

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2024

(Note: any verbal updates provided by Executive Members and the Youth MPs will be summarised in the Minutes of the meeting)

	ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	Key Action
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8 th February 2024 were agreed as a correct record.	Recommendations Approved
Leader			
Adult Social Care & Health			
8.1	Community Day Support Services	<p>That the Executive Board notes and approves the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waive the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure rules to extend the current contract arrangements for 6 months to allow the procurement to take place without a gap in service.• To procure commissioned day care services for a 2 year contract term. The proposed contract period will be 1st October 2024 until 30th September 2026. The procurement will include two Lots; one Lot for Blackburn and one Lot for Darwen. The procurement will take into account geographical location, transport arrangements and the number of day care places required to meet demand across the borough.	Recommendations Approved

		<p>Members note that consideration and development is also required in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current daycare commission is interdependent with the utilisation and review of community centres in Blackburn. Age UK are one of the current day care providers and the service is delivered from Little Harwood, Accrington Road and Greenfields community centres. In the proposed new commission, the appointed provider will source their own venue/s. • The development of a transport policy and an approach to managing non-attendance. • The final tender will consider updated models of day support and reflect that linked transport services will be considered as part of the process. 	
Children, Young People & Education			
8.2	Wrap Around Childcare Programme	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report in relation to the Government's National Wrap Around Childcare Programme. • Approves the delivery plan and use of associated funding for Blackburn with Darwen's Wrap Around Childcare Programme. 	Recommendations Approved
8.3	Quarter 3 Fostering Report	<p>That the Executive Board notes the Fostering three monthly report for Quarter 3, alongside Appendix 1 which provides a service progress overview and summary of service development.</p>	Recommendations Approved
8.4	Uplift of Foster Carer Payments 24/25	<p>That the Executive Board agrees to uplift foster carer allowances so that they are in line with the new national minimum allowances for</p>	Recommendations Approved

		2024/25. Considers and agrees the proposed uplift for Parent and Child to a competitive one-off payment of £850 weekly plus additional child feed as outlined, as well as the Short Break carers uplift and the payment for 'Staying Put' which is proposed at 6.88% in line with national minimum allowances.	
8.5	Variations to School Capital Programme	That the Executive Board approves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new scheme to the value of £390,000 at Turton and Belmont Primary School • a budget increase of £95,000 for the expansion at Witton Academy • variations to a number of smaller schemes to the value of £12,500 	Recommendations Approved
Environment & Operations			
Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing			
Digital & Customer Services			
8.6	Microsoft Licence Agreement for server and database estate	That the Executive Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the award of the contract to Phoenix software through the KCS framework. 2. Approves a supplementary capital estimate of £308k to fund the agreement. 3. Approves a virement of £210k (over 3 years) from the Corporate ICT Investment budget. 	Recommendations Approved
Growth & Development			

8.7	Highways Capital Programme 2024/25	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>1) Approves the Highways Capital Programme for 2024/25</p> <p>2) Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Environment and Operations, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to amend, seek and accept tenders subject to adequate budget provision.</p>	Recommendations Approved
8.8	Biodiversity First Considerations	<p>That the Executive Board approve the 'First Considerations' Report setting out how the Council is fulfilling the biodiversity duty.</p>	Recommendations Approved
8.9	Biodiversity Net Gain Planning Advisory Note	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorse the Biodiversity Net Gain Planning Advisory Note (attached as Appendix 1) and approve it, and the associated online mapping, for publication (see Background Paper section for link to the associated online mapping site); and • grant delegated authority to the Strategic Director for Growth and Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to update the BNG applicant checklists as BNG information requirements change. 	Recommendations Approved
8.10	Update on District Wildlife Sites	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the recommendations of the DWS Study Summary report (Background Paper 1) to: 	Recommendations Approved

		<p>i) retain all qualifying sites as District Wildlife Sites;</p> <p>ii) retain all non-qualifying sites as District Wildlife Sites with the condition that actions will be prioritised to restore and enhance habitat at those locations. This includes Knuzden Brook (Abbot Clough) DWS, Meadowhead Pastures DWS, Blacksnape/Taylors Green and Robin Bank DWS; and retaining the current site areas for Darwen Golf Course DWS and Knuzden Brook (Haslingden Road) DWS;</p> <p>iii) amend the boundaries of three sites - Davyfield Brook DWS, Eccleshill Quarry/Pastures DWS and Stones Bank Brook to reflect physical features / boundaries or SSSI designations; and,</p> <p>iv) update the boundaries of Bog Height Tip to reflect the housing allocation in the northern parcel so that only the southern parcel is retained as a District Wildlife Site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grant delegated authority to the Strategic Director for Growth and Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to make all relevant decisions on the use of Council-owned land to facilitate the supply and delivery of off-site BNG, and to authorise registration of the sites on the national off-site register. 	
Finance & Governance			
8.11	Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25	<p>It is recommended that the Executive Board:</p> <p>2.1 Approves the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, detailed in Appendix 1, including the proposed Treasury Management Indicators.</p>	Recommendations Approved
9.1	Adult Social Care Provider Uplifts for 2024/25	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>1) Approve a percentage increase in fees for the following services:</p>	Recommendations Approved

- Residential and nursing care including Intermediate Care beds, fee increase of **8.48%** effective from 1 April 2024.
- A revised schedule of rates relating to the Residential and Nursing Care Quality Assurance scheme including a minimum fee increase of 8.48% as above.
- Older People and Physical Disability Domiciliary Care, framework fee increase of **10.1%** from **£19.46** to **£21.44** per hour in line with the Real Living Wage increase, effective from 1 April 2024.
- Shared Lives, day support fee increase of **8.4%** in line with the National Living Wage increase effective from 1 April 2024.
- Shared Lives, weekly banding fee increase of **8.4%** in line with National Living Wage increase effective from 1st April 2023.
- LD Supported Living Providers, fee increase of **10.1%** in line with Real living wage increase and equivalent to the hourly rate of domiciliary homecare providers. This represents an increase to **£21.44** per hour effective from 1st April 2024.
- Direct Payments, Personal Assistant, fee increase of **10.1%** to **£12.00** per hour in line with the Real Living Wage increases.
- Direct Payments - it is proposed to revise the existing direct payment agency rates (standard, enhanced and exception), in line with Domiciliary rates proposed above.

2) Further approves that:

- Supporting People and other specialist services

		<p>commissioned on block contracts are increased by 4.7% in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>3) Further approves that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Extra Care schemes that are commissioned on a block contract basis will receive an uplift of 8.6% to support providers to pay at NLW effective from 1 April 2024 where they have been agreed in the contract. • Where 1:1 hours are contracted separately they will remain aligned to the domiciliary care rate of £21.44. 	
<p>9.2</p>	<p>Early Years Expanded Payments</p>	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the use of the DSG EY Grant at appendix A which includes approval for the retention of up to 5% of the total grant to cover the cost of administration. 2. Approves the proposed hourly rates payable to providers (Appendix A) 3. Notes the content of the report with regards to the expansion of early years entitlements for children aged from 9 months upwards (under 2s) and 2 year olds of working parents. 4. Notes the allocation of the funding for under 2s will be adjusted to fund 26 weeks entitlement instead of the original 22 weeks included in the Dec 23 allocation. 5. Approves the use of the project delivery funding to support an increase in staffing to manage the successful implementation of the expanded entitlement offer. 	<p>Recommendations Approved</p>

		<p>6. Approves the use of project delivery funding to support the purchase of new modules to enhance the existing management information system to support the efficient delivery of early years entitlements.</p> <p>7. Approve the use of capital funding to create new places if required to meet demand.</p>	
9.3	Our Strategy to reduce Child Poverty 2024-2028	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to the child poverty key themes and objectives contained within this strategy • Approve Blackburn with Darwen’s Strategy to Reduce the Impact of Child Poverty 	Recommendations Approved

Reports for the meeting can be accessed via the following link:
[Agenda for Executive Board on Thursday, 7th March, 2024, 6.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)