooflowers in the field.</p>	

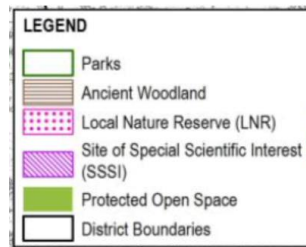
Appendix 1 – Documentation showing the field as a playing field and as Protected Open Space.



O/S map showing land designated as playing fields in 1931



Land registry document showing the field marked as playing fields in 1962



Map from the Sustainability Appraisal for the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies SA Report April 2015. The Site is marked as Protected Open Space.

Appendix 2 – Site Photographs



Google maps aerial view showing the Playing field in relation to the golf course and to Whitehall Road.



One of the many newts that breed in the garden ponds just beyond the tree hedge at the Northern edge of the field.



Roe Deer grazing on the golf course just behind the field. They are occasionally spotted on the field itself.



Residents and pets use the field extensively throughout the year.



Residents showing support for the campaign to save the field as Green Space.

Jan 05 2020

Appendix 3 - Letters of Support

In addition to support from the local residents, we have received messages of support from other organisations. A sample of the supporting letters is included in this appendix.

Email from Arts to Heal



29 James Street
Blackburn
BB1 6BE

30th November 2019

Dear

Supporting letter for the campaign for a local field being designated a Local Green Space on Whitehall Road, Blackburn.

As the manager of a local Mental Health Charity, and facilitator of a series of projects designed specifically to encourage spending time in nature to improve mental health and wellbeing, I write in support of the residents to oppose the development of the area.



Within our local communities there is an urgent need for accessible and cost-effective mental health infrastructure. Our local public green spaces were originally designated to provide health benefits, the green space on Whitehall Rd plays a pivotal role in the well-being of the local residents. Residents include the most vulnerable groups, the elderly residents for whom the green space reduces the risk of isolation, improves the sense of well-being, self-esteem and control associated with improved social interaction and provides a sense of belonging. For local youths' green spaces are linked with beneficial influences on individuals' emotions and ability to reflect on life problems. Research strongly supports the importance of green space to promote pro-mental health behaviour across all ages.

It is also worth reflecting on Blackburn with Darwen Councils agenda which promotes "Our Communities Our Future", through various funds being allocated to local organisations, for the very purpose of bringing communities together which the green space on Whitehall Road quite clearly provides.

Given the current prevalence and cost of mental ill-health and the rise in mental health related illnesses across all ages, there is a need for greater collaboration and support from key decision makers within the local authority.

I hope you will take these points into consideration to approve protection on the land.

Yours sincerely,


Banu Adam
Manager


Email from David Dunlop
Conservation Officer for Central & Western Lancashire
Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Dear Ms Harris

I'm responding further to the email request of 20th November, with an accompanying attachment, received from Mr Tony Hopwood.

This public access site at Whitehall Road, Blackburn has no county, national or international wildlife designation and such data as we have suggests that it wouldn't currently qualify at those levels. Consequently, it's not a priority for us in terms of its direct value for nature conservation *per se*.

However, we would support the retention of this site at Whitehall Road, northern Blackburn as accessible semi-natural greenspace important for local *people* if the designating authority accepts your and other verifiable evidence of such local importance.

One of our objectives is to maintain and improve access to nature for everyone across the county and two city regions that we cover. Regrettably, we currently have no core charitable or external funding available to deliver a dedicated project to assess and deliver that within Blackburn with Darwen Borough (and most of the 25 other local government districts for which we have a charitable remit), so no means to assess suitable sites ourselves.

Examples of externally funded projects connecting people with nature that we are consequently able deliver in other parts of our sub-region may be found on our website, [here](#); with supporting evidence on The Wildlife Trusts' national website, [here](#).

Season's Greetings

Dave

David Dunlop

Conservation Officer for Central & Western Lancashire

(Blackburn with Darwen, Chorley, Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire)

[REDACTED]

Mob: NONE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside

(Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Knowsley, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rochdale, Rossendale, St Helens, Salford, Sefton, South Ribble, West Lancashire, Wigan, Wyre)

"The Movie": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB9OdwbBEMI&t=2s>

Our Web Site: www.lancswt.org.uk

Our Irish Sea Living Seas website: www.livingseasnw.org.uk

We're a local membership charity: joining details are online at: <http://www.lancswt.org.uk/membership>.

See www.wildlifetrusts.org **for details of The Wildlife Trusts' national campaigns for a #WilderFuture.**

<https://www.lancswt.org.uk/wilder-future-campaign/wind-in-the-willows>

This message and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the individual(s) addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error, disclosing, copying, distributing or retaining this message or any part of it is strictly prohibited; please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside. The Trust accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted with this e-mail, so although virus checked before transmission, the recipient should also check for the presence of viruses. The information contained in this email may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Unless the information is legally exempt from disclosure, the confidentiality of this email and any subsequent reply cannot be guaranteed.

Email From The Open Spaces Society

11 December 2019

Dear Sir

Whitehall Road Playing Field, Blackburn

The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 and is Britain's oldest national conservation body. It campaigns to protect common land, village greens, open spaces and public paths, and people's right to enjoy them.

The society supports the application for the designation of land at Whitehall road as a local green space. It is clear that the land is used by the public and valued as an amenity area for the health and well-being of local people. It is an important open space and should be protected for continued use by local people.

Yours faithfully



Nicola Hodgson
Case Officer

Local Resident's emails

To whom it may concern. My family and I have been a resident on Revidge Rd since July 2000. I moved into the property when my oldest son was aged two and my daughter was aged 6 months. The area appealed to me as there was a field at the back that could be utilised and benefit us as a family.

Neighbours informed me that the community used the open area for many purposes. Since residing on Revidge Road I have benefitted from having an open space. I have a balcony that looks over on to the field and it has been a pleasure to spend my days outside.

My children have grown up on the field playing football, playing badminton and socialised with other children from within the neighbourhood.

My son is now aged 22 and my daughter is 20. As a family, we now benefit using the field to exercise and have a neighbourhood get together where families bring food and we eat together.

I have also seen other families who travel to use the field. The family have children with learning disabilities and Autism, where they have the opportunity to utilise the space to burn their energy.

My neighbour has a daughter currently aged seven and has recently been diagnosed with ADHD and Autism. The family moved to the home when their daughter L was aged two. Her mother informed me that L can be up between 03:00 -04:00am. However having the open space at the back she can take her daughter out where L can roam around and burn her energy. This in return allows her mother and family to have some form of respite. Without the open space it would impact on the whole family and would also negatively impact on L causing behaviours that challenge.

I also use the field to walk my cats, they are a rare breed therefore I am unable to let them out freely.

I also see families with their pets on the field.

I now have an 8-year-old son whom has the opportunity to exercise, run play and meet other young children. The field allows them to have the opportunity to keep occupied and prevent crime in later life as they have the resource to keep occupied and safe.

It is a great asset to have not only does it ensure my children's safety being nearby where I can see them at all times. It allows them to have fresh air, exercise, promote their wellbeing, spend less time on their consoles and improves their mental wellbeing. Daily exercise on the field reduces the likelihood of obesity and promoting health and well-being from an early onset will be part of their life and they can then pass it on to other individuals which will have a positive impact at a later stage of life.

It is also nice to see the Canadian geese and wild ducks on the field. On the odd occasion early hours of the morning I have also had the opportunity to see deer on the field.

I have also had newts in my garden from the field. Therefore not only has the field had a good use for humans it continues to benefit our wildlife.

Rahana Ismail
213 Revidge Rd
Blackburn

Subject: Proposals for developing Whitehall Playing Field, Revidge, Blackburn

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Phil,

My husband, family and I have been worried since reading in the local paper about proposals for a housing development on the field at the back of our house. We use this field on a daily basis throughout the year, even though this year it has been boggy than usual and we suspect that this is due to an uncharacteristic lack of maintenance by the Council. We walk on the field with the dogs, as do lots of other people and for all the spring and summer months, the children of my household and the neighbours' households congregate and play for many long hours. It is a safe space for our children to play whilst we are able to watch on; something rare these days. I have watched children from other areas come to play on this field- children from Lammack areas and Pleckgate; it is a valuable local resource. During summer months, we join together with neighbours to eat and socialise with our children.

Living in Blackburn i am aware that there are many areas of land, maybe privately owned, that would lend themselves much better than our field, to housing development. These areas are full of rubbish and are neglected; they are eyesores and I know that residents near to them would be happy with developing them into areas for families.

In terms of safety, access off Revidge Road is often perilous and the prospect of significantly more cars is worrying.

Hope you are well,

Lisa Guinan



Tony Hopwood [REDACTED]

25/11/2019 08:28



To: Vicki

Vicki,

I support the application to keep the land as our community land. I for one have had mental health issues over the years the land has helped me recover by being able to take the dogs on there or even just walk around it.

I take the dogs on there in the mornings.

It's really good to see others using the field for football and football training, cricket, badminton, frisbee throwing, as well as social gatherings, picnics, barbecues, etc

There are too many pieces of green space disappearing.

Regards

Tony

6 Whitehall Road

To whom it may concern

We are a family of 6 comprising of 4 young children who always enjoy time spent on the playing field. Even though our property has a good size garden, the field provides the children with opportunities to socialise and play with others from the local area. They often speak fondly of finding dens and secret hideaways together. During the summer months they often ride up and down the field and join in with ball games.

As a parent the field gives us piece of mind knowing they are away from cars and other hazards on the road whilst enjoying outdoor activities.

It is an area used daily by dog walkers & for recreation. It is one of the reasons we purchased our property and I'm sure others did too. It would be absolutely devastating to find this Safe Space become a congested housing development.

Kind Regards

Mr & Mrs Amin
14 Whitehall Road,
Blackburn

-

Sheila Gutteridge/Whitehall Road

I have lived in the area for forty three years now, twenty of them on Whitehall Road. When my boys were at school, at St Silas's, they used to walk up here to practise football on the green. Just the walk up here was so good for their fitness levels - something the government is all too keen to inform us that we need to do in order to keep our children fit and healthy and not obese.

When we moved here I walked my dogs, the boys played there all the time in a safe environment, not too far from home. we have built snowmen, set off fireworks and honed our skills with remote controlled cars. I hope to be doing that in the future with my new granddaughter!

The trees skirting the area give wildlife a small but essential place to call home and surely we should be hanging on to the trees we already have for the sake of our planet? Perhaps we should be planting more?

Spaces like this used to be called the lungs of our towns and cities and yet now they are being filled in to choke us at every turn.

The exit from Whitehall Road onto Revidge, is one of the most dangerous we experience each day. I cannot imagine what sort of chaos a further forty or so residents would create each day, especially at school run time. It will surely result in more accidents! There is nowhere for these extra cars to park either, as it is already sometimes difficult to find spaces.

I do hope you will think again about the unsuitability of our green space for your plans.

Regards

Sheila Gutteridge

-

Ms Woodruff of 5 Ravenswing Ave - myself, daughter and dog use the field most days for dog walks. My daughter and her friends play there on weekends, afterschool and in the holidays. As a lone female walking my dog I feel safe there especially as I was approached in corporation park last year whilst walking my young puppy by 3 young males who thankfully were disturb by another dog walker. My daughter and I regularly see the ducks walking around on there and enjoy playing there. It's a safe fun place to build snowmen and play in the snow too which we have done on several occasions

Many Thanks

Liz

Whitehall Road - Green space

We use this area daily on several occasions to walk our dog (& 5 cats who usually accompany him). It is a quiet safe area where he can sometimes be let off his lead.

Our grand daughters regularly play there too. Again it is a local safe space where they can enjoy outdoor play. Sadly the local park is not.

It is a quiet peaceful area of tranquility which benefits greatly the local residents & children

Regards

Trevor & Helan Robins

197 Revidge Rd

Blackburn

I use the field regularly to enjoy the local surroundings playing sports with my children.

It is widely used by all the local residents for a variety of purposes.

People from Whitehall and the full surrounding locality use this for 'Dog Walking' as it is the only green space in the area.

Kind regards

Salim A Ibrahim

12 Whitehall Road

Blackburn

BB2 6DU

Whitehall rd field



Carol Covill

To [REDACTED]

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [...](#)

Tue 19/11/2019 22:27

To whom it may concern,

I have lived on Whitehall for over 20 years my children grew up playing on the field and now my grandchildren, nieces and nephews are starting to play on the field and enjoy being outdoors walking the dogs and exploring the field. They have learnt about the trees, enjoyed blackberry picking, watched the birds, made dens, played ball games, had picnics, made snowmen, had bonfires and much more. This space provides a safe, natural area for adults, children, pets and wildlife to enjoy and thrive. The children can play in safe view of the surrounding houses and everyone keeps a watchful eye on them. The green space gives an openness, a gentle tranquility and positive energy to the overly built up urban area of Revidge. Green spaces are known to support mental health and well-being. Which is another reason to protect this area. Looking out onto the field really lifts the spirits and makes you feel good. The light the field brings is also very beneficial to personal well-being.

I use the field at least 3 times a day for dog walking and my grandson walks and plays on the field 3 days a week. It will be invaluable to his learning about the outdoors and his physical development as it was to my children years ago.

Regards
Carol Covill

4 Whitehall Road
Revidge
BB2 6DU

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2019 10:03
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: How we use the field

To whom it may concern,

Our 3 children use the field on an almost daily basis. The 2 boys use it in the morning as a means to exercise. On the weekends I train my boys and other local residents to play football. It is our way of keeping ourselves healthy and active.

Yours faithfully

Yaser Amin
(15 WHR)

Appendix 4 – References.

Planning References

Natural England ([*Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard*](#))

English Nature Research Report No. 153, Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities (Harrison et al., 1995)

National Planning Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Sustainability Appraisal for the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies SA Report April 2015.

Wellbeing References

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/nature-health-and-wild-wellbeing#evidence>

<https://www.who.int/sustainable-development/cities/health-risks/urban-green-space/en/>

<https://www.newgeography.com/content/003945-health-happiness-and-density>

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/145305/green-space-is-good-for-mental-health>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2016/11/09/green-space-mental-wellbeing-and-sustainable-communities/>

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/pdfs/SPD-Planning%20for%20Health.pdf>

Nature References

Birds of Conservation Concern

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/psob>

BBC Countryfile 10 most endangered species in the UK

<https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/10-of-the-most-endangered-animal-species-in-britain/>

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION

Whitehall Road Playing Field, Blackburn

Date of application – 16/12/2019

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE (LGS) DESIGNATION	2
Appendix 1 – Documentation showing the field as a playing field and as Protected Open Space.....	9
Appendix 2 – Site Photographs.....	11
Appendix 3 - Letters of Support.....	13
Appendix 4 – References	20

Application produced by the Whitehall Road Neighbourhood Forum

Name	Address	Signature
-------------	----------------	------------------

By virtue of paragraph(s) 6a of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted