



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Finance and Customer Services
DATE:	18 August 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Finance and Governance
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
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SUBJECT: Disposal of surplus LRF food supplies

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) purchased food supplies to act as a reserve to ensure that the most vulnerable people across Lancashire could be supplied food during the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic. The LRF now considers that following successful operations in each district to support the most vulnerable the reserve stock is no longer needed and has negotiated the sale of the surplus to FareShare - a charity aimed at relieving food poverty and reducing food waste in the UK.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

- approves the sale of the excess food stores on behalf of the LRF to FareShare.

3. BACKGROUND

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic local authorities were tasked with ensuring that the most vulnerable had sufficient access to food. There were various issues in food supply chains at the time with supermarkets running out of a number of items. As part of the urgent action taken by the LRF it was agreed that the three Upper tier Councils with social care responsibilities urgently access and store food for food parcels; these being Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council on behalf of the LRF. Following an urgent Chief officer decision dated 3rd April 2020, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council purchased food for the food store on behalf of the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) with joint funding agreed with Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Borough Council.

Each district in Lancashire took responsibility for organising essential food supplies to the most vulnerable. With the success of these operations, food supply chain issues being resolved and the relaxing of some restrictions the LRF considers it does not need to hold this surplus stock any longer.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The LRF has considered a range of options for the surplus food. In addition to the sale of the food, the LRF has considered donating to other local charities and/or providing to supply chains for school

meals, meals on wheels etc. However these would not provide a financial return and would take significant resources to organise transportation and distribution in the time required.

FareShare is a charity aimed at relieving food poverty and reducing food waste in the UK. It does this by rescuing good quality surplus food that would otherwise have gone to waste and sending it to almost 11,000 charity and community groups across the United Kingdom (<https://fareshare.org.uk/>). FareShare normally deals in excess food provided to them FOC, however DEFRA has recognised the unprecedented demand on foodbanks and has given FareShare a grant of £10.5m.

Fareshare have indicated that they will prioritise distribution in Lancashire and the North West where possible.

Some of the surplus supply best before dates are coming up soon so this decision does need to be made urgently to complete the sale whilst they still have some shelf life. Accordingly it is proposed and has been agreed that this decision should not be subject to call-in.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This decision is in accordance with section G6 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and a waiver from the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Income received will be distributed among the upper tier authorities in the same proportions as they contributed to the purchase.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Contract documentation has been prepared by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team. Section 15 of the Council constitution provides that urgent decisions where delay would cause harm to the public's interest are not subject to call-in subject to following the procedure set out in that section and obtaining the agreement of the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The recommended course of action minimises resource implications for the authorities in the LRF, other than administering the financial transactions.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultation with other members of LRF

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 and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Louise Mattinson, Director of Finance and Customer Services
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	n/a
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