

Public Document Pack

Executive Board

Thursday, 12 August 2021
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: King Georges Hall
Address: Blackburn

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**
Executive Board Minutes July 2021 4 - 8
3. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM 9
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

Adult Services & Prevention

Children, Young People & Education

Environmental Services

Public Health & Wellbeing

Digital & Customer Services

Growth & Development

- 8.1 Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington Cemetery**
P1 - Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington Cemetery **10 - 12**

Finance & Governance

- 8.2 Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 4**
Outturn Position 2020/21
Revenue Q4 **13 - 27**
Revenue Appendix 1
Revenue Appendix 2

- 8.3 Corporate Capital Budget and Balance Sheet Monitoring**
Report Quarter 4 2020/21
Capital Outturn Q4 **28 - 40**
Appendix 1 - Cap Q4
Appendix 2 - Cap Q4

- 8.4 Corporate Capital Budget and Balance Sheet Monitoring**
Report Quarter 1 2021/22
Capital Q1 **41 - 50**
Appendix 1 - Cap Q1
Appendix 2 - Cap Q1

9. Corporate Issues

- 9.1 Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan**
Walking and Cycling Plan **51 - 77**
Appendix 1 Walking and Cycling
Appendix 3 - Walking and Cycling

- 10. Petition: East Park Road - Road Safety Concerns**
East Park Road Petition **78 - 85**
Appendix 1 - Petition
Appendix 2 - Petition
Appendix 3 - Petition
Appendix 4 - Petition

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

11. **Development of a New Prayer Shelter at Pleasington
Cemetery
P2 -Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington 86 - 89
Cemetery - FINAL**

Date Published: Wednesday, 04 August 2021
Denise Park, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE BOARD Thursday 8th July 2021

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE
Councillor Julie Gunn
Councillor Mustafa Desai
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Vicky McGurk
Councillor Phil Riley
Councillor Damian Talbot
Councillor Quesir Mahmood

PORTFOLIO:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Zara Hayat
Muhammed Bapu
Zainab Dassu

Youth MP
Deputy Youth MP
Deputy Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor John Slater.	
2	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 th June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.	Agreed
3	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
4	<u>Equality Implications</u> The Chair asked Members to confirm that they had considered and understood any Equality Impact Assessments associated with reports on the agenda ahead of making any decisions.	Confirmed
5	<u>Public Forum</u> No questions had been received from members of the public.	
6	<u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u> No questions had been received from Non-Executive Members.	
7	<u>Youth MPs Update</u>	

	Item	Action
	<p>The Youth MP and Deputy Youth MPs verbally reported on recent events and activities including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the YPS Website. • Zara had been volunteering at the Foodbank and noted its important role in helping alleviate food poverty, • The need to work with Schools on promotion and visibility of the Youth Forum, and the production of a promotional video was also ongoing. • Promotion of the Covid Testing and the importance of following the guidelines for young people. • Ongoing work on the Mental Health First Aid Course for Young People. • Muhammed had recently received a Mayor's Award in recognition of his work, which was also a recognition of the work of the Youth Forum. <p>Members of the Executive Board thanked the Youth MPs for their update and ongoing positive work, and outlined the ways that Councillors, as School Governors, could work with schools to help promote the Youth Forum.</p> <p><u>Executive Member Reports</u></p> <p>.</p>	Noted
8.1	<p><u>Safer Streets Funding</u></p> <p>Members received a report on the Safer Streets Fund (2), a second round of funding made available to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Local Authorities in England and Wales in 2021/22 to help support areas with higher crime rates. Following a successful bid, Blackburn with Darwen had been awarded £432,000 from the Home Office for a scheme in the Whalley Banks and Bank Top area. The scheme included Capital spend, and as such required Executive Board approval.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board: Gives approval for the Council to spend in line with grant funding requirements.</p>	Approved
8.2	<p><u>Anti-Terrorism Traffic Restriction Order (ATTRO)</u></p> <p>Members were advised that this item had been deferred until the next meeting.</p>	Noted
8.3	<p><u>Q4 Quarterly Fostering Report</u></p> <p>A report was submitted providing information on the management</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>and performance of the Local Authority's Fostering Service and is revised each quarter. The report, alongside Appendix 1, provided analysis of the period January to 31st March 2021, and reflected upon data and any patterns within the Service to determine development and progress. The report also outlined how the Service had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Report also referenced comparisons with Quarters 1-2 of 2020.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board notes this Quarter 4 end of year 2020/21 report, alongside Appendix 1 with service development updates and recommendations.</p>	Noted
8.4	<p><u>Digitally Connected – Microsoft 365 and Unified Comms</u></p> <p>The Executive Board received a report seeking approval to upgrade the Council's Microsoft licences from E3 licences to M365 E5 licences and introduce a new Unified Communications telephony solution from June 2022.</p> <p>The report outlined the reasons for the upgrades, in particular, as as a result of the pandemic, the Council's operating model and reliance on technology had changed significantly and there would be a requirement to access the full capability of the Microsoft toolset, including Business Intelligence capabilities and external sharing/collaboration with multiple agencies.</p> <p>The transition of telephony from Skype to Teams was also being accelerated due to the age and instability of the legacy platform. The proposal to have a Unified Communications solution would offer a consistent set of products to manage all of the Council's requirements.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Further to the Capital Programme at Finance Council in March 2021, the Executive Board is asked to approve the reallocation of £625,000 from the earmarked ICT Capital Reserves to fund the programme.</p> <p>Approves the potential revenue increase to the portfolio as detailed below;</p> <p>2022/23 Financial year - £178,000 2023/24 Financial year - £274,000 2024/25 Financial year - £330,000 2025/26 Financial year onwards - £345,000</p>	Approved
8.5	<p><u>Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation responses and amended Local Development Scheme Timetable</u></p> <p>Members received a report advising that the Council was currently preparing a new Local Plan which will set out the land use</p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>planning strategy for the Borough up to 2037. A Public Consultation exercise on a draft version of the new Local Plan was approved by the Council's Executive Board on 10th December 2020. Consultation then commenced on Friday 8th January 2021 and concluded on Friday 19th February 2021. A Consultation Statement (Background Paper 1) set out who had been consulted, how they were consulted and provided a brief summary of the main issues raised and outlines the next steps in Plan preparation.</p> <p>During the six week consultation period the Council received a total of 1,796 valid representations to policies and sites from 776 separate respondents (either individuals or organisations). A summary of each representation had been prepared along with a proposed Council response and this is included as Appendix H of the Consultation Statement (Background Paper 1).</p> <p>The proposed Strategic Housing Site at North East Blackburn (Site Ref: S195) and the proposed Strategic Employment Site at Junction 5 of the M65 (Site Ref: S179) both received a large number of representations. As a result, the proposed Council response to these representations was provided separately in Appendices I and J (of the Consultation Statement) respectively.</p> <p>A number of other representations referred to additional areas to be considered as potential future Growth sites (i.e. allocations to consider for significant new development). These were discussed further in Section 5 of the Consultation Statement and proposed Council Responses to each were provided in Appendix K. A summary was also provided in the Background section of this report below.</p> <p>A timetable setting out the next stages of work on the new Local Plan through to its adoption was also contained in a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) as Background Paper 2.</p> <p>An Addendum Report had been published prior to the meeting, which can be accessed from the link below,</p> <p>Agenda for Executive Board on Thursday, 8th July, 2021, 6.00 pm (blackburn.gov.uk)</p> <p>which clarified an error and its implications, which was in relation to Appendix H of Background Paper 1, (page 106). The report asked that Members note the error and its implications and that the Consultation Statement would be updated to reflect this new site following Executive Board approval.</p> <p>In coming to their decision the Board confirmed that they had read and considered the reports and associated appendices.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p>	

	Item	Action
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the outcomes of the Consultation Draft Local Plan Reg18 public consultation process as set out in this report and the Consultation Statement (see Background Paper 1); Approves the proposed Council responses to representations (set out in Appendices H-K of the Consultation Statement); Approves the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and agrees to the updated timescales included to prepare the new Local Plan (see Background Paper 2). 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
	<p>AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</p>	
11	<p><u>Digitally Connected – Microsoft 365 and Unified Comms</u></p> <p>Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 8.4, an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Further to the Capital Programme at Finance Council in March 2021, the Executive Board is asked to approve the reallocation of £625,000 from the earmarked ICT Capital Reserves to fund the programme.</p> <p>Approves the potential revenue increase to the portfolio as detailed below;</p> <p>2022/23 Financial year - £178,000 2023/24 Financial year - £274,000 2024/25 Financial year - £330,000 2025/26 Financial year onwards - £345,000</p> <p>Signed at a meeting of the Board</p> <p>on 12th August 2021</p> <p>(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	<p>Approved</p>

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: 12TH AUGUST 2021

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: Executive Member of Growth & Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Place

DATE: Thursday, 12 August 2021

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington Cemetery

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current Muslim burial grounds will be at capacity within 12-15 months at which point all future burials will take place in the new cemeteries extension which is located over ½ mile from the existing prayer shelter.

Traditionally, the deceased is taken to the Muslim prayer shelter and immediately following the prayers, the deceased is then carried to graveside and buried. The new Muslim burial grounds are located too far away from the existing prayer shelter to allow this practice to continue, hence the need for a new Muslim prayer shelter located in the new cemetery extension.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Approves the construction of a new modular build Muslim prayer shelter within the new cemetery extension at Pleasington Cemetery, subject to planning permission being granted.
- Approves the establishment of a capital budget in the financial year 2021/22 to fund the surveys, professional fees and construction costs.
- Delegates approval to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to award the contract to build the prayer shelter following a tendering process.

3. BACKGROUND

The current Muslim burial grounds which surround the existing prayer shelter will be at capacity within the next 12 -15 months, at which point all future burials will take place in the new extension to the north of the cemetery, which is some considerable distance from the existing prayer shelter. Traditionally, the deceased is taken to the Muslim prayer shelter and immediately following the prayers, the deceased is then carried to graveside and buried.

The new Muslim burial grounds are located too far away from the prayer shelter to allow this practice to continue – not only would it be a long walk for mourners, particularly in inclement weather but it would require mourners to cross paths with other mourners in the cemetery

including those attending services in the crematorium. The consequence of this is that there is a need for a new Muslim prayer shelter located in the new cemeteries extension.

The need for a new Muslim prayer shelter has been accelerated by the impact of the pandemic with a significant increase in excess deaths in our Muslim community.

Proposed New Muslim Prayer Shelter

As part of an initial feasibility study, a desktop analysis supported by a soft marketing exercise with a construction contractor has helped to inform the design and build of a new Muslim prayer shelter located in the Cemetery extension.

This work highlighted a lack of locally available supplies for utility services (water and electric), which would need to be addressed as part of the build programme. There is no obvious local supply, therefore further work will be required to determine how best to connect these supplies, which may result in mains connections. Mains connections for water and electricity have been accounted for within the initial costs and the build programme but could be subject to change on further review.

Desktop study - This was carried out calculating the proposed size and using industry standard construction build schedule of cost rates, which accounts for all perimeter works, small kitchen, utilities/services, heating system, WC's, decoration and finishes throughout, based on a building size of a minimum of 200m².

Soft market testing - Through the desktop study, a schedule of works was produced and presented to a local building contractor, who had recently completed a construction project for the Council which was procured in open competition. The brief for the contractor was to cost both a modular building and traditional building methods for comparison of costs and delivery times.

Build Programme - It is estimated that a modular build option could be in use within 12 months, a traditional build would be up to 18 months dependent on the weather during the winter months.

The existing prayer shelter is located next to a large steel shipping container which contains the grounds maintenance equipment used by the Muslim burial volunteers who tend to the graves and maintain the burial grounds on a weekly basis. The volunteers require more space for equipment and a space for training new volunteers, the existing prayer shelter could be used for this purpose and would enable the unsightly shipping container to be removed from the site.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The Muslim burial grounds will be at capacity in 12-15 months due to the increased number of Muslim burials undertaken throughout the pandemic.

The new burial grounds are a considerable distance from the existing prayer shelter therefore the practice of carrying the body immediately after prayers to graveside cannot continue unless a new prayer shelter is provided in the new cemeteries extension.

The new prayer shelter will require planning permission.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated capital cost of constructing a new Muslim prayer shelter have been obtained following a desktop survey and a soft market testing exercise. The actual cost will be confirmed following a tendering process led by the corporate procurement team

The operational day to day cost for the new Muslim Prayer shelter will be funded from the Cemeteries and Crematoria revenue budget.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The contract value is below the threshold for works where the Public Contracts regulations 2015 would apply. The contract will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Officers from the Corporate procurement team and Construction and facilities team would be engaged in the procurement process to award the contract for the new build. Officers from the Construction and facilities team would perform clerk of works role working with the appointed contractor on the delivery of the scheme.

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

N/A.

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:	Martin Eden Director of Place martin.eden@blackburn.gov.uk
DATE:	3 August 2021
BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A.

Agenda Item 8.2

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Finance and Governance

LEAD OFFICERS: Chief Executive (acting s151 officer)

DATE: 12 August 2021

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: All

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES ☒ NO ☐

SUBJECT: CORPORATE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 4 - 2020/21 OUTTURN POSITION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report details the overall revenue position of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2021, highlighting the key issues for review. It also determines the year end position with regard to portfolio under/overspends and the impact on earmarked and unallocated reserves.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Board is asked to approve:

- the portfolio budget adjustments outlined in Appendix 1.
- carry forward of the specific amounts shown in Appendix 1 from 2020/21 to 2021/22.
- the earmarked reserves position shown in Appendix 2
- the variations to revenue expenditure, as listed in Section 6, thereby giving rise to a revised balance of £8.373 million on the unallocated General Fund revenue reserve at 31st March 2021.

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

The Council has seen an increase in the level of reserves held at 31st March 2021, largely in its earmarked reserves held for specific purposes. This includes specific Covid funding received from central government which is to be utilised over the 2 year period through to March 2022. Indeed, a significant amount of this funding for business rates support and the Council's ongoing response to and

recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, has already been committed in the first quarter of this financial year. This position is similar to many other local authorities.

At the year-end date of 31st March, there is an overall underspend across Council services, this is due in part to: reduced demand for some services in the last year, service closures with staff redeployed to support response efforts, accounting for funding received in response to the pandemic, offset by significant loss of income from fees and charges. However, we expect demand for many services to increase this year, although income from fees and charges is not expected to recover fully for some time, likely leading to a call on reserves and the funding carried forward in this financial year.

Actual net revenue expenditure at 31st March 2021 was £166.113 million, compared to an original budget of £143.375 million i.e. an increase in net expenditure of £22.738 million.

Portfolio controllable expenditure, including Schools & Education (DSG), was £114.038 million for the year, which was £4.335 million less than the revised budget of £118.373 million, approved by Executive Board in February 2021.

General Fund unallocated reserves are £8.373 million at 31st March 2021, compared to £7.173 million at 31st March 2020. The increase relates to a number of transfers both to and from unallocated reserves that were approved during the year, together with final outturn adjustments detailed in Section 6.

The Council holds earmarked reserves of £47.665 million for discretionary purposes. These include;

- £1.543 million to fund improvements to assets and infrastructure
- £14.310 million to meet the cost of downsizing and transformation in future years, including potential redundancy costs
- £4.484 million for People services, including amounts set aside to meet future demand pressures
- £1.295 million for Place and Resources services
- £10.031 million set aside in respect of welfare and local taxation reform.
- £11.983 million in respect of grants, contributions and other budgets carried forward from 2020/21 to 2021/22 to meet specific costs (this includes £6.539m of non ring-fenced Covid-19 funding).
- £4.019 million set aside for specified purposes.

Appendix 2 to this report provides the detail of the carried forward reserves and also reflects that £17.328 million, will be allocated to portfolios in the first monitoring report of 2021/22 providing a revised earmarked reserves held for discretionary purposes amounting to £30.337 million at the end of the first quarter of the new financial year.

The Council also holds reserves of £12.660 million in relation to expenditure for Schools and Education, and £0.418 million is held in respect of joint arrangements, charitable purposes and other ring-fenced commitments.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The information contained within the report accords with the three year budget forecast within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020-23, as approved at Finance Council on 24th February 2020.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 REVENUE BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURE

6.1.1 Revenue Budget Overview

The 2020/21 Budget and MTFS 2020-2023 approved by Finance Council in February 2020 set a balanced budget for the year based on the assumptions made at that time.

Since then, the Covid-19 pandemic has created a significant shock to the economy and resulted in significant, unplanned expenditure and income losses for the Council, as set out in previous reports to the Executive Board and Council Forum.

During the course of 2020, the Government began to provide additional resources to Councils to meet these unplanned costs and mitigate some of the financial losses incurred. Funding was made available through a Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). This funding is ring-fenced for public health purposes to tackle Covid-19, working to break the chain of transmission and protecting the most vulnerable. Non ring-fenced Covid-19 grant was also received and the Government introduced a Sales, Fees and Charges losses support scheme which reimbursed 75p in every pound after the Council has met the first 5% of eligible income losses, mainly excluding commercial income. Additional funding was also provided for Local Authorities like ours under the local restrictions tiering in 2020 and the subsequent national lockdowns. As the continuing response to and recovery from Covid-19 spans financial years, funding received in the financial year 2020/21 can be carried forward into 2021/22 to support ongoing response and recovery work. Indeed, the specific funding will be critical during 2021/22 as we continue to deliver Covid-related response and recovery activity alongside an increasing number of Council services returning to business as usual.

As with other public sector organisations, we are also dealing with a backlog and rise in demand across many of our services including social work support for vulnerable adults and children, legal, registrars, public protection, youth provision, employment and business support. To acknowledge the adjustments to services in continuing to respond to the pandemic, and operate within Covid-safe guidelines, the Council has allocated additional resource in 2021/22 to manage the increased demand and provide capacity to deal with outstanding backlogs as reported to Executive Board in June.

With regard to economic activity and the potential ongoing impact on our sales, fees and charges the government's own data indicates activity will not return to pre-Covid-19 levels until 2023. The impact of the pandemic led to a 10% fall in economic output over 2020 which is only expected to recover by 4% this year and 7% in 2022/23. The government has extended the Sales, Fees and Charges compensation scheme but only until the end of June 2021.

At Outturn Covid-19 revenue support has been applied to Portfolio controllable budgets contributing to an overall underspend of £7.007 million. In addition the Schools and Education (DSG) portfolio has underspent by £3.621 million. The summary of the outturn revenue position is as follows:

6.1.2 Performance against budgets

Appendix 1 details the portfolio budgets at 31st December 2020, as approved by the Executive Board in February 2021 (totalling £118.373 million), together with the adjustments recommended to the Board for approval in this Quarter 4 report; these result in a revised total budget allocation across the portfolios of £124.666 million, and reflect:

- transfers to and from earmarked reserves to support spending on specific schemes for which these reserves were established, or to replenish these reserves
- transfers from unallocated reserves to support budget pressures
- transfers to unallocated reserves in respect of savings made
- transfers from sums held in contingencies
- transfers to earmarked reserves in respect of grants / contributions and other year-end budget carryover requests

	Original Budget (after portfolio changes)	Revised Budget (incl outturn adjustments at Appendix 1)	Actual Outturn	Variation from Revised Budget Over/ (Under) spend
Net Expenditure	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adults & Prevention Services	50,854	53,262	49,795	(3,467)
Public Health and Wellbeing	2,154	2,965	2,486	(479)
Children, Young People & Education	29,802	32,045	30,813	(1,232)
Environmental Services	8,948	11,319	9,922	(1,397)
Growth & Development	7,850	7,339	7,737	398
Digital & Customer Services	5,625	5,916	5,330	(586)
Finance & Governance	9,555	12,761	12,517	(244)
Sub-total	114,788	125,607	118,600	(7,007)
Schools and Education (DSG)	(941)	(941)	(4,562)	(3,621)
Net portfolio controllable expenditure	113,847	124,666	114,038	(10,628)
Contribution from schools for prudential borrowing	(520)	(520)	(520)	0
Contribution to capital expenditure	300	129	129	0
Interest and debt repayment	19,610	19,410	18,135	(1,275)
Amounts to be allocated / contingencies	9,818	829	829	0

Parish councils	190	190	190	0
Total net expenditure	143,245	144,704	132,801	(11,903)
Contribution (from)/to reserves	130	27,816	33,312	5,496
Total net budget	143,375	172,520	166,113	(6,407)
Financed by:				
Non-ringfenced Government grants	(66,064)	(95,209)	(88,802)	6,407
Non-domestic rates	(20,587)	(20,587)	(20,587)	0
Council tax	(56,022)	(56,022)	(56,022)	0
Net deficit on Collection Fund	(702)	(702)	(702)	0
Total financing	(143,375)	(172,520)	(166,113)	6,407

Portfolio Positions

The outturn position for each portfolio, after the allocation of Covid-19 funding to offset cost pressures and income losses is as follows:

Adults and Prevention Services

The final outturn position for the portfolio is an underspend of £3,466,882.

The portfolio incurred significant costs during the year providing financial support to care sector providers, however individual care package costs reduced during the pandemic due to changes in National hospital discharge guidance. From 19th March to 31st August 2020, care costs for residential and nursing care attributed to hospital discharge or hospital admission avoidance were paid directly by the NHS. In addition, Continuing Health Care (CHC) frameworks for joint funded packages of care were suspended during this time. The hospital discharge guidance was then revised on 1st September 2020 and with effect from that date, only the first six weeks following discharge were funded by the NHS. During this time no charges were made for social care however as with other additional Covid-19 costs these were supported by Covid-19 grants. During the year some staffing costs were paid directly by Health funds and the department faced challenges in recruiting to vacant posts during this time contributing to the underspend.

As at 1st September, CHC frameworks were restarted and CHC recovery systems were put in place to work through backlogs of cases. As a result of changes to discharge and joint funding pathways the portfolio is beginning to see an increase in referrals and care package costs reverting back to Local Authority funding. Hospital discharge trackers continue to be monitored to estimate care costs coming back to Social Care to take into consideration the impact of Covid-19 and hospital discharge wherever possible and it should be recognised that this may result in further escalating costs in 2021/22 which will require funding from Covid-19 grants carried forward.

In addition the portfolio anticipates that pressures on external commissioned budgets will increase in 2021/22 as the country gradually comes out of lockdown and the care sector works to recover from the

impact of the pandemic, these again will require support from Covid-19 grants carried forward in 2021/22.

Public Health and Wellbeing

After the application of Covid-19 grants to support the portfolios loss of income and work attributable to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, the portfolio's final outturn position was an underspend of £478,331.

Over the course of the year Leisure facilities, the museum and our venues in Blackburn and Darwen have been unable to operate as normal, firstly due to lockdown and then, once they could reopen, this was only at a reduced capacity. This is an ongoing position into the financial year 2021/22 and the portfolio will require further support to offset its ongoing income losses.

Children, Young People and Education

As reported throughout the year, the Children's Services portfolio continued to experience increased levels of demand resulting in significant cost pressures in 2020/21. The portfolio's final position for the year shows an underspend of £1,231,926. As with the other portfolios this outturn position is after the application of Covid-19 grants. The demand pressures particularly around Commissioning and Special Guardianship Orders are expected to increase as the country slowly moves towards the new normal and the portfolio will require further Covid-19 funding to meet these pressures.

Environmental Services

The portfolio received Covid-19 funding to offset income losses and pressures and reported a final outturn position of £1,397,216 underspent. Waste disposal costs have decreased due to the introduction of the blue bins and whilst there was an increase in recycling tonnages, the recycling costs of fibre have been favourable. It should be noted that these can vary significantly as the portfolio cannot control the pricing of commodity materials which fluctuate throughout the year.

Budgets across the portfolio, continue to be closely monitored; income streams continue to be impacted and are unlikely to recover to pre-pandemic levels for some time, and there is potential for an increase in waste tonnages.

Growth and Development

As with the other portfolios Growth and Development has received significant Covid-19 funding to offset additional expenditure and income losses incurred as a result of the pandemic. Notwithstanding this the portfolio's final outturn position is an overspend of £397,634. This overspend is accounted for by underlying pressures commercial services such as the Market.

Digital and Customer Services

The portfolio's outturn position is an underspend of £586,542 This saving arises largely from the capitalisation of staff working on specific IT projects which have continued throughout the year.

Finance and Governance

The portfolio has underspent by £243,493 after the allocation of Covid-19 funding. The underspend relates to staffing vacancies and costs that have not been incurred during the period as activities have ceased or been deferred e.g. training courses, meetings and the progression of legal cases.

Dedicated Schools Grant / Schools Block

Schools and Education is primarily funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Expenditure against this grant is monitored by the Schools Forum, at which financial reports are considered on a regular basis.

The reported surplus of £3.621 million is made up of an increase across all of the individual school balances of £3.786 million, and an overspend of £0.165 million in respect of centrally retained budgets. The majority of the latter is attributable to the High Needs Block and is due to demand pressures in respect of children with Special Educational Needs.

The above variations increase the level of the School Balances Reserve to £9.061 million and the Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve is now £3.599 million.

6.2 General Fund Unallocated Reserves

The table below shows the movements in unallocated reserves since the last Executive Board report in February 2021.

	£'000	£'000
Forecast unallocated reserves as per Executive Board Report February 2021		8,042
<i>Transfers to / from unallocated reserves</i>		
Net savings across portfolios	7,006	
Net savings in respect of interest and debt repayment costs	1,275	
Savings on "ring-fenced" budgets:		
- Reduction in provision for housing benefit overpayments	100	
- Non-distributed costs (former employee pension costs)	54	
Contingencies not required	43	8,478
Transfer to earmarked reserves	(7,650)	
Increased costs on "ringfenced" budgets		
- Increase in net cost of housing benefits	(461)	
- Coroners Service	(33)	
- Flood Defence Levy	(3)	(8,147)
Balance on unallocated general fund reserves at 31 March 2021		8,373

6.3 Earmarked reserves

Total earmarked reserves stand at £60.743 million at 31st March 2021 comprising reserves for discretionary use by the Council of £47.665 million and other earmarked reserves of £13.078 million, which largely comprise reserves held in respect of schools.

Details of the requested application of reserves are included in Appendix 1.

Details of all earmarked reserve balances at 31st March 2021 are shown in Appendix 2. This Appendix shows all movements in the specific reserves since the February 2021 Executive Board report including:

- utilisation of the individual reserves
- increases made to these reserves from unallocated reserves or creation of new reserves
- revenue contributions made to capital that are no longer required in 2020/21
- transfers to reserves in respect of grants / contributions and other budgets for carry forward from 2020/21 into 2021/22

6.4 Collection Fund

Business Rates

The outturn position for the Business Rates Collection Fund is a deficit carried forward into 2021/22 of £18.485 million, comprising:

	31/12/2020 Estimate	31/03/2021 Outturn
	£million	£million
Business Rates surplus brought forward from 2019/20	(2.412)	(2.412)
Deficit for the year	19.769	20.897
Deficit carried forward as at 31/03/2021	17.357	18.485
Distribution of deficit carried forward		
Central Government	9.159	9.723
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	0.164	0.175
Blackburn with Darwen Council	8.034	8.587
	17.357	18.485

The Council's share of the deficit carried forward into 2021/22 is £8.587 million, which will largely be funded from section 31 grants carried forward in earmarked reserves for this purpose.

Council Tax

The outturn position on the Council Tax Collection Fund is a deficit carried forward into 2021/22 of £1.694 million, made up of:

	31/12/2020 Estimate	31/03/2021 Outturn
	£million	£million
Council Tax surplus brought forward from 2019/20	(0.712)	(0.712)
Deficit for the year	2.459	2.406
Deficit carried forward as at 31/03/2021	1.747	1.694
Distribution of deficit carried forward		
Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner	0.199	0.193
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	0.067	0.065
Blackburn with Darwen Council	1.481	1.436
	1.747	1.694

The Council's share of the deficit carried forward into 2021/22 is £1.436 million, which has been budgeted for over the three financial years 2021/22–2023/24, in line with the government's deficit spreading guidance.

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:	0.04
CONTACT OFFICER:	Julie Jewson (Extn 5893)
DATE:	20 th July 2021
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 February 2021	52,323,056	2,669,153	31,797,503	8,983,585	8,362,562	5,681,103	9,496,703	(941,000)	118,372,665
<i>Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves</i>									
ER/VR and Pension Strain adjustments			23,700						23,700
Better Care Fund	(857,351)								(857,351)
CCTV Hub Reserve	(45,545)								(45,545)
Strengthen Communities - Volunteering in Lancashire	55								55
Transfer to Arts Acquisition Reserve		(152)							(152)
Transfer to Turton Charity Reserve		(7,200)							(7,200)
Transfer to Motivate Fund Raising Reserve		(1,817)							(1,817)
Transfer to YOT Partnership Reserve			(50,934)						(50,934)
Transfer to LSCB Safeguarding Partners Fund			(56,249)						(56,249)
Transfer to Troubled Families Reserve			(15,021)						(15,021)
Transfer to Troubled Families / Targetted Youth Support Reserve			(34,000)						(34,000)
Transfer from SEN Reform Grant Reserve			90,550						90,550
Transfer to Schools Improvement (SSIF) Reserve			(310,301)						(310,301)
Transfer to Commuted Sum Reserve to fund adoption and maintenance of Lakeside Gardens open space				(40,000)					(40,000)
Developers Contributions (S106 income) received in year					(1,684,038)				(1,684,038)
Transfer to Building Control Reserve					(20,037)				(20,037)
Community Support Unit - request to carry forward specific budget underspends	(77,175)								(77,175)
Community Hygiene - request carry forward income from Land Charges to fund future service pressures				(4,100)					(4,100)
Budget increase in respect of the Local Plan					32,000				32,000
Utilise Non-ringfenced COVID grant - to fund expenditure pressures	2,522,572		660,332	265,596	240,009		2,780,800		6,469,309
Utilise Non-ringfenced COVID grant - to fund income losses	191,020	1,613,311	115,100	2,108,379	681,067	181,703	720,895		5,611,475
<i>Transfers (to)/from unallocated reserves</i>									
Ringfenced accounts:									
Benefit award payments							460,753		460,753
Benefit overpayment provision							(100,000)		(100,000)
Coroners						32,359			32,359
Flood Defence Levy							2,825		2,825
Non Distributed costs							(53,937)		(53,937)
Funding for council tax for Leaving Care			4,300						4,300

	Adults and Prevention Services	Public Health & Wellbeing	Children, Young People & Education	Environmental Services	Growth & Development	Digital & Customer Services	Finance & Governance	Schools & Education (DSG)	TOTAL
Transfers (to)/from contingency									
Apprentice Levy	57,300	22,400	75,900	26,400	28,100	21,100	39,700		270,900
Corporate funding for apprentices							495,100		495,100
									0
Underspends arising from unspent grants and contributions									
Community Discharge Grant	(69,539)								(69,539)
Better Care Fund Team Small Grant Programme	(13,385)								(13,385)
Changing Futures Grant	(11,850)								(11,850)
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant	(19,100)								(19,100)
Communities Fund/Localities	(10,665)								(10,665)
Social Prescribing Link Workers Monies	(11,162)								(11,162)
Home Office Monies	(26,707)								(26,707)
ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Social Integration Monies	(24,159)								(24,159)
Burdens Fund monies	(490)								(490)
Rapid Rehousing Pathway monies	(57,150)								(57,150)
Youth Endowment Fund	(29,495)								(29,495)
More Positive Together monies	(14,294)								(14,294)
MHCLG Social Integration	(214,787)								(214,787)
Community Champion	(346,277)								(346,277)
Public Health England Grant to earmarked reserve (funds required in 2020-21 for delivery of Public Health services)		(1,093,529)							(1,093,529)
Arts Council		(31,600)							(31,600)
Museum & Arts Project		(21,500)							(21,500)
Museum & Schools Grant		(32,600)							(32,600)
Active Living Lancashire Care		(6,000)							(6,000)
Fitness for Life monies		(8,000)							(8,000)
National Leisure Recovery Fund		(126,500)							(126,500)
Libraries Health Hub Good Things Foundation		(4,500)							(4,500)
Active Lancashire Promote Family Cycling		(2,300)							(2,300)
Active Lancashire Promote Family Cycling Match Funding		(4,700)							(4,700)
Early Years Professional Development			(18,145)						(18,145)
Linking Network			(10,000)						(10,000)
Early Adoption Grant			(58,100)						(58,100)
Wellbeing Grant			(15,000)						(15,000)
Holiday Activity Food Funding			(7,980)						(7,980)
Youth Endowment Funding			(36,000)						(36,000)
Additional Funding for School/College Transport			(13,034)						(13,034)

	Adults and Prevention Services	Public Health & Wellbeing	Children, Young People & Education	Environmental Services	Growth & Development	Digital & Customer Services	Finance & Governance	Schools & Education (DSG)	TOTAL
Virtual School Grant			(95,558)						(95,558)
Unspent Public Health Funding - Business Compliance				(23,200.00)					(23,200)
S278 contributions					(169,000)				(169,000)
Local Heritage Grant					(35,000)				(35,000)
Supported Bus Services Grant					(41,000)				(41,000)
Access Fund Business Grant					(4,800)				(4,800)
Capacity Funding Grant - Darwen Town Centre					(50,500)				(50,500)
Hardship Fund Grant							(159,182)		(159,182)
DCLG Supported Housing Oversight Pilot							(356,600)		(356,600)
New Burdens Grants (re admin of grants to businesses)							(279,009)		(279,009)
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable funding (Feb/Mar 2021 allocations)							(289,625)		(289,625)
									0
Transfers between portfolios									
Budget transfer relating to the Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services (CLEAPPS)			(2,200)				2,200		0
Garage Costs CCTV	(2,600)			2,600.00					0
									0
Revised Controllable Budget as at 31st March 2021	53,262,272	2,964,466	32,044,863	11,319,260	7,339,363	5,916,265	12,760,623	(941,000)	124,666,112
OUTTURN	49,795,390	2,486,135	30,812,937	9,922,044	7,736,997	5,329,723	12,517,130	- 4,561,960	114,038,396
VARIANCE	- 3,466,882	- 478,331	- 1,231,926	- 1,397,216	397,634	- 586,542	- 243,493	- 3,620,960	- 10,627,716

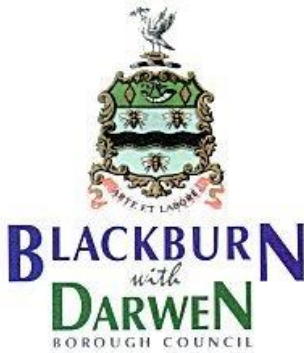
DETAILS OF GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVES FOR USE BY THE COUNCIL

	Balance at 31 December 2020	Requested Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves in Qtr 4		Balance at 31 March 2021	Utilise to support 2021/22 Budget	Balance at Q1 2021/22
	As reported to Exec Board February 2021	Utilisation of reserves	Carry over of grants & contributions / other increase in reserves	Q4		
	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000
Welfare, council tax and business rates reforms						
Welfare and council tax reforms	128		795	923	(516)	407
Section 31 Grant - Compensation for lost Business Rates income	17,300	(8,669)	477	9,108	(8,413)	695
Investment in assets and infrastructure						
Office Accommodation and property improvements	798			798		798
Highways winter maintenance	95		500	595		595
Support for the Local Plan	105	(32)		73		73
Flood Defence	77			77		77
Support for Other Resources and Transformation projects						
Legal Advice Reserve	105			105		105
Partnerships & Transformation	78			78		78
Insurance risk investment fund	43			43		43
Brexit Preparation Funding	149			149		149
Support for People Services						
Schools Improvement (SSIF)	236		310	546		546
Troubled Families / Targetted Youth Support	209		49	258		258
YOT partnership	252		50	302		302
Music Services	117			117		117
Disabled Facilities Grants	289			289		289
Future Demand Pressures	1,799			1,799		1,799
Better Care Fund	316		857	1,173		1,173
Support for Place Services						
Investment to support business rates growth	170		350	520		520
Place Shaping Investment Reserve	250		150	400		400
Contingent sums to support future downsizing and transformation programmes						
Support for future redundancy costs	279	(24)	2,000	2,255		2,255
Support for part year effect of future savings plans	2,187			2,187		2,187
Support for Future Cost Pressures	1,000			1,000		1,000
Digital Transformation	868		2,000	2,868		2,868
Response and Recovery Reserve			6,000	6,000		6,000
Amountsto be c/f in respect of unspent grants and contributions						
Transformation Challenge Award	64			64	(64)	0
SEN / SEND Reform Grant /SEND Prep for Empl	41	(91)	75	25	(25)	0
Public Health Grant	0		1,094	1,094	(1,094)	0
Transforming Lives	37			37	(37)	0
One Public Estate grant	474			474	(474)	0
Electoral Grant	57			57	(57)	0
DCLG Transparency Code New Burdens	13			13	(13)	0
Adult PSS - Local Reform and Community Voices	108			108	(108)	0
Adult PSS - War Pensions Disregard	30			30	(30)	0
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG)	78		19	97	(97)	0
Homelessness Reduction Act New Burdens Funding	33			33	(33)	0
Social Integration funding	955		239	1,194	(1,194)	0
S278 contributions			169	169	(169)	0
Capacity Funding Grant Darwen Town Centre			50	50	(50)	0
NHS Funding for LPRES integration with Mosaic and spine mini services	29			29	(29)	0
COVID-19 Funding from MHCLG	16,838	(12,081)	1,782	6,539		6,539
Combined Authority Grant	48			48	(48)	0
Burdens Fund monies	2		1	3	(3)	0
Custom build Grant	15			15	(15)	0
Linking Network			10	10	(10)	0
Arts Council			32	32	(32)	0
Museum & Arts Project			22	22	(22)	0
Museum & Schools Grant			33	33	(33)	0
Home Office monies (Dovetail)			27	27	(27)	0
Youth Endowment Fund			65	65	(65)	0
Communities Fund/Localities			11	11	(11)	0
Community Discharge Grant			70	70	(70)	0
BCFT Small Grant Programme			13	13	(13)	0
Changing Futures Grant			12	12	(12)	0
Social Prescribig Link Workers Monies			11	11	(11)	0
Rapid Rehousing Pathway monies			57	57	(57)	0
More Positive Together monies			14	14	(14)	0
Community Chamption			346	346	(346)	0
Active Living Lancashire Care			6	6	(6)	0
Fitness for Life monies			8	8	(8)	0
National Leisure Recovery Fund			127	127	(127)	0
Libraries Health Hub Good Things Foundation			5	5	(5)	0

DETAILS OF GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVES FOR USE BY THE COUNCIL

	Balance at 31 December 2020	Requested Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves in Qtr 4		Balance at 31 March 2021	Utilise to support 2021/22 Budget	Balance at Q1 2021/22
	As reported to Exec Board February 2021	Utilisation of reserves	Carry over of grants & contributions / other increase in reserves	Q4		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Active Lancashire Promote Family Cycling			2	2	(2)	0
Active Lancashire Promote Family Cycling Match Funding			5	5	(5)	0
Local Heritage Grant			35	35	(35)	0
Supported Bus Services Grant			41	41	(41)	0
Access Fund Business Grant			5	5	(5)	0
Early Years Professional Development			18	18	(18)	0
Early Adoption Grant			58	58	(58)	0
Wellbeing Grant			15	15	(15)	0
Virtual School Grant	0		96	96	(96)	0
Holiday Activity Food Funding			8	8	(8)	0
Additional Funding for School/College Transport			13	13	(13)	0
Business Compliance - Unspent Public Health funding			23	23	(23)	0
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable COVID Funding			290	290	(290)	0
Amounts committed in future year budgets/MTFS						
Budget carry over for implementation of Concerto (Property system)	20			20		20
Budget carry over for Intack Depot driveway	10			10		10
CCTV Hub carry forward	106		46	152		152
Development Investment Fund (Capital)	1			1		1
Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire (SCVL)	120			120		120
Community Support Unit - request to carry forward specific budget underspends			77	77		77
Community Hygiene - request carry forward income from Land Charges			4	4		4
Motivate Fund Raising			2	2		2
Landscaped Areas - Commuted sum Lakeside Gardens			40	40		40
Reserves held for specified purposes						
Developers Contributions (S106 Income) *	64		2,423	2,487	-3,141	-654
Future Maintenance of Wainwright Bridge	268		171	439	-240	199
Future Maintenance of Witton Park 3G Pitches	75			75		75
Leisure Equipment Pay-back	30			30		30
Future remediation costs in respect of former landfill sites	400			400		400
Highways claims anticipated for years up to current year but not yet received	300			300		300
Art Acquisitions Fund	17		1	18		18
W. Ferrier Bequest (for museum re Kathleen Ferrier)	20			20		20
Allowance for contingent liabilities (e.g. MMI)	250			250		250
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES FOR DISCRETIONARY USE	47,353	(20,897)	21,209	47,665	(17,328)	30,337
Other Earmarked' Reserves						
Reserves held in respect of joint arrangements and charitable bodies						
Darwen Market Traders Association	2			2		2
Joint Building Control Account	131		20	151		151
Turton Tower Charity	66		7	73		73
LSCB Safeguarding Partners Fund	135		57	192		192
Reserves held in relation to schools						
Dedicated Schools Grant - Surplus	3,840	(241)		3,599		3,599
LMS Schools Balances	5,274		3,787	9,061		9,061
TOTAL 'OTHER EARMARKED' RESERVES	9,448	(241)	3,871	13,078	0	13,078
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	56,801	(21,138)	25,080	60,743	(17,328)	43,415
UNALLOCATED RESERVES	8,042	(1,144)	1,475	8,373		8,373

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
LEAD OFFICERS:	Chief Executive (s151 officer)
DATE:	12 th August 2021

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

SUBJECT: CORPORATE CAPITAL BUDGET AND BALANCE SHEET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21 – Quarter 4 as at 31st March 2021

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To report the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31st March 2021, highlighting key issues and explaining variations at the year end with regard to scheme under/overspends and slippage since the last report to the Executive Board in February 2021.

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 total cost of the Council's capital investment programme for 2020/21 has decreased from the projection of £25.117 million, as approved by Executive Board on 11th February 2021, to £21.073 million at 31st March 2021. The net variation of £4.044 million (detailed in Appendix 2) reflects;

- variations made to reflect the approval of schemes during the fourth quarter of the year, including an increase of £0.146 million (which are funded from reallocation of budgets within the existing 2020/21 programme)
- further variations during the last quarter of the year, for which approval is requested (£0.592 million)
- slippage and re-profiling of budgets during the fourth quarter of the year (£4.782 million).

b) Capital receipts of £3.049 million were received during 2020/21, which were used to support the Minimum Revenue Provision. This compares with the forecast reported to the Executive Board in February of £3.4 million.

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 2020-23, as approved at Finance Council on 24th February 2020.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The variations in actual spend and resource availability for 2020/21 are summarised by portfolio in Appendix 1. Variations in spending are set out in Appendix 2.

The capital programme for 2020/21 has decreased by £4.044 million in the final 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 final quarter of 2020/21 and have now been added to the capital programme as follows:

Scheme	Amount 2020/21 Capital Programme	Amount 2021/22 Capital Programme	Approved By	Date Approved
Growth and Development				
Acquisition of former Thwaites Site and Joint Venture – Funded from Corporate Property Investment earmarked scheme	-	£1,470,000	Executive Board	11-Jan-21
Acquisition of former Fleece Inn – Funded from Corporate Property Investment earmarked scheme	-	£200,000	Executive Board	11-Jan-21
Repair and restoration of Darwen Jubilee Tower	-	£80,000	Executive Board	11-Mar-21
Acquisition of Blakey Moor Building – Barnfield Blackburn Ltd SPV	-	£250,000	Executive Member Decision	19-Mar-21
Digital and Customer Services				
Replacement of election scanners	£21,000	-	Delegated Officer Decision	12-Feb-21
Renewal of Councils Microsoft licence agreement for server and database licences	£125,000	£251,000	Executive Board	11-Mar-21
Replacement HR and payroll system	-	£716,000	Executive Board	8-Apr-21
Finance and Governance				
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	-	£2,253,000	Executive Board	11-Mar-21
Total	£146,000	£5,220,000		

6.1.2 Adults and Prevention Services

Disabled Facilities Grant

Approval is requested to carry forward funding of £178,000 in respect of the Disabled Facilities Grant to use for spend to be incurred in 2021/22.

Telecare Project

A request is made to carry forward £10,000 of the Telecare Project allocation to fund expenditure on this scheme in 2021/22.

6.1.3 Children's Young People & Education

Disabled Facilities Grant

Re-profiling of the disabled facilities grant budgets has been necessary, it is therefore requested that £141,000 previously slipped into 2021/22 is brought back into 2020/21 to cover spend in the year.

Apple Trees Building Works

A transfer of £33,000 from the Disabled Facilities Grant scheme is requested to the Apple Trees building works scheme to fund required additional works and items together with some increased costs resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during the period.

Two Year Old Grant.

Approval is requested to carry forward funding of £214,000 in respect of the Two Year Old Grant to be used in future years.

Capital Allocations for Schools

There has been a reduction of £242,000 in respect of the amount of devolved formula capital funding which has been directly allocated to the schools through a transfer to revenue at the end of 2020/21. Additional Schools Condition Allocation of £410,000 was confirmed for 2020/21. This funding has been retained in an overarching Capital Allocation Fund within the capital programme until bids against this have been approved by the schools so that the fund can be allocated. As such, a balance remains unallocated at the year-end of £1.668 million for carry forward and utilisation in 2021/22.

There have been several requested variations to the programme in respect of schools at 31st March 2021 as follows:

Scheme	Slippage £	Other Variations £
St Barnabas & St Pauls	135,000	3,000
Audley Juniors Roof Repairs	-	(26,000)
Avondale Kitchen	48,000	58,000
Audley Infants Remodel Reception Class	-	(49,000)
BCHS/Crosshill SEN	336,000	-
Lammack Extension	661,000	-
Darwen – Additional School Places	500,000	-
Longshaw Nursery Relocation	(41,000)	-
Lower Darwen Disability Access Adaptations	35,000	-
Brunel Nursery External Fencing	30,000	-
Other Schemes – minor slippage on several schemes	57,000	-
Other Schemes – minor variations, over/underspends on several schemes	-	(41,000)
Total Slippage and Variations	1,761,000	(55,000)
Funded by:		
Overspends financed from Capital Allocations	-	7,000
Overspends financed Contingency	-	45,000
Underspends transferred to Capital Allocations		(107,000)
Total Variations Funding	-	(55,000)

6.1.4 Environmental Services

Old Bank Lane Car Park

A variation of £25,000 is requested in respect of this scheme. This relates to costs in respect of electronic signage to direct users to the car park, this was included in the original capital scheme but the costs only came through in quarter 4. A £100,000 underspend was reported on this scheme in quarter 3 monitoring.

Land Remediation Scheme

A request is made to slip the remaining £4,000 of budget in respect of the Land Remediation scheme into 2021/22 to be used for costs expected to be incurred next year.

Purchase of Blue Bins

This scheme has now been completed and approval is requested to remove the remaining budget of £165,000, as this has not been required.

Feilden Street Car Park ANPR

A variation of £30,000 is requested in respect of the Feilden Street Car Park ANPR scheme, this is to cover the costs relating to the installation of CCTV in the car park as part of this project.

6.1.5 Growth and Development

Blakey Moor

Approval is requested to re-profile a further £92,000 into 2021/22 due to delays in the works during the final quarter of the year.

Reel Cinema and Jubilee Square

A transfer of £155,000 is requested from the Local Transport Plan scheme into the Reel Cinema and Jubilee Square scheme, for works undertaken on Jubilee Square.

LTP/NPIF/Growth Deal 3/Darwen East Corridor

Variations to the Local Transport Plan budget are listed in the table below.

The main variations all relate to slippage, all these schemes are listed in the Executive Board report dated 10th June 2021 detailing the Local Transport Plan for 2021/2022

<u>Variations Due to Slippage</u>	£'000s
DFT Emergency Travel Active Fund – Tranche 2	(51)
DFT grant to be used in 2021/22 as per Executive Board report 10/06/2021	(193)
<u>Commuted sum contributions to be used in 2021/22</u>	
Wainwright Bridge commuted sum held in reserve	(171)
<u>S106 Contributions to be used in 2020/21</u>	
S106 Gib Lane	12
S106 Yew Tree Drive	8
S106 School Lane	1
<u>Total Slippage</u>	(394)
<u>Other Variations</u>	
Growth Development 3 contributions	(5)
Virement to Jubilee Square Works	(155)
<u>Total of Other Variations</u>	(160)
<u>Total Net Variations</u>	(554)

Drainage Schemes

Variations in relation to the drainage schemes are as listed below:

Scheme	Slippage £	Transfers £	Other Variations £
Bury Fold Brook	14,000	-	-
Granville Ave	-	12,000	-
Birch Hall Avenue Appraisal	-	(39,000)	(3,000)
Pottery Farm Alleviation	10,000	-	-
Waterfall Study	1,000	-	-
Surface Water Remodelling	-	-	(3,000)
Green Arms Rd FAS Turton	-	-	(5,000)
Grimshaw Park FAS Blackburn	3,000	-	-
Old Gates Drive FAS Blackburn	-	27,000	-
Total	28,000	-	(11,000)

A number of schemes have not completed this year, it is therefore requested that £28,000, as detailed above, is re-profiled into 2021/22 to cover future costs. During the year a number of schemes have completed resulting in underspends totalling £11,000.

Assistance to Industry

A request is made to slip the £74,000 that remains unutilised at 31st March 2021 for the consideration and approval of grant requests in 2021/22.

Affordable Warmth Grants

A request is made to slip the £10,000 that remains unutilised at 31st March 2021 for the consideration and approval of grant requests in 2021/22.

Growth Team Housing Schemes

Approval is sought to slip the following Growth Team Housing Scheme allocations , as these schemes are all on going:

Scheme	Slippage Requested £
Bank Top and Griffin Clearance	37,000
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	60,000
Development Investment Fund	32,000
Land Release Fund	9,000
Total Slippage	138,000

Capital receipts of £39,400 have been recycled back into the Neighbourhood Intervention Fund scheme and a request is made to increase the scheme in 2021/22 by this value.

A request is made to reduce the budget in 2021/22 on the Development Investment Fund scheme by £32,000, to maintain the agreed annual budget of £250,000 for this scheme.

Darwen Towns Fund and Darwen Tower

A scheme has been added to the capital programme in respect of the accelerated grant received for the Darwen Towns Fund. It is requested that the remaining amount of £233,000 unspent at year end is re-profiled into 2021/22. It is also requested that the amount of £203,000 unspent on the Darwen Tower element of the Darwen Towns Fund is re-profiled into 2021/22.

Barbara Castle Statue

A scheme has been added to the capital programme in respect of the Barbara Castle Statue. The spend on this scheme in 2020/21 has been funded by donations.

6.1.6 Digital and Customer Services

Corporate ICT Schemes

Variations in relation to the Corporate ICT schemes are as listed below:

Scheme	Slippage £	Other Variations £
Digitalisation of Planning Service	-	(1,000)
Finance System	5,000	-
New Leisure System	-	(4,000)
Desktop Refresh	(17,000)	-
Core Infrastructure Programme	20,000	-
Ticketing System – KGH/DLT	24,000	-
Legal Services Case Management System	17,000	-
Corporate Website	(7,000)	-
Protocol Mobile App Project	-	(1,000)
Town Hall Infrastructure Upgrade	1,000	-
Digital Customer Portal	70,000	-
Reablement System	36,000	-
RFID in Libraries	-	(6,000)
Round Management System	1,000	-
Election Scanners	-	(1,000)
Total	150,000	(13,000)

It is requested that amounts totalling £174,000 are re-profiled into 2021/22 in respect of continuing schemes which have not completed during the year. It is also requested that amounts previously slipped into 2021/22 totalling £24,000 are brought back into 2020/21 to cover spend on those schemes in the year.

A number of projects, as detailed above, have completed during 2020/21 resulting in underspends on these schemes. It is therefore requested that the total underspend on these schemes of £13,000 is returned to the Corporate ICT earmarked scheme.

6.1.7 Finance and Governance

Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2

Re-profiling of the corporate accommodation strategy phase 2 budgets has been necessary, it is therefore requested that £370,000 previously slipped into 2021/22 is brought back into 2020/21 to cover spend in the year.

Corporate Property Capital Schemes

The following variations are requested in respect of other corporate property capital schemes:

Scheme	Slippage £	Other Variations £
15A Town Hall Street Reroofing	-	(3,000)
Darwen Town Hall Reroofing	71,000	-
Purchase of 3-7 Blakey Moor	-	(2,000)
Witton 3G Changing Room Roof	65,000	-
Total	136,000	(5,000)

Schemes at 15A Town Hall Street and the purchase of 3-7 Blakey Moor have completed during 2020/21 and it is therefore requested that the underspends on these schemes are returned to the Corporate Property Investment earmarked scheme.

Schemes at Darwen Town Hall and Witton 3G Changing Rooms are yet to be completed, and it is therefore requested to slip the remaining budgets into 2021/22 to cover future spend on these projects.

6.1.8 Earmarked Schemes

Corporate ICT Earmarked Scheme

It is requested that £11,000 previously slipped into 2021/22, is brought back into 2020/21 to cover spend on corporate ICT schemes in the year.

Vehicle Purchase

Following a tender process, vehicles purchased in 2020/21 were sold and leased back, rather than financed by main programme borrowing. As a result of this decision, approval is requested for a variation of £352,000, to reflect the underspend on this scheme.

6.2 CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Actual capital receipts at the end of March 2021 were £3.049 million, compared with £3.400 million forecast reported to the Executive Board in February. A few asset sales have been delayed as a result of COVID-19. 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 of 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 Finance and Governance 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, her staff and the Council's independent treasury consultants Arlingclose, and options for optimising borrowing requirements are actively reviewed.

No long-term borrowing has been taken this year.

The Council's surplus cash balances are managed on a day-to-day basis in line with the Treasury Management Strategy approved by Finance Council. The Council spreads its investment risk over a number of institutions and has limits on how much can be invested in any one institution and for how long. The list of approved institutions is kept under regular review by the Treasury Management Group in conjunction with information from the Council's treasury consultants.

The Council was a shareholder in the companies delivering the local PFI schemes for Building Schools for the Future (BSF). The Council sold its shareholding in these companies during this year and is therefore no longer receiving dividends from this investment.

Following a review of the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy, an updated policy was approved by Finance Council in March 2021. The change in policy has resulted in savings of £1.2 million in 2020/21.

Interest and Debt Repayments Revenue Budget

	Forecast at Qtr 3	Movement in Qtr 4	Year End Outturn
Interest and investment income	(40,000)	(32,400)	(72,400)
Debt interest payable	12,539,000	(19,300)	12,519,700
MRP	6,911,000	(1,223,200)	5,687,800
Total	19,410,000	(1,274,900)	18,135,100

The gross level of borrowings has reduced this year, primarily due to the Council having received grants from central government in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic, which are to be spent or repaid in 2021/22, temporarily reducing the Council's borrowing need.

	Amounts at 31/03/21 £000	Amounts at 31/03/20 £000
Short term borrowing	78,250	84,000
Long term borrowing	145,681	149,915
Transferred debt re Local Government Reorganisation	13,582	14,148
Recognition of debt re PFI arrangements	61,603	63,414
TOTAL BORROWING	299,116	311,477
Investments made by the Council	58,633	57,453

At 31 March 2021 the Council's total borrowings were temporarily in excess of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) of £298.5 million, this was due to slippage on a number of capital schemes. Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the CFR, except in the short-term. The Council's debt has returned to a level below the CFR by the end of May 2021, with total borrowing of £292.9M. Throughout the year the Council's borrowing has remained below the operational and authorised borrowing limits.

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

6.3.4 Debtors

The Council has a corporate debt policy, as well as other specific policies for the management of debt in the key areas of council tax, business rates and housing benefit overpayments. The table below

summarises the collection performance of the various debts and the total outstanding debt in the respective areas at 31st March 2021. The table also shows the corresponding level of debt at the same point in the last financial year.

	Position at 31/03/21	Position at 31/03/20
Council tax		
Current year arrears (£000)	3,607	3,543
Previous year arrears (£000)	11,218	11,550
Total Council tax arrears	14,825	15,093
Collection rates	94.8%	94.9%
Business rates		
Current year arrears (£000)	962	790
Previous year arrears (£000)	2,160	2,513
Total Business rates arrears	3,122	3,303
Collection rates	96.5%	98.3%
Housing Benefit		
Overpayments balances (£000)	2,565	2,879

Council Tax

The collection rate is broadly in line with expectations.

Business Rates

The Business Rates collection rate has been affected by the COVID pandemic, including measures taken by both central government and the council, to support businesses in the borough.

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:	V1.0
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Jody Spencer-Anforth (Ext 507748) Julie Jewson (Ext 5893)
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DATE:	June 2021
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A
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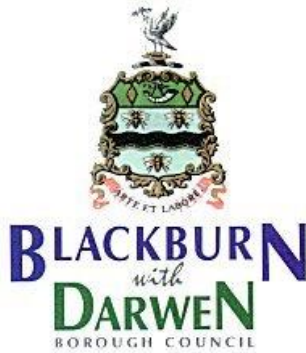
Overall Capital Monitoring 2020/21

	2020/21				2021/22 and Future Years			
	Approved Programme 2020/21 (Finance Council - February 2020) £'000	Programme Approved At Executive Board February 2021 £'000	Actual Capital Spend for 2020/21 £'000	Final Variations 2020/21 (see Appendix 2) £'000	Approved Programme 2020/21 and future Years (Finance Council - February 2020) £'000	Approved Programme 2021/22 and future Years (Finance Council - February 2021) £'000	Requested Variations (See Appendix 2) £'000	Revised Future Capital Programme As at 31st March 2021 £'000
Costs								
Adults and Prevention Services	2,796	1,164	976	(188)	5,000	5,822	188	6,010
Children, Young People & Education	7,237	5,282	1,948	(3,334)	12,750	8,576	3,502	12,078
Environmental Services	1,929	1,687	1,573	(114)	0	333	4	337
Public Health & Wellbeing	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Growth & Development	17,781	14,781	14,160	(621)	300	6,433	3,179	9,612
Digital & Customer Services	697	728	711	(17)	0	1,254	1,117	2,371
Finance & Governance	3,490	1,475	1,703	228	0	2,347	2,019	4,366
Total Predicted Expenditure	33,930	25,117	21,073	(4,044)	18,050	24,765	10,009	34,774
Resources								
- Department for Education	5,461	3,942	1,628	(2,314)	10,000	3,282	2,482	5,764
- Department for Transport	3,299	4,711	4,468	(243)	0	362	44	406
- Disabled Facilities Grants	3,322	1,124	1,217	93	6,000	7,171	47	7,218
- Other Grants	2,093	998	996	(2)	0	1,513	3,055	4,568
Government Grants	14,175	10,775	8,309	(2,466)	16,000	12,328	5,628	17,956
Unsupported Borrowing	9,804	7,274	6,535	(739)	300	6,325	3,569	9,894
External Contributions	6,601	6,028	6,100	72	0	231	(99)	132
Revenue Contributions	3,350	1,040	129	(911)	1,750	5,881	911	6,792
Total Resources	33,930	25,117	21,073	(4,044)	18,050	24,765	10,009	34,774
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earmarked Schemes								
Corporate ICT	3,116	122	0	(122)	0	2,000	(978)	1,022
Corporate Property Investment	2,864	0	0	0	3,000	7,000	(1,665)	5,335
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	0	352	0	(352)	0	532	0	532
	5,980	474	0	(474)	3,000	9,532	(2,643)	6,889
Contingent Schemes								
Asset Management Strategy	0	0	0	0	3,000	4,500	0	4,500
	0	0	0	0	3,000	4,500	0	4,500

Scheme variations to 2020/21 Capital Programme													
	Capital Programme Approved By Executive Board February 21 £ 000	Variations Due to Overspends or New/Budget Increases £'000		Variations Due to Underspends £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £ 000	Other Variations £ 000	Total Capital Programme at 31 March 2021 £ 000		Approved Programme 21/22 and Future Years Finance Council £'000	Variations Due to New/Budget Increases £ 000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Other Variations £'000	Total Programme 21/22 and Future Years £'000
<u>Adults and Prevention Services</u>													
Disabled Facilities Grant	984	0		0	(178)	0	806		5,232	0	178	0	5,410
Telecare Project	180	0		0	(10)	0	170		590	0	10	0	600
Blackburn Town Centre Security	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	1,164	0		0	(188)	0	976		5,822	0	188	0	6,010
<u>Children, Young People & Education</u>													
Disable Facilities Grant	63	0		0	141	(33)	171		1,349	0	(141)	0	1,208
Apple Trees Building Works	37	0		0	0	33	70		0	0	0	0	0
Two Year Old Grant	214	0		0	(214)	0	0		0	0	214	0	214
<u>Schools capital programme</u>													0
Capital allocations	1,345	0		0	(1,668)	323	0		1,637	0	1,668	0	3,305
St Barnabas and St St Pauls	232	0		0	(135)	3	100		0	0	135	0	135
Audley Infant and Junior - New Heating System	489	0		0	0	15	504		0	0	0	0	0
Audley Junior - Roofing Works	34	0		0	0	(26)	8		0	0	0	0	0
Roe Lee Park - Classroom Works	3	0		0	0	0	3		0	0	0	0	0
Avondale Kitchen	263	0		0	(48)	58	273		0	0	48	0	48
Feniscowles Heating	191	0		0	0	2	193		0	0	0	0	0
Shadsworth Infants - Heating	10	0		0	(10)	0	0		90	0	10	0	100
Brookhouse Primary - Upgrade Fire Alarm	30	0		0	0	0	30		0	0	0	0	0
Belmont Ramp	8	0		0	0	(8)	0		0	0	0	0	0
St Cuthberts SEND	238	0		0	(9)	7	236		0	0	9	0	9
Belmont Drainage and External Painting	9	0		0	(9)	0	0		0	0	9	0	9
Audley Infants Remodel Reception Class	203	0		0	0	(49)	154		0	0	0	0	0
Turton/Edgworth Windows	1	0		0	0	2	3		0	0	0	0	0
BCHS/Crosshill SEN	359	0		0	(336)	0	23		380	0	336	0	716
Turncroft Nursery Boiler	33	0		0	0	(9)	24		0	0	0	0	0
Lammack Extension	740	0		0	(661)	0	79		1,350	0	661	0	2,011
Darwen - Additional School Places	500	0		0	(500)	0	0		2,750	0	500	0	3,250
Longshaw Nursery Relocation	0	0		0	41	0	41		660	0	(41)	0	619
Lower Darwen Disability Access Adaptations	35	0		0	(35)	0	0		15	0	35	0	50
Brunel Nursery External Fencing	30	0		0	(30)	0	0		0	0	30	0	30
Feniscowles Disability Access Adaptations	25	0		0	(10)	0	15		125	0	10	0	135
Shadsworth Infants Extension and Remodel	40	0		0	(19)	0	21		220	0	19	0	239
Contingency	100	0		0	0	(100)	0		0	0	0	0	0
Project Management Fee	50	0		0	0	(50)	0		0	0	0	0	0
	5,282	0		0	(3,502)	168	1,948		8,576	0	3,502	0	12,078
<u>Environmental Services</u>													
Old Bank Lane Car Park	0	25		0	0	0	25		0	0	0	0	0
Land Remediation Scheme	8	0		0	(4)	0	4		103	0	4	0	107
Purchase of Blue Bins	1,520	0		(165)	0	0	1,355		0	0	0	0	0
Blakewater Car Park	0	0		0	0	0	0		230	0	0	0	230
Feilden St Car Park ANPR	159	30		0	0	0	189		0	0	0	0	0
	1,687	55		(165)	(4)	0	1,573		333	0	4	0	337
<u>Public Health & Wellbeing</u>													
Witton 3G Pitches	0	2		0	0	0	2		0	0	0	0	0
	0	2		0	0	0	2		0	0	0	0	0
<u>Growth & Development</u>													
Bank Top and Griffin Clearance	39	0		0	(37)	0	2		150	0	37	0	187
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	88	0		0	(60)	0	28		720	39	60	0	819
Equity Loans	0	0		0	0	0	0		100	0	0	0	100
Empty Homes Cluster	0	0		0	0	0	0		360	0	0	0	360
Other Acquisition costs	0	0		0	0	0	0		10	0	0	0	10
Development Investment Fund	185	0		0	(32)	0	153		250	0	32	(32)	250
Assistance to Industry	254	0		0	(74)	0	180		450	0	74	0	524
Blakey Moor	500	0		0	(92)	0	408		2,257	0	92	0	2,349
Cathedral Quarter Office Block Fit Out	0	0		0	0	0	0		38	0	0	0	38
Local Transport Plan	10,123	0		(5)	(394)	(155)	9,569		1,698	0	394	0	2,092
Bury Fold Brook	14	0		0	(14)	0	0		0	0	14	0	14
Granville Ave	0	0		0	0	12	12		0	0	0	0	0
Birch Hall Ave diversion appraisal	52	0		(3)	0	(39)	10		0	0	0	0	0
Reel Cinema	2,693	0		0	0	155	2,848		0	0	0	0	0
Land Release Fund	283	0		0	(9)	0	274		400	0	9	0	409
Milking Lane SPV	0	25		0	0	0	25		0	250	0	0	250
Affordable Warmth Grants	11	0		0	(10)	0	1		0	0	10	0	10
Pottery Farm Alleviation	10	0		0	(10)	0	0		0	0	10	0	10
Pallet Farm Environment Grant	9	0		0	0	0	9		0	0	0	0	0
Waterfall Study	26	0		0	(1)	0	25		0	0	1	0	1
Surface Water Modelling	45	0		(3)	0	0	42		0	0	0	0	0
Green Arms Rd FAS Turton	5	0		(5)	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Grimshaw Park FAS Blackburn	4	0		0	(3)	0	1		0	0	3	0	3
Old Gates Drive FAS Blackburn	215	0		0	0	27	242		0	0	0	0	0
Darwen Tower	225	0		0	(203)	0	22		0	80	203	0	283

Scheme variations to 2020/21 Capital Programme												
	Capital Programme Approved By Executive Board February 21 £ 000	Variations Due to Overspends or New/Budget Increases £'000	Variations Due to Underspends £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £ 000	Other Variations £ 000	Total Capital Programme at 31 March 2021 £ 000		Approved Programme 21/22 and Future Years Finance Council £'000	Variations Due to New/Budget Increases £ 000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Other Variations £'000	Total Programme 21/22 and Future Years £'000
Darwen Towns Fund	0	525	0	(233)	0	292		0	0	233	0	233
Barbara Castle Statute	0	17	0	0	0	17		0	0	0	0	0
Thwaites SPV	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1,470	0	0	1,470
Acquisition of former Fleece Inn	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	200	0	0	200
	14,781	567	(16)	(1,172)	0	14,160		6,433	2,039	1,172	(32)	9,612
Digital & Customer Services												
Corporate ICT - Montr & Mgmt, service systems & op	2	0	0	0	0	2		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Digitisation of Planning Service	1	0	0	0	(1)	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Finance System	5	0	0	(5)	0	0		0	0	5	0	5
Corporate ICT - New Leisure System	0	0	0	0	(4)	(4)		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Desktop Refresh	104	0	0	17	0	121		113	0	(17)	0	96
Corporate ICT - Core Infrastructure Programme	110	0	0	(20)	0	90		120	0	20	0	140
Coprorate ICT - Ticketing System KGH/DLT	80	0	0	(24)	0	56		0	0	24	0	24
Corporate ICT - Legal Services Case Management System	36	0	0	(17)	0	19		25	0	17	0	42
Corporate ICT - Corporate Website	20	0	0	7	0	27		86	0	(7)	0	79
Corporate ICT - Replacement Unix Servers	7	0	0	0	0	7		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Protocol Mobile App Project	1	0	0	0	(1)	0		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Town Hall IT Infrastructure Upgrade	30	0	0	(1)	0	29		190	0	1	0	191
Coporate ICT - Digital Customer Portal	222	0	0	(70)	0	152		587	0	70	0	657
Coporate ICT - Reablement System	50	0	0	(36)	0	14		0	0	36	0	36
Coporate ICT - RFID in Libraries	40	0	0	0	(6)	34		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Round Management System	20	0	0	(1)	0	19		133	0	1	0	134
Coporate ICT - Election Scanners	0	21	0	0	(1)	20		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Microsoft Licence Agreement Server and	0	125	0	0	0	125		0	251	0	0	251
Coporate ICT - Replacement HR and Payroll System	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	716	0	0	716
	728	146	0	(150)	(13)	711		1,254	967	150	0	2,371
Finance & Governance												
Carbon Management Plan	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)		67	0	0	0	67
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2,253	0	0	2,253
Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2	930	0	0	370	0	1,300		2,000	0	(370)	0	1,630
15a Town Hall Street roofing	178	0	0	0	(3)	175		0	0	0	0	0
Darwen Town Hall Reroofing	72	0	0	(71)	0	1		220	0	71	0	291
Purchase of 3-7 Blakey Moor	230	0	0	0	(2)	228		0	0	0	0	0
Witton 3G Changing Room Roof	65	0	0	(65)	0	0		0	0	65	0	65
Mill Hill Community Centre Roof	0	0	0	0	0	0		60	0	0	0	60
	1,475	0	(1)	234	(5)	1,703		2,347	2,253	(234)	0	4,366
Portfolios Total	25,117	770	(182)	(4,782)	150	21,073		24,765	5,259	4,782	(32)	34,774
Earmarked schemes:												
Corporate ICT	122	(146)	0	11	13	0		2,000	(967)	(11)	0	1,022
Corporate Property Investment	0	0	0	(5)	5	0		7,000	(1,670)	5	0	5,335
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	352	0	(352)	0	0	0		532	0	0	0	532
Total	474	(146)	(352)	6	18	0		9,532	(2,637)	(6)	0	6,889
Contingent schemes:												
Asset Management Strategy	0	0	0	0	0	0		4,500	0	0	0	4,500
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		4,500	0	0	0	4,500

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
LEAD OFFICERS:	Chief Executive (s151 officer)
DATE:	12 August 2021

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

SUBJECT: CORPORATE CAPITAL BUDGET AND BALANCE SHEET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 – Quarter 1 (3 months to 30th June 2021)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To report the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 30th June 2021, highlighting key issues and explaining variations in the first 3 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,
- to approve the acceptance of the proposed commercial insurance settlement for the St John's Church.

3. BACKGROUND

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

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

a) The total cost of the Council's capital investment programme for 2021/22 has now increased from £18.461 million, as approved by Finance Council on 1st March 2021, to £33.124 million. The net variation of £14.663 million (detailed in Appendix 2) reflects;

- An increase of £10.009 million in respect of variations to the programme following the finalisation of the outturn position for 2020/21,
- Variations made to reflect the approval of schemes during the first quarter of the year, including an increase of £5.682 million (of which £0.126 million is funded from reallocation of budgets within the existing 2021/22 programme)
- further variations during the first quarter of the year, for which approval is requested (£0.248 million)
- slippage and re-profiling of budgets during the first quarter of the year (£1.276 million).

b) As at 30th June 2021, the capital expenditure across the portfolios was £1.188 million (representing 3.6% of the current, revised projected capital spend).

c) The estimated capital receipts expected in 2021/22 is £5.1 million; £1,257,974 has been received in the first three 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 2021-24, as approved at Finance Council on 1st March 2021.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The variations in actual spend and resource availability for 2021/22 are summarised by portfolio in Appendix 1. Variations in spending are set out in Appendix 2.

Since the Capital Programme for 2021/22 was approved by Finance Council on 1st March 2021, it has increased by £14.663 million; £10.009 million of this relates to variations reported in the 2020/21 outturn report also presented to Executive Board in August. The other main points 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 first quarter of 2021/22 and have now been added to the capital programme as follows:

Scheme	Amount	Approved By	Date Approved
Adults and Prevention Services			
Safer Streets Fund	£235,000	Executive Board	8-Jul-21
Growth and Development			
Land Release Fund	£195,000	Director of Finance – Grant Application	01-Mar-21
Local Transport Plan 2021-22 (including existing budgets of £2.092 million reprofiled to/from 2020/21)	£7,373,631	Executive Board	10-Jun-21
J4 Skatepark	£100,000	Executive Member Decision	25-Jun-21
Digital and Customer Services			
PCI Compliance & Payments Module – Finance System	£61,000	Officer Decision	21-May-21
Implementation Liquidlogic Group Work	£65,000	Officer Decision	25-Jun-21
Total	£8,029,631		

6.1.2 Children's Young People & Education

Darwen – Additional School Places

This scheme is not expected to start during 2021/22, it is therefore requested to reprofile the full budget for this year into future years.

6.1.3 Growth and Development

Neighbourhood Investment Fund

Capital receipts of £11,500 have been recycled back into the Neighbourhood Intervention Fund scheme and a request is made to increase the scheme by this value.

Darwen Towns Fund

Darwen has been successful in securing up to £25 million of government funding from the Towns Fund. We will now be looking to produce more detailed business cases, undertaking feasibility work and establishing schemes in the capital programme. As the detailed schemes are worked up approval will be sought for any match funding or other external funding requirements from earmarked and contingent schemes and any other funding sources identified and secured.

Blakey Moor

Approval is sought to add £236,000 to the Blakey Moor scheme budget for internal works to be undertaken on 35 Northgate and the acquisition of land at Blakey Moor. This is to be funded by a revenue contribution from the Office Accommodation and Property Improvement Reserve.

Local Transport Plan

The variations noted in Appendix 2 reflect the Local Transport Plan 21/22 Programme which was approved by Executive Board on 10 June 2021.

An emerging pressure has been identified on the Wainwright Railway Bridge Scheme. This is due to identified additional maintenance work requirements and Network Rail imposing additional requirements pre-start and then shortening the agreed possession time, resulting in increased possessions and working shifts.

St John's Church

St John's Church, is a grade II listed former church owned by the Council and located on Victoria Street within the Richmond Terrace/St John's Conservation Area in Blackburn. The former church was severely damaged by a fire that occurred on the morning of Wednesday 3rd April 2019. Prior to the fire the space was used for pop up events, which became a permanent art space and was run by a Community Interest Company.

Following the fire the property was made safe and temporarily secured with heras fencing. A contractor was subsequently appointed to remove all fire damaged materials from site. Several feasibility and factual survey reports have been completed to assess building condition and design opportunities to inform the Council on next steps. The Council has recently erected permanent hoardings and project signage for the scheme and has undertaken some additional clearance works.

The building was insured under the Council's Corporate Property policy, which is provided by Zurich Municipal (Zurich). The Council appointed Capita to provide independent advice on reinstatement costs to help agree the claim with Zurich.

Although the full reinstatement value of the church building was insured for £4,650,000 the Council understood the final settlement would be below this figure given there are large parts of the building which were undamaged by the fire including the bell tower. Following detailed discussions between Zurich, Council officers and Capita a gross settlement figure of £3,750,212.90 is recommended for

acceptance by the Council. This sum includes payments made to date of £210,212.90, leaving a balance due of £3,540,000. Approval is requested for the acceptance of the proposed commercial settlement from Zurich for the St John's Church for the sum of £3,750,212.90. A further report will be brought to add a scheme to the capital programme.

6.1.4 Digital and Customer Services

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 2021/22:

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Slippage</u>
Digital Customer Portal	£100,000
Microsoft Licence Agreement Server and Database	£126,000
Total	£226,000

6.2 CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Actual capital receipts in Quarter 1 were £1,257,974. 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 of 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 Finance and Governance 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, their staff and the Council's independent treasury consultants Arlingclose, and options for optimising borrowing requirements are actively reviewed.

Both short and long term borrowing interest rates had been at low levels throughout the period. Investment interest rates have also remained at historically low rates throughout the first quarter of the year. To date, it is now projected that:

- MRP will be £124,000 lower than anticipated in the original 2021/22 estimates (as a result of lower capital spend at 2020/21 outturn),
- It is anticipated that the debt interest payable, in particular interest paid on short term borrowings and transferred debt from Lancashire County Council, will be lower than the original budget, due to the continuing low level of interest and borrowing and changes in the cash flow profile. It

is currently anticipated that debt interest payable will be £380,500 lower than the original 2021/22 estimates.

Interest and Debt Repayments Revenue Budget

	Original Budget	Movement Quarter 1	Current Budget Quarter 1
Interest and investment income	(15,000)	-	(15,000)
Debt interest payable	12,285,500	(380,500)	11,905,000
MRP	6,016,000	(124,000)	5,892,000
Total	18,286,500	(504,500)	17,782,000

The current borrowing and investment position is as follows:

	Amounts at 30/06/21 £000	Amounts at 31/03/21 £000
Short term borrowing	69,250	78,250
Long term borrowing	145,681	145,681
Transferred debt re Local Government Reorganisation	13,582	13,582
Recognition of debt re PFI arrangements	61,138	61,603
TOTAL BORROWING	289,651	299,116
Investments made by the Council	75,548	58,633

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

6.3.4 Debtors

The Council has a corporate debt policy, as well as other specific policies for the management of debt in the key areas of council tax, business rates and housing benefit overpayments. The table below summarises the collection performance of the various debts and the total outstanding debt in the respective areas at 30th June 2021. The table also shows the corresponding level of debt at the same point in the last financial year.

	Position at 30/06/2021	Position at 30/06/2020
Council tax		
Current year balance (£000)	51,808	48,435
Previous year arrears (£000)	13,573	14,443
Total Council tax balances	65,381	62,878
Collection rates	27.4%	26.1%
Business rates		
Current year balance (£000)	28,305	25,029
Previous year arrears (£000)	3,058	3,236
Total Business rates balances	31,363	28,265
Collection rates	20.1%*	13.5%
Housing Benefit		
Overpayments balances (£000)	2,091	2,119

* Last day in month Direct Debits slightly delayed therefore not credited in calculation

Last year the Business Rates collection rate was significantly affected by the measures taken by both central government and the council, to support businesses in the borough through the COVID pandemic. To allow businesses sufficient breathing space from April to June 2020, the council took the decision that it would not request direct debit payments, and instead it would recalculate all Business Rate bills with the instalments reprofiled over the period from July to March.

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:	V1.0
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Jody Spencer-Anforth (Ext 507748) Julie Jewson (Ext 5893)
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DATE:	July 2021
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	N/A
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Overall Capital Monitoring 2021/22

	2021/22				2022/23 and Future Years			
	Approved Programme 2021/22	Variations (Approved in Capital Outturn Report for 2020/2021 at Exec Board July 2021)	Requested Variations 2021/2022 (See Appendix 2)	Revised 2021/22 Capital Programme As at 30th June 2021	Approved Programme 2022/23 and future Years	Variations (Approved in Capital Outturn Report for 2020/2021 at Exec Board July 2021)	Requested Variations 2022/2023 (See Appendix 2)	Revised Future Capital Programme As At 30 June 2021
	(Finance Council - March 2021) £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	(Finance Council - March 2021) £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs								
Adults and Prevention Services	2,594	188	235	3,017	3,228	0	0	3,228
Children, Young People & Education	5,800	3,502	(1,050)	8,252	2,776	0	1,050	3,826
Environmental Services	333	4	0	337	0	0	0	0
Public Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Growth & Development	6,133	3,179	5,569	14,881	300	0	0	300
Digital & Customer Services	1,254	1,117	(100)	2,271	0	0	226	226
Finance & Governance	2,347	2,019	0	4,366	0	0	0	0
Total Predicted Expenditure	18,461	10,009	4,654	33,124	6,304	0	1,276	7,580
Resources								
- Department for Education	3,282	2,482	0	5,764	0	0	0	0
- Department for Transport	362	44	3,843	4,249	0	0	0	0
- Disabled Facilities Grants	3,417	47	(140)	3,324	3,754	0	0	3,754
- Other Grants	1,513	3,055	430	4,998	0	0	0	0
Government Grants	8,574	5,628	4,133	18,335	3,754	0	0	3,754
Unsupported Borrowing	6,275	3,569	(88)	9,756	50	0	226	276
External Contributions	231	(99)	983	1,115	0	0	0	0
Revenue Contributions	3,381	911	(374)	3,918	2,500	0	1,050	3,550
Total Resources	18,461	10,009	4,654	33,124	6,304	0	1,276	7,580
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Earmarked Schemes</u>								
Corporate ICT	2,000	(978)	(126)	896	0	0	0	0
Corporate Property Investment	3,000	(1,665)	0	1,335	4,000	0	0	4,000
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	532	0	0	532	0	0	0	0
	5,532	(2,643)	(126)	2,763	4,000	0	0	4,000
<u>Contingent Schemes</u>								
Asset Management Strategy	1,500	0	0	1,500	3,000	0	0	3,000
	1,500	0	0	1,500	3,000	0	0	3,000

Scheme variations to 2021/22 Capital Programme											
	2021/22 Capital Programme Approved By Finance Council on 1st March 2021 £ 000	Programme Adjustments (Slippage/Scheme Variations) in Capital Outturn for 2020/21 approved by Executive Board July 21 £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Requested Variations £ 000	Total Capital Programme at 30 June 2021 £ 000		Approved Programme 22/23 and Future Years Finance Council 1st March 2021 £ 000	Programme Adjustments (Slippage/Scheme Variations) in Capital Outturn for 2020/21 approved by Executive Board 9th July 2021 £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Requested Variations £ 000	Total Programme 22/23 and Future Years £'000
Adults and Prevention Services											
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,324	178	0	0	2502		2,908	0	0	0	2,908
Telecare Project	270	10	0	0	280		320	0	0	0	320
Safer Streets Fund	0	0	0	235	235		0	0	0	0	0
	2,594	188	0	235	3,017		3,228	0	0	0	3,228
Children, Young People & Education											
Disable Facilities Grant	823	(141)	0	0	682		526	0	0	0	526
Two Year Old Grant	0	214	0	0	214		0	0	0	0	0
Schools capital programme											
Capital allocations	1,637	1,668	0		3,305		0		0	0	0
St Barnabas and St St Pauls	0	135	0	0	135		0	0	0	0	0
Newfield ASD Demolition	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Audley Infant and Junior - New Heating System	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Audley Junior - Roofing Works	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Roe Lee Park - Classroom Works	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Avondale Kitchen	0	48	0	0	48		0	0	0	0	0
Feniscowles Heating	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Shadsworth Infants - Heating	90	10	0	0	100		0	0	0	0	0
St Cuthberts SEND	0	9	0	0	9		0	0	0	0	0
Belmont Drainage and External Painting	0	9	0	0	9		0	0	0	0	0
Meadowhead Infants external works and lighting	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
BCHS/Crosshill SEN	380	336	0	0	716		0	0	0	0	0
Lambeck Extension	1,300	661	0	0	1,961		50	0	0	0	50
Darwen - Additional School Places	550	500	(1,050)	0	0		2,200	0	1,050	0	3,250
Longshaw Nursery Relocation	660	(41)	0	0	619		0	0	0	0	0
Lower Darwen Disability Access Adaptations	15	35	0	0	50		0	0	0	0	0
Brunel Nursery External Fencing	0	30	0	0	30		0	0	0	0	0
Feniscowles Disability Access Adaptations	125	10	0	0	135		0	0	0	0	0
Shadsworth Infants Extension and Remodel	220	19	0	0	239		0	0	0	0	0
Contingency	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Project Management Fee	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	5,800	3,502	(1,050)	0	8,252		2,776	0	1,050	0	3,826
Environmental Services											
Old Bank Lane Car Park	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Land Remediation Scheme	103	4	0	0	107		0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Blue Bins	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Blakewater Car Park	230	0	0	0	230		0	0	0	0	0
Feilden St Car Park ANPR	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	333	4	0	0	337		0	0	0	0	0
Public Health & Wellbeing											
Witton 3G Pitches	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Growth & Development											
Bank Top and Griffin Clearance	150	37	0	0	187		0	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood Intervention Fund	720	99	0	12	831		0	0	0	0	0
Equity Loans	100	0	0	0	100		0	0	0	0	0
Empty Homes Cluster	360	0	0	0	360		0	0	0	0	0
Other Acquisition costs	10	0	0	0	10		0	0	0	0	0
Development Investment Fund	250	0	0	0	250		0	0	0	0	0
Assistance to Industry	150	74	0	0	224		300	0	0	0	300
Blakey Moor	2,257	92	0	236	2,585		0	0	0	0	0
Cathedral Quarter Office Block Fit Out	38	0	0	0	38		0	0	0	0	0
Local Transport Plan	1,698	394	0	5,126	7,218		0	0	0	0	0
Bury Fold Brook	0	14	0	0	14		0	0	0	0	0
Granville Ave	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Birch Hall Ave diversion appraisal	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Reel Cinema	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Land Release Fund	400	9	0	195	604		0	0	0	0	0
Milking Lane SPV	0	250	0	0	250		0	0	0	0	0
Refurbishment Loans	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Affordable Warmth Grants	0	10	0	0	10		0	0	0	0	0

Scheme variations to 2021/22 Capital Programme											
	2021/22 Capital Programme Approved By Finance Council on 1st March 2021 £ 000	Programme Adjustments (Slippage/Scheme Variations) in Capital Outturn for 2020/21 approved by Executive Board July 21 £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Requested Variations £ 000	Total Capital Programme at 30 June 2021 £ 000		Approved Programme 22/23 and Future Years Finance Council 1st March 2021 £ 000	Programme Adjustments (Slippage/Scheme Variations) in Capital Outturn for 2020/21 approved by Executive Board 9th July 2021 £'000	Slippage (to)/from future years/Reprofiling of Budget £'000	Requested Variations £ 000	Total Programme 22/23 and Future Years £'000
Pottery Farm Alleviation	0	10	0	0	10		0	0	0	0	0
Pallet Farm Environment Grant	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Waterfall Study	0	1	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0
Surface Water Modelling	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Green Arms Rd FAS Turton	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Grimshaw Park FAS Blackburn	0	3	0	0	3		0	0	0	0	0
Old Gates Drive FAS Blackburn	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Darwen Tower	0	283	0	0	283		0	0	0	0	0
Darwen Towns Fund	0	233	0	0	233		0	0	0	0	0
Barbara Castle Statute	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Thwaites SPV	0	1,470	0	0	1,470		0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of former Fleece Inn	0	200	0	0	200		0	0	0	0	0
	6,133	3,179	0	5,569	14,881		300	0	0	0	300
Digital & Customer Services											
Corporate ICT - Montr & Mgmt, service systems & op	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Digitisation of Planning Service	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Finance System	0	5	0	61	66		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - New Leisure System	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Desktop Refresh	113	(17)	0	0	96		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Core Infrastructure Programme	120	20	0	0	140		0	0	0	0	0
Coprorate ICT - Ticketing System KGH/DLT	0	24	0	0	24		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Legal Services Case Management System	25	17	0	0	42		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Corporate Website	86	(7)	0	0	79		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Replacement Unix Servers	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Protocol Mobile App Project	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Microsoft Office 365	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate ICT - Town Hall IT Infrastructure Upgrade	190	1	0	0	191		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Digital Customer Portal	587	70	(100)	0	557		0	0	100	0	100
Coporate ICT - Reablement System	0	36	0	0	36		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - RFID in Libraries	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Round Management System	133	1	0	0	134		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Microsoft Licence Agreement Server and	0	251	(126)	0	125		0	0	126	0	126
Coporate ICT - Replacement HR and Payroll System	0	716	0	0	716		0	0	0	0	0
Coporate ICT - Implementation Liquidlogic Group Work	0	0	0	65	65		0	0	0	0	0
	1,254	1,117	(226)	126	2,271		0	0	226	0	226
Finance & Governance											
Carbon Management Plan	67	0	0	0	67		0	0	0	0	0
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	0	2,253	0	0	2,253		0	0	0	0	0
Griffin Lodge	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Accommodation Strategy Phase 2	2,000	(370)	0	0	1,630		0	0	0	0	0
15a Town Hall Street roofing	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Darwen Town Hall Reroofing	220	71	0	0	291		0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of 3-7 Blakey Moor	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Witton 3G Changing Room Roof	0	65	0	0	65		0	0	0	0	0
Mill Hill Community Centre Roof	60	0	0	0	60		0	0	0	0	0
	2,347	2,019	0	0	4,366		0	0	0	0	0
Portfolios Total	18,461	10,009	(1,276)	5,930	33,124		6,304	0	1,276	0	7,580
Earmarked schemes:											
Corporate ICT	2,000	(978)	0	(126)	896		0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Property Investment	3,000	(1,665)	0	0	1,335		4,000	0	0	0	4,000
Vehicles (funded from capital or leased)	532	0	0	0	532		0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,532	(2,643)	0	(126)	2,763		4,000	0	0	0	4,000
Contingent schemes:											
Asset Management Strategy	1,500	0	0	0	1,500		1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Total	1,500	0	0	0	1,500		1,500	0	0	0	1,500

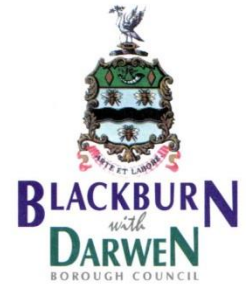
EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:

Executive Member
for Public Health and
Wellbeing and
Executive Member
for Growth and
Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Strategic Director of Place
Director of Public Health

DATE: Thursday, 12 August 2021



PORTFOLIO(S)

AFFECTED: Public
health, growth and
development

WARD/S AFFECTED:

All

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

EB Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen's first Walking and Cycling Plan envisions a future where walking and cycling are first choice methods for making shorter journeys and enjoying local communities in a safe and healthy way. The plan aims to coordinate the efforts of multidisciplinary stakeholders to increase walking and cycling uptake within the borough.

The plan's aims complement national, regional and local priorities in the realms of health and wellbeing, strategic planning, air quality, climate change and road safety. The plan pulls together the ongoing work around walking and cycling, aims to increase co-ordination between partners and stakeholders, and lays out our future ambitions for active travel.

The principles running through the plan include:

- Taking a life course approach
- Aiming to increase access and reduce inequalities in walking and cycling uptake
- Focusing on joined-up and partnership working

The benefits of walking and cycling are wide ranging, highlighted in the plan are:

- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved air quality
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Reduced congestion
- Local economy benefits
- Improved amenity and quality of place

Taking a whole system approach, the building blocks of the plan to improve walking and cycling are made up of:

- Improved walking and cycling infrastructure

- Community engagement
- Business engagement
- Walking and cycling at the heart of policy
- Monitoring and evaluation

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Note the content of and approve the Walking and Cycling Plan.
- Support the priorities set out in the Walking and Cycling Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

Improving access and uptake of walking and cycling within Blackburn with Darwen is an agenda that cuts across a number of important council priorities. Higher rates of walking and cycling in the borough will compliment multiple varied ambitions, including priorities to increase physical activity, reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured on our roads and become carbon neutral by 2030.

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant challenges, there are opportunities to be capitalised upon. Periods of 'lockdown' saw an increase in people using walking and cycling to get outside in their local areas. As we move into the recovery phase of the pandemic, building on this increase in walking and cycling should be part of developing a healthier, happier, more connected and more prosperous borough.

Blackburn with Darwen is also a growing borough, partly as a result of the council's established growth strategy, with a focus on improvements to housing, employment and town centres. In order to maintain continued growth, a new Local Plan is emerging which anticipates a further 7,000 homes and 5,000 jobs over the next 15 years.

One of the core policies of the emerging Local Plan highlights accessibility as a key strategic objective for Blackburn with Darwen, requiring developments to be accessible by a choice of active travel modes, therefore encouraging a modal shift and reducing the need for people to travel by car, contributing to a healthier lifestyle. A suite of connectivity studies have been prepared to appraise the potential impact of development on local walking and cycling networks and provide recommendations as to potential improvements which could be provided by or funded via the developments. In addition, a borough-wide transport study is underway, evaluating the network and suggesting improvement schemes for both the highway and sustainable transport network. A comprehensive borough-wide public consultation on the draft proposals took place in Jan-Feb 2021, with the next consultation due to take place in Jan 2022 before the Local Plan is submitted to Government for examination.

The Walking and Cycling Plan will build on this comprehensive evidence base and will ensure that key interventions are included within the council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan to secure delivery of the objectives. The Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan outlines how the council will work with residents and partners to allow our communities to be safe, active and enjoy their local areas via walking and cycling.

This Walking and Cycling Plan formulates as a daughter document to the impending Local Transport Plan 4. Delivery of the plan will be supported through engagement activities targeting schools, businesses and communities through the imminent DfT 'Capability' Fund. Infrastructure delivery will be delivered and supported as part of current and future Capital Active Travel Funding and aligned strategically with both the (in development) Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and East

Lancashire 'Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans' (LCWIP's). The development of the BwD LCWIP will establish a strategic approach to identifying long term cycling and walking improvements required at a local level. The LCWIP approach is a key driver to support the Walking and Cycling Plan building block looking at '*improving walking and cycling infrastructure*'. The LCWIP's will:

- Devise network plans which identify preferred routes and core zones for further walking and cycling development;
- Prioritise a programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment in the short, medium and long term
- Consider cycling and walking within both local planning and transport policies and strategies
- Ensure Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is well placed to make a case for future cycling and walking investment.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has committed to improving rates of physical activity as part of the Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up Strategy. Increasing rates of walking and cycling will increase physical activity within the borough and help to reduce the risks of physical inactivity including heart disease, diabetes and mental health problems. This plan will support efforts to implement World Health Organisation recommendations and NICE Guidelines for physical activity to combat the rise of non-communicable disease. In addition, Blackburn with Darwen has high levels of deprivation, which are key drivers for major health inequalities. There is evidence that policies that promote active travel can benefit the most disadvantaged provided they are designed and delivered in a way that acknowledges and aims to reduce inequalities.

Sadly, BwD has the highest rate in the North West of children killed or seriously injured on the road. By encouraging less cars on the road, initiatives like school streets, and safe walking and cycle infrastructure which prioritises those not in cars can contribute to the aim of improving this statistic. This coincides with the borough's strategy to reduce and prevent such accidents and injuries.

Reducing carbon emissions is a priority for the local authority which has declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Evidence shows that walking and cycling can reduce short car trips by 41% given the right infrastructure and priority setting. This could save an additional 5% of CO₂ emissions from cars, an important contribution considering transport is the only industry in which emissions continue to rise. Although emissions from BwD have been trending downward, total and per capita CO₂ emissions from the borough rose in 2019 compared to 2018. Therefore, now is the time to for concerted action to reduce transport emissions.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This plan details an ambition to put walking and cycling at the heart of policy. The council has already committed to policy objectives supporting walking and cycling including those set out in the Lancashire 10 Year Walking and Cycling Strategy, the Blackburn with Darwen Core Strategy, the Local Plan Part 2 and the Local Transport Plan.

In addition, the plan will support the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for Local Authorities to promote sustainable transport through policies and planning decisions.

The proposals also align with the Blackburn with Darwen Local Transport Plan (LTP3) which provides a strategy and delivery programme of transport investment and improvements for the period 2011-2021. Work is now progressing between the three transport authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire to prepare a Joint Lancashire Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) covering the period 2021-2046.

Furthermore, the council is committed to working towards improving the health of residents as laid out in the BwD Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the BwD Eat Well, Move More, Shape up Strategy, and the BwD Corporate Plan. Increasing rates of walking and cycling has the potential to improve health via increased physical activity, improved mental wellbeing, better air quality and improved road safety.

The council has also recently signed a Climate Emergency Declaration and sustainable travel is set to be a key priority within the Local Transport Plan. Therefore, this plan aims to cement these commitments to promoting active travel and continue these cross-department conversations and actions.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Emergency Active Travel fund from the Department for Transport and the recently announced Capability Fund (revenue allocation to be confirmed) will support the delivery of the plan. Delivery of the plan is also being supported through the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot funding and the Public Health ring fenced grant.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As part of this plan, programmes and infrastructure such as school streets (closing of streets at school drop-off and pick-up times) as well as various road safety measures will be piloted and considered. All future schemes considered as part of the plan will be designed and implemented in accordance with relevant highway, transport and traffic legislation. Procurement will occur in accordance with the council's constitution and; where relevant, European directives; and any grant conditions.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Using existing resources, the delivery of the plan will be monitored by the cross departmental 'BwD Stride and Ride' project group which also has VCFS representation. Delivery will also be supported by wider groups such as Active BwD and oversight of the plan will be with the Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up Steering Group.

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

Targeted public consultation on the contents of the Walking and Cycling Plan has taken place via an online consultation survey. Opinions have been sought from specific groups including older adults, early years settings, the youth forum, schools and Blackburn College. It was also distributed to Active BwD partner organisations.

The public consultation ran from 31/05/21 – 09/07/21 with 86 responses collected and considered. In addition to this, 126 older adults were asked about walking and cycling as part of a physical activity survey in partnership with AgeUK.

Political leadership from across the council have been consulted on the contents of this plan including the public health, growth and development, adults and prevention, children and young people, and finance and governance Senior Policy Team meetings. The plan was also taken to the Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up Steering Group and will be taken to the next Health and Wellbeing Board.

Feedback from the public consultation and council leadership was used to inform all key elements of the Plan.

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:	Iona Lyell iona.lyell@blackburn.gov.uk Beth Wolfenden beth.wolfenden@blackburn.gov.uk
DATE:	12/08/21
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1: Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan Appendix 2: Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up Blackburn with Darwen's Food Physical Activity and Healthy Weight Strategy Appendix 3: Blackburn with Darwen Local Government Declaration on Healthy Weight Appendix 4: Blackburn with Darwen Climate Emergency Action Plan Appendix 5: Local Transport Plan 3 Appendix 6: Blackburn with Darwen Corporate Plan



Walking and Cycling Plan

2021-2024



Forward

Improving access and uptake of walking and cycling within Blackburn with Darwen is an agenda that cuts across a number of important council priorities. Striving for higher rates of walking and cycling in the borough complements multiple varied ambitions, including priorities around physical activity, improving road safety, becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and sustainably improving connectivity within this growing borough.

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant

challenges, there are opportunities to be capitalised upon. As we move into the recovery phase of the pandemic increasing walking and cycling should be part of building a healthier, happier, more connected and more prosperous borough.

Therefore, the Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan outlines how the council will work with residents and partners to allow our communities to be safe, active and enjoy their local area via walking and cycling.



Councillor Damian Talbot
**Executive Member for Public
Health and Wellbeing**



Councillor Phil Riley
**Executive Member for
Growth and Development**

P. Riley

Executive summary

The Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan envisions a future where walking and cycling are first choice methods for making shorter journeys and enjoying local communities in a safe and healthy way. The plan aims to coordinate efforts by multidisciplinary stakeholders to increase walking and cycling uptake within the borough.

The Plan's aims complement national, regional and local priorities in the realms of health and wellbeing, air quality, climate change, road safety, planning and transport. This plan will contribute to achieving important strategic corporate goals for the council and formulates as a daughter document to the impending Local Transport Plan 4 and vision for the upcoming renewal of The Local Plan. The plan pulls together what work is ongoing in the area of walking and cycling, aims to increase co-ordination between partners and stakeholders, and lays out our future ambitions for active travel.

The principles running through this plan include:

- Taking a life course approach
- Aiming to increase access and reduce inequalities in walking and cycling uptake
- Focusing on joined up and partnership working

The benefits of walking and cycling are wide ranging, highlighted in this plan are:

- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved air quality
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Reduced congestion
- Local economy benefits
- Improved amenity and quality of place

Taking a whole system approach, the building blocks of this plan to improve walking and cycling are made up of:

- Improved walking and cycling infrastructure
- Community engagement
- Business engagement
- Walking and cycling at the heart of policy
- Monitoring and evaluation



The Walking and Cycling Plan on a Page

Improve walking and cycling infrastructure

- Deliver phase 2 of the emergency active travel fund infrastructure project
- Develop BwD Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) – strategic plans for developing active travel infrastructure in the borough
- Centre walking and cycling in any infrastructure or highways decisions, and continue work to improve safety e.g. road safety infrastructure and speed reduction mechanisms
- Pilot and introduce school streets initiatives

Community engagement in walking and cycling

- Wide reaching community consultation on the contents of this plan, as well as any new walking and cycling infrastructure, school streets initiatives or similar programmes
- Prioritise initiatives that target under-represented and disadvantaged groups in walking and cycling
- Use and development of community assets for walking and cycling such as our green spaces
- Ongoing social media engagement
- New walking and cycling partnership officer roles to ensure programmes are linked and work synergistically

Business engagement in walking and cycling

- Ongoing scheme to encourage hiring of bikes and e-bikes for commuting
- Explore options for the council to encourage and facilitate employees to take up active commuting
- Learn from other areas e.g. Birmingham who have used investment in cycling to stimulate jobs in the area e.g. bike mechanics and cycle instructors

Embed walking and cycling at the heart of policy

- This Plan to act as a daughter document to the impending Local Transport Plan 4, with sustainable travel set out as a key priority, and contribute to the vision for the new Local Plan
- Priorities and direction set out in this Plan to contribute to the council's strategic corporate goals within health, place and growth
- Ongoing engagement with elected members from across the council around what can be done to encourage more walking and cycling

Monitoring and evaluating progress

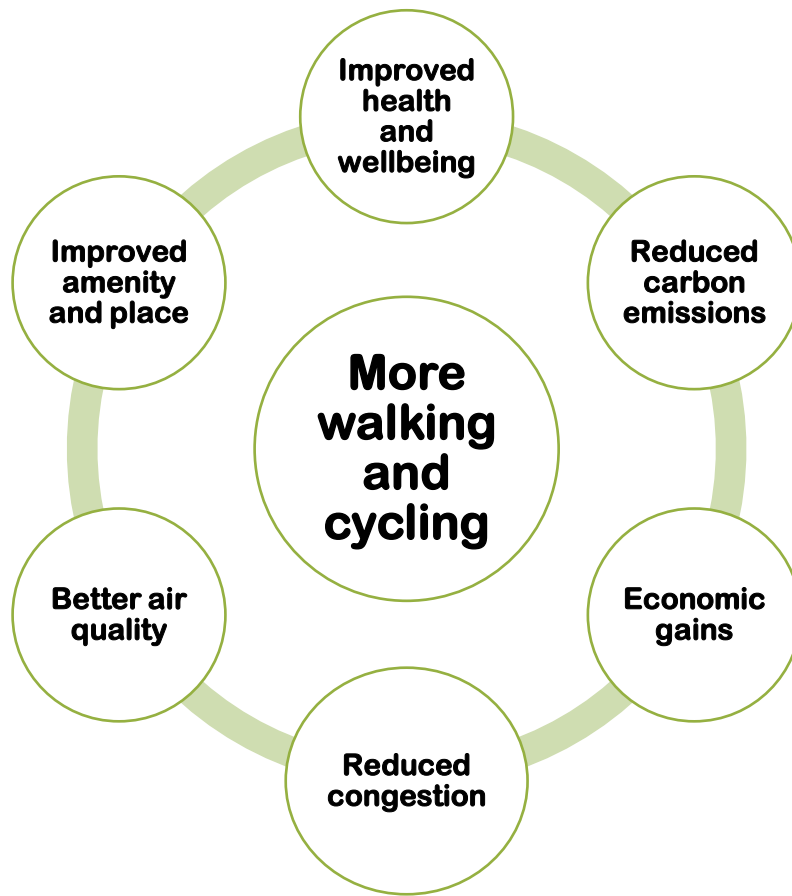
- Monitor the numbers of people walking and cycling, modes of transport used for journeys and types of people walking and cycling. Long term goals to coincide with the Lancashire 10 year walking and cycling strategy 2018-2028.
- Ongoing community feedback and engagement
- Ongoing investigation into more ways in which walking and cycling can be monitored e.g. with use of data from apps such as Strava, more cycle counters etc.

The long term vision of the plan is a future in Blackburn with Darwen where walking and cycling are first choice methods of making shorter journeys and enjoying local communities in a safe and healthy way.

This plan aims to pull together and coordinate efforts by multidisciplinary stakeholders to increase walking and cycling uptake in the borough. With a specific emphasis on a life course approach and reducing inequalities in walking and cycling uptake.



Benefits of walking and cycling



Building blocks for more walking and cycling



The national, regional and policy context

Increasing uptake of cycling and walking is a national priority. Making cycling and walking the “natural choice” for individuals taking shorter journeys or making multi-modal journeys was the aim laid out by the Department for Transport’s cycling and walking investment strategy in 2017 and is a key focus of the Transport Decarbonisation Plan recently published.

The Access Fund as part of the 2017 strategy has funded the Connecting East Lancashire initiative, which aims to increase connectivity and job opportunities in the region via active travel.

With the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a renewed focus on the benefits of increased walking and cycling for society. The central government’s release of emergency funding for active travel infrastructure, the Capability Fund and Gear Change document has emphasised the importance of taking advantage of this unique period in history.

Blackburn with Darwen is a growing borough and has an established growth strategy, with a focus on improvements to housing, employment and town centres. In order to maintain continued growth, a new Local Plan is emerging which anticipates a further 7,000 homes and 5,000 jobs over the next 15 years. One of the Core Policies of the emerging Local Plan highlights accessibility as a key strategic objective for Blackburn with Darwen, requiring developments to be accessible by a choice of active travel modes, therefore encouraging a modal shift and reducing the need for people to travel by car. A suite of connectivity studies have been prepared to appraise the potential impact of development on local walking and cycling networks and provide recommendations as to potential improvements

“Like lots of mums, I have a busy work-family life balance to maintain, so trying cycling wasn’t something I expected to have time for. I’m so glad I got into it during lockdown – staying active while we had to stay at home more often, and now I encourage my friends and family to try it too.”

Resident Sam Riddehough

which could be provided by or funded via the developments. In addition, a Borough-wide Transport Study is underway, evaluating the network and suggesting improvement schemes for both the highway and sustainable transport network.

Therefore, the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan will act as a daughter document to the impending Local Transport Plan 4, which is set to have a specific focus on sustainable travel. In addition, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are a vitally important component of strategically developing infrastructure which facilitates active travel. This plan therefore commits to their development within the objective of ‘improved walking and cycling infrastructure’.

The council has declared a climate emergency, and the direction laid out in this plan contributes to the BwD Climate Emergency Action Plan published in 2020, with encouraging active travel a key component.

Furthermore, the council is committed to working towards improving the health of residents as laid out in the BwD Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the BwD Eat Well, Move More, Shape up Strategy, and the BwD Corporate Plan. Increasing rates of walking and cycling has the potential to improve health via increased physical activity, improved mental wellbeing, better air quality and improved road safety.

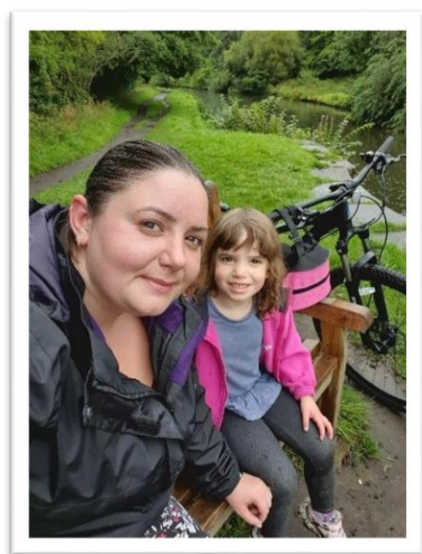


Photo courtesy of resident Sam Riddehough

As the below diagrammatic representation demonstrates, prioritising walking and cycling coincides with a number of policy areas locally, regionally and nationally. Increased walking and cycling can deliver *health and wealth* complementing priorities within *health promotion, air pollution, climate change and economic prosperity for the area*.



Benefits of more walking and cycling

Improved Health and Wellbeing

Blackburn with Darwen has low levels of physical activity compared to regional and national averages, with a quarter of adults in BwD physically inactive and only one third of children in BwD active. Prioritising cycling and walking is key to combatting the risks of physical inactivity including heart disease, diabetes and mental health problems. This plan will support efforts to implement World Health Organisation recommendations and NICE Guidelines for physical activity to combat the rise of non-communicable disease. In addition, Blackburn with Darwen has high levels of deprivation which are key drivers for major health inequalities. There is evidence that policies that promote active travel can benefit the most disadvantaged provided they are designed and delivered in a way that acknowledges and aims to reduce inequalities.

Sadly, BwD has the highest rate in the North West of children killed or seriously injured on the road. By encouraging less cars on the road, initiatives like school streets, and safe walking and cycle infrastructure which prioritises those not in cars can contribute to the aim of improving this statistic. This coincides with the borough's strategy to reduce and prevent such accidents and injuries.



"I love nothing better than putting my boots on and escaping for an hour or so on my own. The benefits to mood and mental health are amazing."

- Resident Sharon Connolly

Reduced Carbon Emissions

There is no denying that global warming and reducing carbon emissions is the challenge of our time, and a priority for the British government and the local authority. Evidence shows that walking and cycling can reduce short car trips by 41% given the right infrastructure and priority setting. This could save an additional 5% of CO2 emissions from cars, an important contribution considering transport is the only industry in which emissions continue to rise. Although emissions from BwD have been trending downward, total and per capita CO2 emissions from the borough rose in 2019 compared to 2018. Therefore, now is the time to for concerted action to reduce transport emissions.



Photo courtesy of Councillor Jackie Floyd

"My e-bike is terrific! As a Councillor I'm busy most weekdays visiting communities in my ward. I live at the top of a very big hill which can look daunting on two wheels but the electric bike powers through. I make sure I wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and off I go! In September I gave up my car and for weeks I rode my bike rain or shine, occasionally sharing my husband's car. It's been relatively easy." Councillor Jackie Floyd

Boost economy and trade, improved amenity and place

Transport for London have collated the evidence for the economic benefits of walking and cycling. The evidence shows that increased walking and cycling can increase traffic to local business, as when individuals are not in their car they are more likely to stop and purchase from local shops. Improvements to street infrastructure and appearances will also attract walkers and cyclists to the area. Walking and cycling are also accessible means of transport for employees and people seeking work, and encouraging interest in cycling can open up employment prospects in this lucrative and growing industry. The benefits of a more active population will additionally lead to fewer days away from work, as well as the huge economic savings that can be made from a healthier population.

"Blackburn with Darwen is very fortunate to have some great parks with walks, trails and is also surrounded by moorland. The views are fantastic." Resident Tracy Robinson



Photo courtesy of resident Tracy Robinson

Reduced congestion

Congestion in the UK cost the average driver £1, 317 in 2018 and UK economy an estimated £8 billion. This is due to a combination of reduced productivity, movement of goods and increased fuel costs. Less cars on the roads for short journeys such as the school run will reduce congestion in the local area. Congestion is a particular problem around school drop-off and pick-up times in BwD, encouraging more families to choose to walk and cycle will improve the environment and safety around our schools.

“If there are too many cars it’s bad for the local environment, and walking to school and back is good for your health”

Resident Sharik (year 7)

Better air quality

Evidence continues to accumulate detailing the effects of air pollution on our health. It can affect individuals throughout the life course, including increased risk of pregnancy loss, asthma, heart disease, diabetes and dementia. In a landmark ruling, air pollution was noted as a cause of death for a child with asthma, highlighting the very real dangers for individuals exposed. BwD currently has 4 air quality management areas in Intack, Bastwell, Blackamoor and Four Lane Ends. These areas failed to meet the national targets for nitrogen dioxide levels, largely due to vehicle exhaust emissions. Therefore, encouraging more walking and cycling over short car journeys has the potential improve these figures. Air pollution is most likely to affect the most disadvantaged in society, and with a statutory duty to ensure air quality is safe, the local authority needs to prioritise active travel as a method of reducing damaging air particulates.



Residents Sharik (Year 7), Ayza (Year 6) and Haris (EYFS) walk to school together as a family.

Progress and plans for the future

Improve walking and cycling infrastructure

The Local Authority has been successful in securing money from the emergency active travel fund (309k in capital and 60k in revenue) to make improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure. Branded as Blackburn Stride and Ride (BSR), phase 1 of this scheme provides a permanent safe walking / cycling route from Witton Park where we already have a fantastic Cycle Centre facility, to Blackburn town centre with improved infrastructure, encouraging and promoting safer walking and cycling for the last 2 miles of the daily commute for students and workers. Building on the existing National Cycle Route 6 (NCR6) the whole route is supported with new signage and segregated cycle lanes. This corridor encompasses 3 schools and Blackburn College, providing great opportunities to encourage safer walking and cycling, reduce traffic and increase road safety.



The second phase of the allocation will aim to complement the works already completed, and is under consultation. Both schemes are strategically located to better develop active travel access to employment, housing and education.

Additionally, innovative ways to encourage walking, particularly to school, and engage schools and communities are underway, with a novel crossing already installed on Bolton road, Darwen. The UV light technology used to highlight pedestrians is a new way to improve road safety and encourage people to travel actively. The colourful design is bright and attractive, particularly for children.

Actions for future infrastructure improvements:

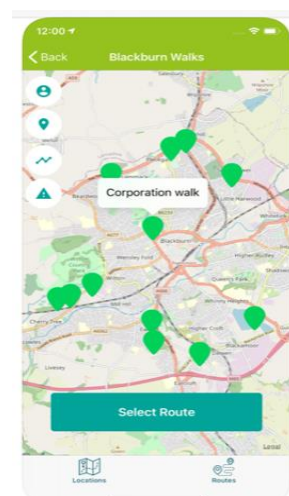
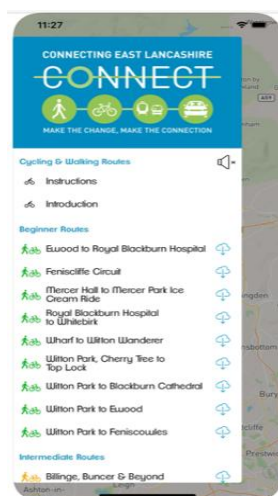
- Deliver phase 2 of the emergency active travel fund
- Develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans
- Centre walking and cycling in any infrastructure or highways decisions, and continue to work to improve road safety
- Pilot and introduce school streets initiatives

Community Engagement

With a commitment to community involvement the [Walking and Cycling Consultation Plan](#) sets out how all stakeholders will be involved in the development of new walking and cycling infrastructure funding by the Emergency Active Travel Fund.

The update to the Connecting East Lancashire website includes a hub for surveys and community engagement to compliment communication through social media channels and to council staff, with includes a Blackburn with Darwen facebook group set up to share walking and cycling stories and viewpoints and engage with residents.

Surveys have already been completed by parents in schools about their travel habits and wants, and there are plans to introduce BwD's first [School Streets](#) initiative, in order to reduce congestion around schools, increase safety and encourage active travel as a part of traveling to school. Additionally the [Connect East Lancashire cycling app](#) details routes from beginner to advanced, and helps riders plan their days out, encouraging an enjoyment of the local area via bike. The [ExploreBwD](#) app encourages exploration of the local area on foot.



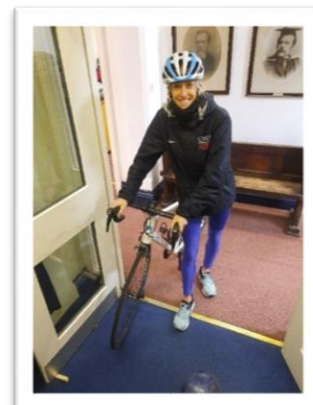
Actions for future community engagement:

- Community consultation on the contents of this plan, as well as any new walking and cycling infrastructure, schools streets initiatives or similar programmes
- Prioritise initiatives that target under-represented and disadvantaged groups in walking and cycling e.g. engaging with Age UK, foster families and care leavers, running cycle sessions for women from minoritised ethnicities, supporting walking groups
- Use and development of community assets for walking and cycling such as our green and blue spaces
- Ongoing social media engagement
- New walking and cycling partnership officer roles to ensure programmes are linked and work well synergistically

Business Engagement

With the Connecting East Lancashire programme there was recognition that connectivity within the region was vitally important for economic growth and allowing individuals to access employment opportunities. This programme aims to facilitate ways individuals can make these journeys in a sustainable way. The programme includes working with businesses to develop sustainable travel plans, bike hire to employees, bike maintenance training and facilitating workplace walks. With the hugely valuable asset that is the Witton Park cycling centre, this is a hub where individuals and business can hire bikes of all kinds including e-bikes.

The first tranche of the Department for Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund allowed for a safe walking and cycling route from Witton park to the centre of Blackburn – completed in Summer 2020. This will allow people to feel safe when commuting into the centre of Blackburn for work or study, and ability to park and ride or stride from Witton park. Coupled with the cycling centre this provides the perfect opportunity for bike hire for commuting. The cycle path also provides the perfect step up for beginner cyclists who have become confident within the park.



Local commuter Samantha

Actions for future business engagement:

- Ongoing scheme to encourage hiring of bikes and e-bikes for commuting
- Explore options for the council to encourage and facilitate an active commute
- Learn from other areas like Birmingham who have used investment in cycling to simulate jobs in the area e.g. bike mechanics and cycle instructors

Walking and cycling at the heart of policy

With the release of the emergency active travel fund the formation of the “Stride and Ride Group” was the first time that departments throughout the council working on improving walking and cycling for the population were brought together. This has allowed individuals representing highways, leisure, public health, transport, road safety and planning and communications, and a vital step in ensuring walking and cycling priorities are embedded throughout the council.

Actions to keep walking and cycling at the heart of policy:

- This Plan to act as a daughter document to the impending Local Transport Plan 4, with sustainable travel set out as a key priority, and contribute to the vision for the new Local Plan
- Priorities and direction set out in this Plan to contribute to the council’s strategic corporate goals within health, place and growth
- Ongoing engagement with elected members from across the council around what can be done to encourage more walking and cycling

Monitoring and evaluation

The wide ranging nature of the initiatives involved in promoting walking and cycling will require bespoke and tailored metrics and information gathering to assess performance and effectiveness of individual projects. Higher level indicators can then also be measured. They will tie in with the local travel plan objectives and outcomes, and will need to detail ambitious but achievable goals. Information about walking and cycling in the borough is already being assessed, this includes data from national and local surveys and apps such as Strava.

Actions for monitoring and evaluation

- Monitor the numbers of people walking and cycling, modes of transport used for journeys and types of people walking and cycling. Long term goals will coincide with the Lancashire 10 year walking and cycling strategy 2018-2028
 - Goal to double cycling rates from 2018-2028
 - 2018: 5.4% of people cycled once per week in BwD
 - *Target:* 8.1% by 2024 and 10.8% by 2028
 - Goal to see a 10% increase in walking rates from 2018-2028
 - 2018: 61.8% of people walked once per week in BwD
 - *Target:* 64.9% by 2024 and 68.0% by 2028
 - Data from DfT National Travel Survey and Sport England's Active Travel Survey
- Ongoing community feedback and engagement
- Ongoing investigation into more ways in which walking and cycling can be monitored e.g. from data such as Strava, more cycle counters, school travel surveys
- Ongoing monitoring of metrics including physical activity levels, air pollution levels and carbon emissions in line with corresponding strategies



Formula

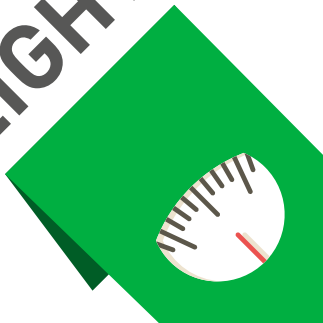
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON HEALTHY WEIGHT



THIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON HEALTHY WEIGHT IS A STATEMENT, INDIVIDUALLY OWNED BY BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL AND BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP.

It encapsulates a vision to promote healthy weight and improve the health and well-being of the local population. We recognise that we need to exercise our responsibility in developing and implementing policies which promote healthy weight.



Milka
Page 74
Cllr Mohammed Khan M.B.E.
Leader of the Council

Mustafa Desai
Cllr Mustafa Desai
Executive Member
for Health and
Adult Social Care

Dominic P. Harrison
Dominic Harrison
Director of Public Health

Chris Clayton
Dr Chris Clayton
Clinical Chief Officer
Blackburn with Darwen
Clinical Commissioning Group

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- > Unhealthy weight is a serious public health problem that increases disability, disease and death and has substantial long term economic, well-being and social costs. The proportion of the population affected by unhealthy weight continues to rise;
- > Unhealthy weight is affected by health inequalities and is more common in lower socio-economic groups;
- > Poor diet during early life (the period between conception and weaning) can carry adverse health consequences in later life;
- > Poor diet and an unhealthy weight are risk factors for cardiovascular disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes which contribute powerfully to poor health and premature death;
- > Energy dense food and drinks high in fat and sugar and low in essential nutrients contribute to a significant amount of additional and unnecessary calories in the diet;
- > There is greater availability and access to foods and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt which are increasingly eaten outside of the home, contributing to excess energy intake;
- > Increased intake of foods high in fat and sugar and low in fruit and vegetables are strongly linked to those in manual occupations;
- > People living in more socially deprived areas have less access to healthy foods;
- > Advertising and marketing of foods and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt increases their consumption;
- > Education, information and the increased availability of healthy alternatives help individuals to make healthy, informed food and drink choices;
- > Modern physical activity environments contribute to sedentary lifestyles;
- > Urban planning can have a significant impact on opportunities for physical activity, promoting safer environments for walking, cycling and recreation.

AS LOCAL LEADERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH WE WELCOME THE:

- > Opportunity for local government to lead local action to prevent obesity, securing the health and well-being of our residents whilst considering available social, environmental and financial NHS and social care resources;
- > Opportunity to protect some of the most vulnerable in society by giving children the best start in life and enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and make informed choices;
- > National commitment to address childhood obesity;
- > Support for the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight from the following organisations: Association of Directors of Public Health North West, British Dental Association, Children's Food Campaign and the UK Health Forum.

WE COMMIT OUR COUNCIL FROM THIS DATE

13.04.2017

...to sign the Declaration to show commitment to reducing unhealthy weight in our communities, protect the health and well-being of staff and citizens and make an economic impact on health and social care and the local economy by striving to:

- > Engage with the local food and drink sector (retailers, manufacturers, caterers, out of home settings) where appropriate to consider responsible retailing (such as not selling energy drinks to under 18s), offering and promoting healthier food and drink options, and reformulating and reducing the portion sizes of high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) products;
- > Consider how commercial partnerships with the food and drink industry may impact on the messages communicated around healthy weight to our local communities. Funding may be offered to support research, discretionary services (such as sport and recreation and tourism events) and town centre promotions;
- > Review provision in all our public buildings, facilities and 'via' providers to make healthy foods and drinks more available, convenient and affordable and limit access to high-calorie, low-nutrient foods and drinks (this should be applied to public institutions such as schools, hospitals, care homes and leisure facilities where possible);
- > Increase public access to fresh drinking water on local authority controlled sites;
- > Consider supplementary guidance for hot food takeaways, specifically in areas around schools, parks and where access to healthier alternatives are limited;
- > Advocate plans with our partners including the NHS and all agencies represented on the Health and Well-being Board, Healthy Cities, academic institutions and local communities to address the causes and impacts of obesity;
- > Protect our children from inappropriate marketing by the food and drink industry such as advertising and marketing in close proximity to schools; 'giveaways' and promotions within schools; at events on local authority controlled sites;
- > Support action at national level to help local authorities reduce obesity prevalence and health inequalities in our communities;
- > Ensure food and drinks provided at public events include healthy provisions, supporting food retailers to deliver this offer;
- > Support the health and well-being of local authority staff and increase knowledge and understanding of unhealthy weight to create a culture and ethos that normalises healthy weight;
- > Invest in the health literacy of local citizens to make informed healthier choices;
- > Ensure clear and comprehensive healthy eating messages are consistent with government guidelines.
- > Consider how strategies, plans and infrastructures for regeneration and town planning positively impact on physical activity;
- > Monitor the progress of our plan against our commitments and publish the results.

IN ADDITION OUR LOCAL AUTHORITY WILL WORK TOWARDS:.....

- > Support the introduction of 'Mile a Day' and 'Couch to 5k' in primary and secondary schools respectively
- > Support Early Years settings to enable a structured physical activity offer and healthy food policy
- > Develop a Food Poverty Network to reduce food poverty and tackle malnutrition in all settings
- > Support the introduction of school food policies including lunchbox policies
- > To be a designated Sugar Smart Town
- > Develop a Food Charter for the Borough to promote healthy and sustainable food in a local economy
- > Promote Active Travel and use of Rights of Way across the Borough to increase physical activity, for social and employment opportunities and minimise air pollution
- > Support 'Street Play' initiatives through exploring the implementation of periodic temporary street closure orders and other innovative sites for play
- > To be a designated Breastfeeding Friendly Town
- > To achieve Sustainable Food Town status

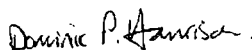
Signatories:



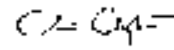
Cllr Mohammed Khan M.B.E.
Leader of the Council



Cllr Mustafa Desai
Executive Member for Health
and Adult Social Care



Dominic Harrison
Director of Public Health



Dr Chris Clayton
Clinical Chief Officer
Blackburn with Darwen Clinical
Commissioning Group

To be reviewed by 13th April, 2018

**FOOD
ACTIVE**

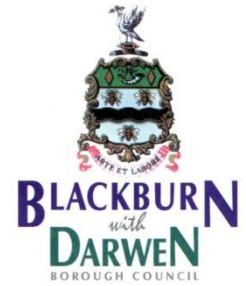


NHS
Blackburn with Darwen
Clinical Commissioning Group

The Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight has been designed and developed on behalf of Food Active, by the Health Equalities Group and is based on the the Local Authority Declaration on Tobacco Control.

For further information please contact:
info@hegroup.org.uk

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Growth and Development

LEAD OFFICERS: Strategic Director of Place

DATE: Thursday, 12 August 2021

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Growth and Development

WARD/S AFFECTED: Shear Brow and Corporation Park;

KEY DECISION: N

SUBJECT:

East Park Road Petition – Road Safety Concerns

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition has been submitted signed by residents of East Park Road, East Park Court, Winston Road, Shear Brow, Beresford Road, The Croft and Langham Road requesting improved road safety for residents, pedestrians and people travelling around the East Park Road area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Notes the petition
- Notes that the service had already committed to designing and consulting on a road safety scheme for the area, following a request from Cllr Zainab Rawat, one of the Ward Councillors
- Supports the road safety scheme designed to improve road safety for the area
- Request that officers inform the lead petitioner of the decision

3. BACKGROUND

East Park Road is primarily a residential road but like many others in the Borough it has become a busy route used by residents to access amenities and to pass through the area.

On 7th May 2021 Cllr Zainab Rawat contacted the highways team to express both hers and the concerns of residents over road safety in the area. The HoS for Highways committed to undertake investigations and consider if intervention was needed. The outcome of these investigations was that it was felt that the introduction of a road safety scheme would enhance the safety for pedestrians and road users. Design progressed and early options were shared at Executive Member briefings in May and June.

On the 9th June this petition was received, confirming the local concern over road safety. The petition noted:

- Request for road markings
- Safety measures for children on Shear Bank Road
- Alleged speeding on East Park Road
- Concerns over the junction of Lilford and Park Avenue

The scheme designed by the highways traffic team will address the issues highlighted below:

- Request for road markings – Included in the scheme.
- Safety measures for children on Shear Bank Road and East Park Road – The traffic team consider that the road safety scheme will address safety for children and pedestrians and the introduction of a new 20mph speed limit and speed humps will slow traffic down. This will create a safer area for children to cross both roads without the need for controlled zebra crossings. The traffic team has considered the request to introduce zebra crossings and do not consider there to be a need in usage, as they will only be required at specific times of the day / week. In addition, the introduction of a zebra crossing with associated zig-zags around Winston Road will result in the loss of around 15 – 20 residents parking spaces which we consider to be an unacceptable outcome.
- Alleged speeding on East Park Road – Included in the scheme.
- Concerns over the junction of Lilford and Park Avenue - Whilst the new 20mph Zone will cover this junction it needs to be noted that the service has been in consultation with residents at this location for some time and all requests to impose a one way system on Lilford Road have been rejected (alternatives and either direction have been proposed previously. The highways traffic team consider this to be the only option to improve safety at this junction and despite offering several options the residents have consistently rejected this scheme.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

To mitigate risk at this location the highways traffic team had committed to undertaking investigation and implementation of a road safety scheme, prior to the receipt of the petition.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the road safety maintenance budget is committed to the long term programme of improvements funding for this scheme will be sourced within financial year.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty to maintain the adopted highway under the Highways Act 1980 and to demonstrate that they made adequate provision for upkeep and safety, as can be reasonably expected.

This is an ordinary petition as defined in the Council's constitution as being one signed by at least 50 people and submitted by people who live, work or study in the Borough. Part 7 of the Constitution outlines the possible mechanisms for petitions and this report and response is one such type of valid response.

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

The road safety scheme will be consulted upon.

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.

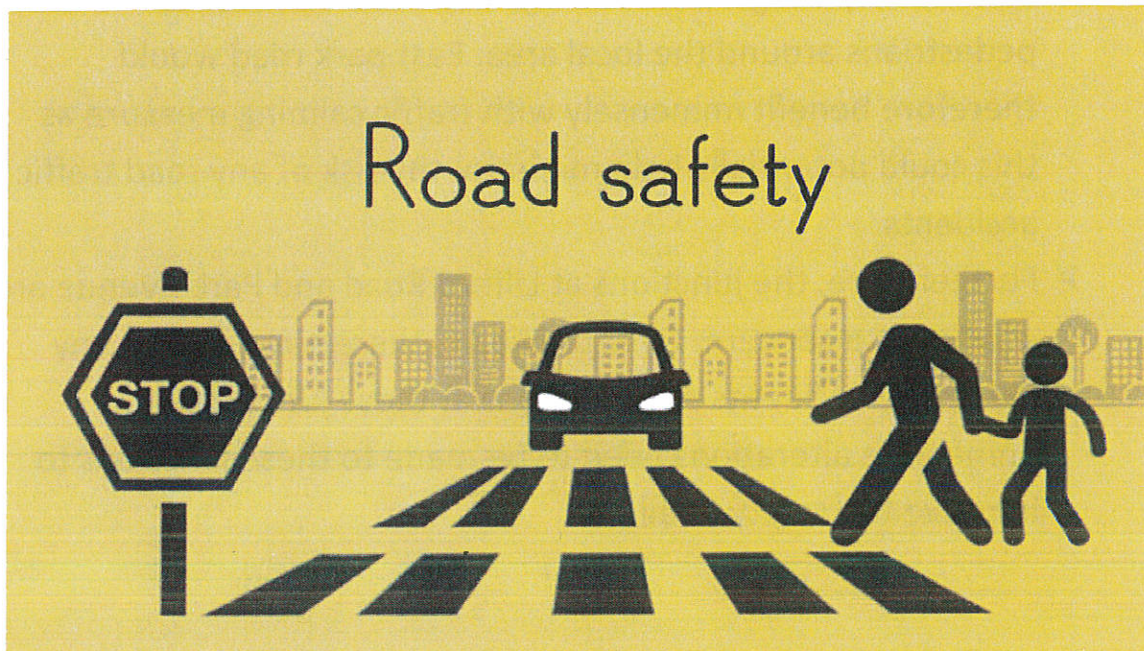
CONTACT OFFICER:	Dwayne Lowe, Head of Highways, Transport and Network, dwayne.lowe@blackburn.gov.uk
DATE:	23 rd July 2021
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Petition

Petition

The safety of residents and pedestrians in and around East park road.

Target: Blackburn & Darwen council

Region: Blackburn



The objective and aim of this petition is to help improve the road safety for the residents, pedestrians, as well as people travelling in and around the area of East park road Blackburn.

- The road markings on the main road of East Park Road were altered without warning or any input from the local residents in the area. This has caused a major concern with the residents as it has made the safety of pedestrian as well as road users dangerous. It has also made it very dangerous for the residents who have to drive in and out of their own properties.
- There are no safety measures near the local park on Shear Bank road for the children attending the education centre and families going into the park. This area would benefit from a zebra crossing so that residents and parents sending their

Petition

children to the education centre or park can be confident knowing that there is a safe area for them to cross.

- The local residents have raised concerns in the East park road area regarding the number of motor vehicles that are excessively speeding well above the speed limit. This has made it extremely dangerous for other road users as well as pedestrians around the local area. East park road would therefore benefit immensely with traffic calming measure as this could potentially help minimise the risk of any road traffic accidents.
- Furthermore, the junctions at Lilford Road and Park Avenue are of immense concern. Over the years, there have been many reports of accidents and collisions at these junctions. Immediate alterations need to be made to these junctions to improve the safety of all.

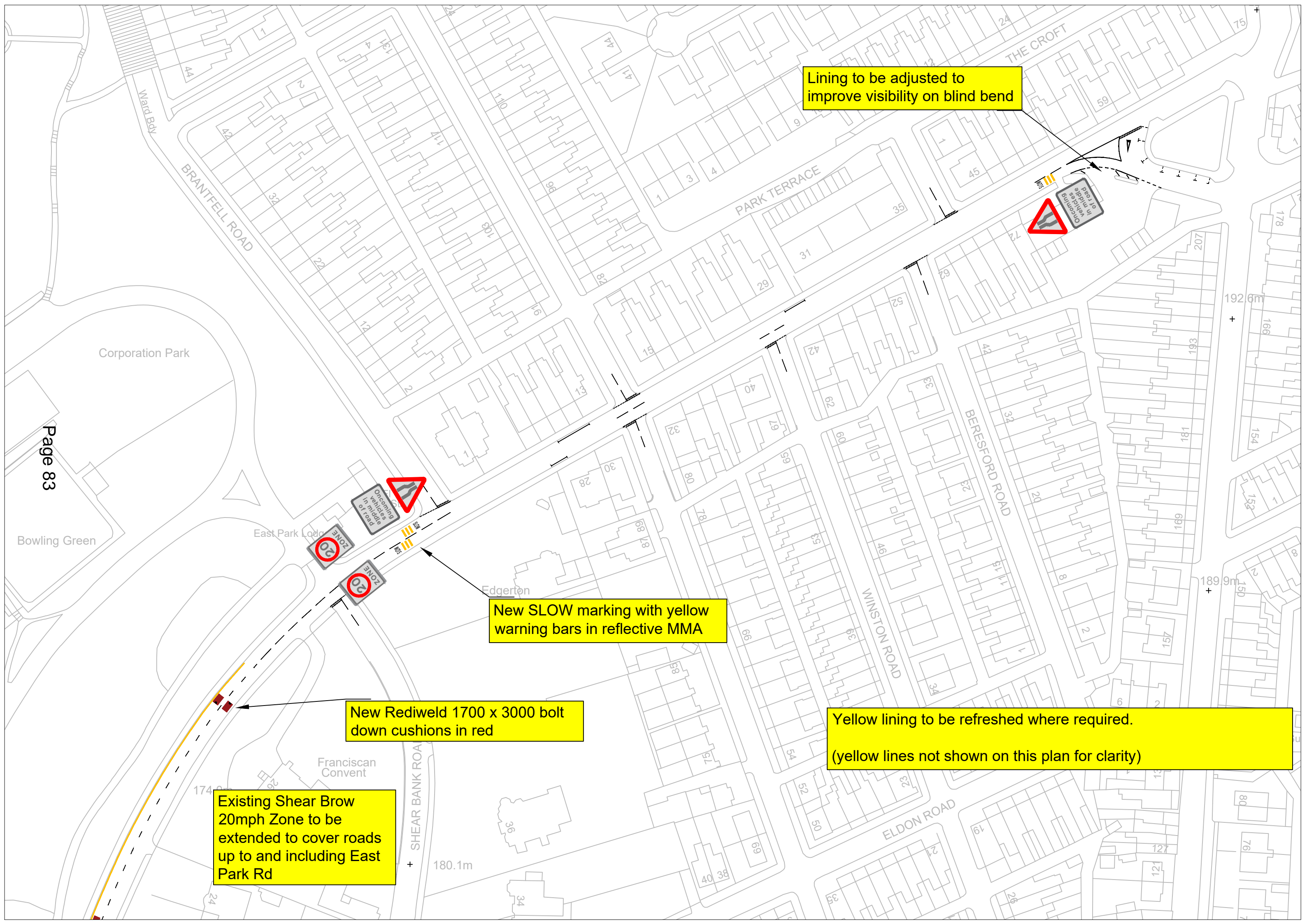
Lining to be adjusted to improve visibility on blind bend

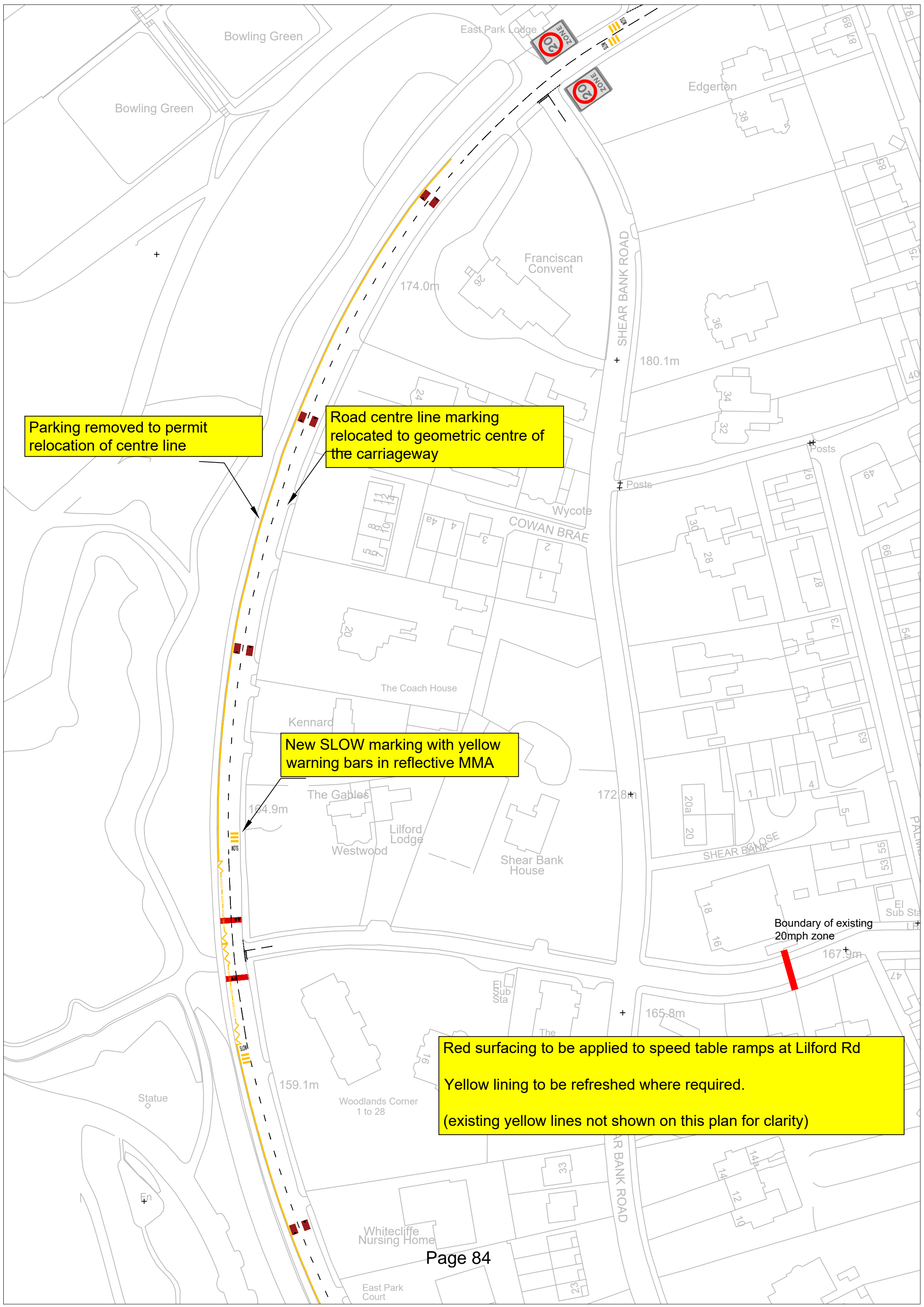
New SLOW marking with yellow warning bars in reflective MMA

New Rediweld 1700 x 3000 bolt down cushions in red

Yellow lining to be refreshed where required.
(yellow lines not shown on this plan for clarity)

Existing Shear Brow 20mph Zone to be extended to cover roads up to and including East Park Rd





Parking removed to permit relocation of centre line

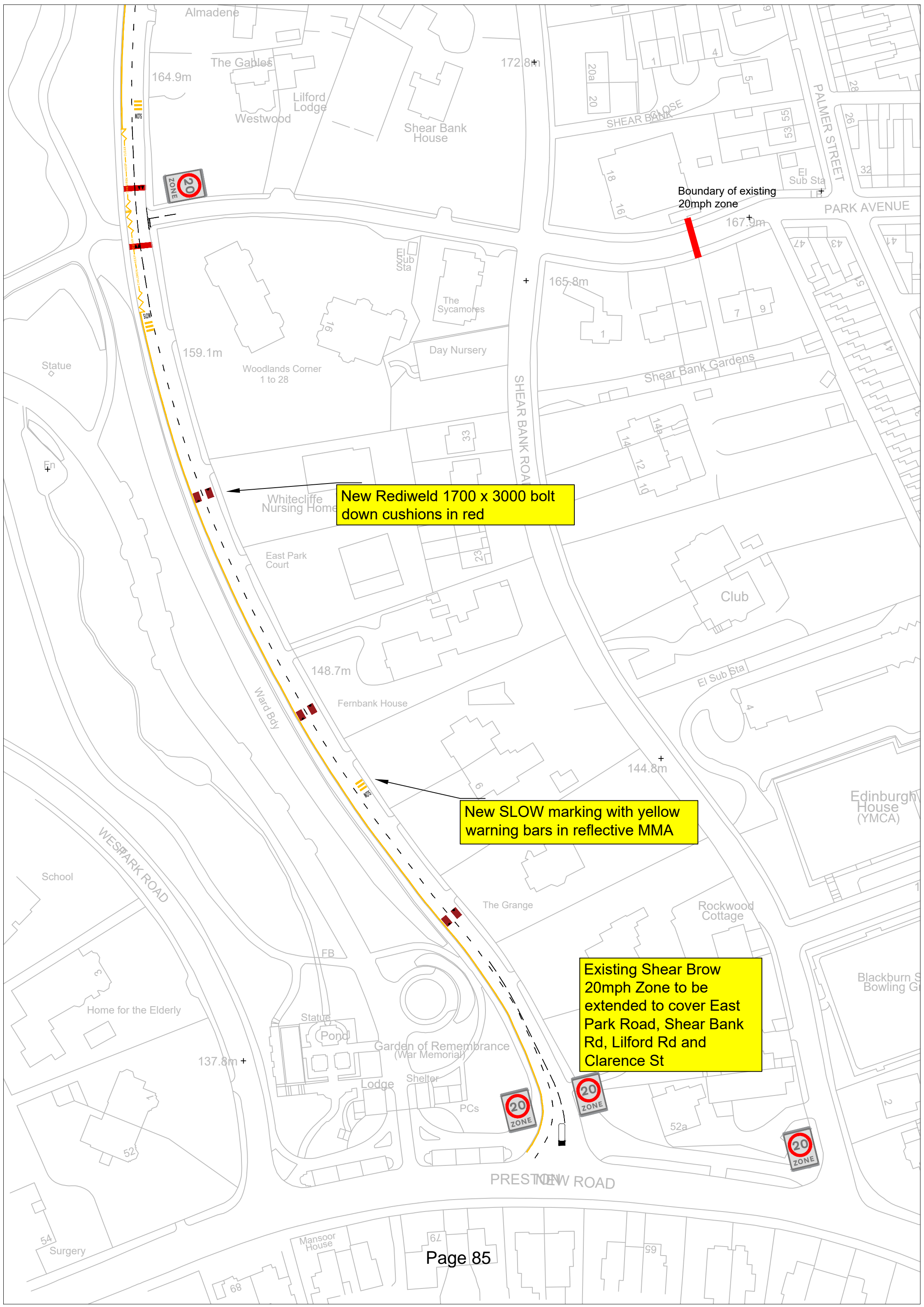
Road centre line marking relocated to geometric centre of the carriageway

New SLOW marking with yellow warning bars in reflective MMA

Red surfacing to be applied to speed table ramps at Lilford Rd

Yellow lining to be refreshed where required.

(existing yellow lines not shown on this plan for clarity)



New Rediweld 1700 x 3000 bolt down cushions in red

New SLOW marking with yellow warning bars in reflective MMA

Existing Shear Brow 20mph Zone to be extended to cover East Park Road, Shear Bank Rd, Lilford Rd and Clarence St

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

Document is Restricted