

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Thursday, 10th September, 2020

### PRESENT

#### **COUNCILLOR:**

Councillor Mohammed Khan OBE  
Councillor Julie Gunn  
Councillor Jim Smith

#### **PORTFOLIO:**

Leader of the Council  
Children, Young People and Education  
Environmental Services

Councillor Vicky Ellen McGurk  
Councillor Phil Riley  
Councillor Damian Talbot  
Councillor Quesir Mahmood

Finance and Governance  
Growth and Development  
Public Health and Wellbeing  
Digital and Customer Services

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Councillor John Slater

#### **NON PORTFOLIO**

Leader of the Conservative Group

#### **ALL IN ATTENDANCE:**

Zara Hayat  
Khalid Omar  
Muhammed Bapu

Youth MP  
Deputy Youth MP  
Deputy Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>  The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all to the meeting and read out the statement explaining that this was a virtual meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillor Mustafa Desai.	
2	<b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b>  The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 were agreed as a correct record.	<b>Agreed</b>
3	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b>  There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
4	<b><u>Equality Implications</u></b>  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.	<b>Confirmed</b>
5	<b><u>Public Forum</u></b>  In accordance with Part 4 of the Executive Board Procedure Rules for questions/statements by members of the public, the following questions/statements have been received, details of which are set out below:-	

Item			Action
Name of Person asking the Question	Subject Area	Response by	
Ian Sykes, 4 Sunny Bower Road, Blackburn	Growth Programme	Phil Riley, Growth and Development	
Ken Moulden, 3 Bank Hey Cottages, Blackburn	Growth Programme	Phil Riley, Growth and Development	
Mark Russell	Growth Programme	Phil Riley, Growth and Development	
Keith Murray, 34 Gib Lane, Blackburn	Solvency of Council	Vicky McGurk, Finance and Governance	
<p>Councillor Riley gave detailed responses to the questions and supplementary questions arising, advising that these responses would be sent to Mr Sykes, Mr Moulden and Mr Russell after the meeting.</p> <p>In respect of the question by Keith Murray, Cllr McGurk advised that the Council was solvent and was a going concern, and that legally the Council could not borrow money for Revenue spending. Mr Murray stated that written responses to such questions should be attached to the minutes of the meeting – the Leader of the Council advised that he would speak to the Council's Legal Department to see if this was possible.</p>			
6	<b><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></b>		
	No questions had been submitted by Non-Executive Members.		
7	<b><u>Youth MPs Update</u></b>		
	<p>The Youth MPs updated the Executive Board on their recent work, in particular, a focus on support and assistance for young people returning to school and college after so many months away due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Zara was due to virtually attend the Annual UKYP Conference at the weekend, discussing the Make Your Mark Campaign and also would be speaking on two Motions, which was a first for a BwD Youth MP.</p>		<b>Noted</b>
8	<b><u>Executive Member Reports</u></b>		

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	<p><b><u>Leader's Update</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Mohammed Khan verbally reported on the current position relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and thanked all staff, residents and businesses for their efforts at such a difficult time.</p> <p>Councillor Khan also called on more support from the Government, advising that no funding was being made available to Councils for the recently announced Covid-19 Marshalls.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
	<p><b><u>Children, Young People and Education Update</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Julie Gunn verbally reported on the return to school for the Borough's pupils, advising that attendance had been above the national average and no schools had had to close due to a Covid-19 outbreak.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
8.1	<p><b><u>Fostering Service Quarter 4 Report</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted providing information on the management and performance of the local authority's fostering service. The quarter 4 report included analysis of the past year's data.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Executive Board notes the Quarter 4 Fostering Service Report which is available on the Council's website along with supporting paper, Appendix 1.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
8.2	<p><b><u>Adoption Now End of Year Report for 2019/20</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted, which had been compiled by Adoption Now (Regional Adoption Agency) with additional local information included by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Service Lead for Placements. The report detailed a summary of the period 2019/20 with particular focus upon October 2019 to March 2020 with analysis, data and patterns to support service development.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED-</b> that the Executive Board notes the Adoption Now Annual report alongside Appendix 1.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
8.3	<p><b><u>Schools Capital Programme 2020-21</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board received a report which presented for consideration and approval, the Capital Programme for Schools and Education for the 2020-2021 academic year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approves the attached list of projects as detailed in Appendix 1&amp;2 for inclusion in the 2020-21 Schools and Education capital programme funded from Basic Need,</li> </ol>	<b>Approved</b>

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	<p>School Condition Allocation, Devolved Formula Capital, Healthy Pupil Capital Fund and SEN Capital Fund.</p> <p>2. Approves a change to the schools capital programme reporting in line with school academic year.</p> <p>3. Authorises officers to procure works in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rules as written in the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>4. Approves expenditure to be incurred on individual projects, in line with Standing Financial Instructions.</p> <p>5. Notes that reports will be provided for the Executive Member detailing any variations/amendments to programmes of work and seeking necessary approvals where these are required to ensure compliance with financial instructions and the Constitution.</p> <p><b><u>Public Health and Wellbeing Update</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Damian Talbot verbally reported that World Suicide Prevention Day had been observed earlier in the day in an adapted way due to the current circumstances, but that this was a major issue that needed to be highlighted, along with the support available.</p> <p><b><u>Digital and Customer Services</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Quesir Mahmood verbally reported on the work of the Department in improving the website to support the response to Covid-19, which had received excellent feedback.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
<p><b>8.4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Growth Programme 2020/21</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted advising that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council had an economic Growth Programme to support the creation of jobs, housing and infrastructure within the Borough, delivering on the strategy set out in the adopted Local Plan. The Council's strategy had delivered significant growth since 2015 by securing the delivery of over 1300 new homes and 5000 new jobs in the Borough.</p> <p>To deliver this Growth Programme the Council continued to identify and build a pipeline of projects which currently comprised over 200 sites across the Borough with projects planned to be implemented over the short, medium and long term. These projects utilised private or public sector land and covered employment, housing and town centre developments.</p> <p>The report provided a summary of progress to date and outlined the programme of projects for 2020/21.</p> <p>The report requested delegated authority to vary the Growth</p>	<p></p>

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	<p>Programme for 2020/21 by adding or removing sites as required reflecting emerging priorities.</p> <p>Councillor John Slater voted against the recommendations in the report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approves the Growth Programme priority list to progress through to tender or procurement during 2020-21.</li> <li>• Delegates authority to revise the Growth Programme for 2020/21 (by adding or removing sites) to the Growth Programme Director in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth &amp; Development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
8.6	<p><b><u>Update to S106 process &amp; Infrastructure Funding Statement 2019/20</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board received an update on the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) produced annually and which provided a summary of financial contributions the Council had secured within the year via Section 106 agreements from new developments for off-site infrastructure works and affordable housing, in addition to highway works completed as part of new developments through Section 278 agreements. It also identified the projects that had been delivered as a result of the contributions across the Borough.</p> <p>This report presents the 2019-20 IFS, and the Council would begin to add a monitoring fee to any s106 agreement associated with planning applications received from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. These fees would cover the costs involved in the monitoring and reporting on the delivery of these agreements The IFS set out these fees which would be reviewed as part of the annual update to the IFS. Future updates to the IFS would report on the amount of monitoring fees received each year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED -</b> That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Approves an update to the Council’s s106 procedure to introduce a monitoring fee to any s106 agreement associated with planning applications received from <b><u>1st October 2020</u></b> (as set out in the 2019-20 Infrastructure Funding Statement) and to note the 2019-20 Infrastructure Funding Statement.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>
8.6	<p><b><u>Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 1 – 2020/21</u></b></p>	

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	<p>Members received a report on the overall revenue financial position of the Council, highlighting any significant issues and explaining variations in the first quarter of the financial year.</p> <p>In addition to approving the report the Executive Board agreed a recommendation from the Executive Member Finance and Governance that the rent charged by the Council for the 3 months for the period of the lockdown for Market Traders be deemed irrecoverable, in line with decisions taken by other Lancashire authorities. Noting that this loss included within the figures in section 6.1.2 of the report, was to be included within the Council's claim to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for financial support specifically to fund, in part, the losses in respect of Sales, Fees and Charges as promised by the Secretary of State in July.</p> <p>The Executive Board is asked to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The portfolio cash limit adjustments outlined in Appendix 1.</li> <li>• The Earmarked reserves position shown in Appendix 2.</li> <li>• The variations to revenue expenditure, as listed in Section 6, giving rise to a balance of £7.689 million in the unallocated General Fund revenue reserve.</li> <li>• The additional recommendation above.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approved</b> <b>Approved</b> <b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
10.1	<p><b><u>Petition regarding the use of No.8 Eden Park, Blackburn, to provide care and support for no more than three children and two adult carers resident at the property at any time.</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board received a Petition from residents of Larmenier Village of Eden Park, Blackburn, in relation to the proposed use of No.8 Eden Park, as a home to provide support for no more than three children.</p> <p>Members were advised that since the report had been written, the applicants had withdrawn their application.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Executive Board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes the petition.</li> <li>2. Agree to a process whereby any commissioning department within the Council require any commissioning applicant intending to use non-Council owned property to provide a declaration from the applicant's legal representatives confirming that there are no restrictions or covenants on the proposed property that could affect the commissioned service.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed at a meeting of the Board on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>

	Item	Action
	<p>(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	