

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

THURSDAY, 13TH JUNE, 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	That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 th April be approved as a correct record.	Recommendations Approved
Leader			
Adult Social Care & Health			
Children, Young People & Education			
9.1	School Effectiveness Partnership Strategy 2023-2026	That the Executive Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledge and support the strategy including the work of the wider system and cross sector leadership.• Note the 5 missions, 6 Public Commitments and 6 School Effectiveness Partnership Priorities for 2023-2026 outlined below.• Continue to champion the collaborative work already in place noting how it will be used to drive forward improvements across the borough for schools and settings in Blackburn with Darwen.• Note the position with School Improvement funding as set out in the report.	Recommendations Approved
Environment & Operations			
Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing			

9.2	Household Support Fund Round 5	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>2.1 Agree to the distribution of the Household Support Fund Round 5 as set out in the report, and in BwD's delivery plan (submitted to DWP in May 2024 as required).</p> <p>2.2 Give delegated authority to the Strategic Director Finance and Resources and the Strategic Director of Adults and Health, in consultation with the Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Wellbeing, to amend the distribution of the grant should that be considered necessary given guidance from Government and local circumstances (after having engaged with DWP regarding the Council's revisiting of its Delivery Plan during the Fund Period, as required by national guidance).</p>	Recommendations Approved
Digital & Customer Services			
9.3	IT Equipment	<p>It is recommended that the Executive Board:</p> <p>a) Notes the contents of this report.</p> <p>b) Approves the proposal to donate the laptop devices for reuse in the local community. It is anticipated that the exact number of devices donated will be determined by the number of devices deemed viable for reuse, by demand and by the ability to distribute effectively.</p> <p>c) Approves the proposal to make 'The Making Rooms' our primary delivery partner, alongside other partners that have the sufficient infrastructure in place to support redistribution to benefit local communities.</p> <p>d) Approves the proposal to recycle laptop devices that are not donated.</p> <p>e) Approve the distribution of other end-of-life devices through the same channels.</p>	Recommendations Approved
Growth & Development			

<p>9.4</p>	<p>Growth Programme 24/25</p>	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the excellent growth performance in the Borough as demonstrated by the Growth KPIs attached as Annex A; 2. Note the continued progress made by officers in delivering the Darwen Town Deal programme. 3. Note the progress made by officers in advancing the Government's Levelling-Up projects in Blackburn Town Centre and our South East Blackburn transport corridor; 4. Note the success of officers during the year in securing a further £20m funding for Darwen from the Governments Long Term Plan for Towns Initiative and a £20.3m investment package as part of the Levelling Up Partnership policy and investment programme (one of only 25 places in the Country) with a focus on major cultural investment priorities in Blackburn Town Centre, an acquisition fund, and new skills and innovation opportunities. 5. Note the continued progress made by the Council's two joint venture development companies Barnfield Blackburn Ltd and Maple Grove Blackburn Ltd. 6. Note the completion of Phase 1 of the Asset Review which assessed the Council's primary buildings to identify opportunities to improve utilisation or to consolidate and rationalise to release potential disposal or redevelopment opportunities; 7. Approve the Growth Programme for 2024-25 attached as Annex B for officers to progress projects from feasibility stage through to procurement and tender stage as required by project timelines. 8. Delegate authority to the Growth Director in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth & Development to agree the provision 	<p>Recommendations Approved</p>
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		<p>of specialist and affordable homes with the Borough's three key local Registered Providers; Together Housing, Great Places and Places for People to develop affordable housing on Council owned housing sites: and</p> <p>9. Delegate authority to revise the Growth Programme for 2024-25 (by adding, removing or prioritising sites) to the Growth Director in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth & Development.</p>	
9.5	Companies Annual Report	<p>2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Board:-</p> <p>a) note the Council's interest in various Companies as set out in the report.</p> <p>b) note the dissolution of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Ltd.</p>	Recommendations Approved
9.6	King William Street Accelerator Green Spaces Funding	<p>Ahead of approval of the recommendations in the report, Councillor Quesir Mahmood advised that due to the recent announcement of the General Election, the funding would not be available as soon as hoped, but requested that the recommendations be approved on the condition that the next Government would confirm this funding.</p> <p>That the Executive Board approves: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The acceptance of the £500,000 DLUHC High Street Accelerator Green Spaces Funding as the accountable body for the King William Street High Street Accelerator Partnership; - • Agrees a supplementary capital estimate of £450,000 and supplementary revenue estimate of £50,000 funded from the grant referred to the above; - • The commencement for the delivery of environmental 	Recommendations Approved

		<p>improvements and initiatives to enhance the King William Street area, subject to consultation on the detailed designs; and –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procurement of any services required for the delivery of the initiatives outlined in the report, in accordance with procurement law and the Contracts and Procurement Procedure Rules. 	
9.7	Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the changes which have been made to the Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD following the two consultations on the draft document; and • Adopts the Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD. 	Recommendations Approved
Finance & Governance			
9.8	Development of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26	<p>2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Board:-</p> <p>a) note the key risks to the delivery of the budget in 2024/25 and that these will be subject to consideration as part of the regular Budget Monitoring reports submitted to the Executive Board;</p> <p>b) note the uncertainty with the funding outlook for the Council, not least the limited progress on Local Government Finance reforms and that these will not now take place before the next General Election;</p> <p>c) note the update to the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2025/28 as shown at Appendix A and that a further update will be provided in October 2024;</p> <p>d) note the scenario analysis shown at Appendix D and E which models ‘worst’/‘best’ case scenarios around the baseline MTFP as part of the assessment of potential risks facing the Council;</p> <p>e) note the timetable set out in the report for the development of the Council’s Budget for 2025/26;</p> <p>f) agree that all Portfolio Holders instigate a review of all fees and charges in their Portfolios, in line with the agreed Fees and Charges</p>	Recommendations Approved

		<p>Framework, with a view to maximising the amount of income received by the Council;</p> <p>g) request that Lead Officers for Portfolios/Directorates be asked to identify and bring forward budget savings options for 2025/26;</p> <p>h) agree that, subject to consideration by respective Portfolio Holders, any budget proposals arising from the work above be considered by the Executive Board in due course (and subject to the proposal on consultation below);</p> <p>i) as part of a process of identifying savings options over the medium term, agree to commission external advisors to support the development of strategic business cases and that a budget of £350k, funded from the Invest to Save Reserve, be agreed for this;</p> <p>j) subject to the work above and agreement with Councillors, agree that some form of public and business-based consultation on the budget savings proposals should take place over Autumn 2024 with a view to informing decisions on the Council's budget for 2025/26.</p>	
9.9	Council Office Accommodation Strategy	<p>It is recommended that the Executive Board:-</p> <p>a) note the approach for the delivery of Phase 3b, 3c and 3d of the Office Accommodation Strategy as set out in the report;</p> <p>b) agree a virement of £260k to complete the delivery of Phase 3 (as set out at (a) above);</p> <p>c) note the outstanding matters for each of the Council's core office accommodation sites as set out in the report and, subject to further work on this matter, the likelihood that additional funding will need to be identified for the continued delivery of the Office Accommodation Strategy;</p> <p>d) note that future reports on this matter will be brought forward for consideration by the Executive Board in due course as required. 3</p>	Recommendations Approved

Reports for the meeting can be accessed via the following link:

[Agenda for Executive Board on Thursday, 13th June, 2024, 6.00 pm | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)