

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thursday, 10th December, 2020

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

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

PORTFOLIO:

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

Muhammed Bapu

Deputy Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> 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.	
2	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 th November 2020 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> 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	
Iain Sykes	Lay-by at Sunnybower, anti-social behaviour	Councillor Jim Smith, Environmental Services	
<p>Cllr Smith read out the answer and advised that this would be sent to Mr Sykes as he was not in attendance.</p>			
6	<p><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></p> <p>No Questions had been received from Non-Executive Members,</p>		
7	<p><u>Youth MPs Update</u></p> <p>Muhammed Bapu, Deputy Youth MP verbally reported on recent events and activities including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past couple of weeks, the forum collectively had been working on new ideas to boost support for young people across the Borough. This process consisted of meeting with Cllr Julie Gunn and Jo Siddle to discuss ideas on ways information could be distributed to young people and have them more in tune what changes are occurring in Blackburn with Darwen and what their ideas and opinions were. The main idea discussed was weekly COVID Forums that would provide the local authority with opinions of young people in every school and allow the Youth MPs to contribute as much as possible. Muhammed had been attending the Lancashire Youth Commission meetings contributing with feedback and highlighting issues that young people were facing, during the pandemic. A meeting last week with Robert Rushton from the Violent Reduction team, focussed on Hate Crime and the real causes of violence such as situations in the home and poverty, unemployment and the perception of the Police amongst young people. <p><u>Executive Member Reports</u></p> <p><u>Leader's Update</u></p> <p>Councillor Mohammed Khan verbally reported on the current</p>		Noted
			Noted

	Item	Action
	<p>position relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, advising of declining rates and noting that vaccinations had started.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor John Slater, Cllr Khan agreed to provide information relating to funding of the statue for former MP Barbara Castle.</p>	
	<p><u>Adult Services and Prevention</u></p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor John Slater, Cllr Mustafa Desai agreed to look further into the issues reported in the press following concerns expressed by the Care Quality Commission relating to County Council care homes, where some residents from the Borough were placed.</p>	Noted
8.1	<p><u>Fostering Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Report</u></p> <p>Members received a report providing information on the management and performance of the Local Authority's Fostering Service. The report, alongside Appendix 1, provided analysis of the period April to September 2020, and reflected upon data and any patterns within the Service to determine development and progress. The report also outlines how the Service had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That the Executive Board notes the Fostering Service Report for Quarters 1 and 2, alongside the Appendix 1 report for further Service delivery information.</p>	Noted
	<p><u>Public Health and Wellbeing</u></p> <p>Members discussed Covid testing for schools and the impact of the Tier system on local businesses.</p>	Noted
	<p><u>Growth and Development</u></p> <p>In response to a query about businesses who had been awarded Discretionary Covid Grants, Councillor Riley advised that he would arrange for Cllr Slater to receive the information.</p>	Noted
8.2	<p><u>Public Consultation on the Draft Local Plan</u></p> <p>The Executive Board was reminded that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council currently had a two-part local plan (made up of the Core Strategy and Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies) that set out the land use planning strategy for the Borough up to 2026.</p> <p>In response to new planning regulations in 2017 that required local authorities to review Local Plans at least every five years from the date of their adoption, an assessment of the two adopted local plan documents was undertaken, and the Council in February</p>	

	Item	Action
9.1	<p>2018 approved a new Local Development Scheme in February 2018, which set out the intention to develop a single new Local Plan to replace the Core Strategy and the Local Plan Part 2. An initial “Issues and Options” public consultation was subsequently carried out in Feb-Apr 2019, and the Local Development Scheme was again updated in January 2020.</p> <p>This stage of public consultation, on draft strategic policies and site allocations, marked a key milestone in the development of the emerging new local plan for Blackburn with Darwen. It illustrated the Council’s proposals for a “balanced growth” strategy, aiming to provide new jobs and homes as well as protecting the environment. The intention was to consult on the draft Local Plan document in January - February 2021 for a period of six weeks. The consultation draft Local Plan includes the period up until 2037.</p> <p>Councillor John Slater voted against the recommendations in the report and requested the postponement of consultation for 6 months to enable people to engage in the process fully. Councillor Riley advised that the Government wanted Councils to get on with the process, and that he felt that it was probable that more responses would be received in a digital consultation process.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the Local Plan Consultation Draft, and its evidence base, should be approved for consultation; 2. Delegate to the Director of Growth and Development (in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development) any editorial amendments to the Consultation Document prior to its final publication for consultation. <p><u>Write-off of irrecoverable debt</u></p> <p>Members received a report detailing several debtor accounts that had proved irrecoverable and as such, in line with the Financial Procedure Rules within the Council’s Constitution (Section 7 B.7.), were presented to the Executive Board for consideration for write-off.</p> <p>The report was presented at a time when the duration and intensity of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was acknowledged and recognised had been a major contributing factor in a number of the businesses cases set out in the report.</p> <p>During the difficult times the Government had recognised this and has legislated to protect commercial tenants and thereby placing restraints on landlord’s ability to recover outstanding rents.</p> <p>Councillor John Slater voted against the recommendations in the report.</p>	<p></p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

	Item	Action
	<p>RESOLVED -</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the amounts of each of the debts detailed in the report and the action taken to date, in respect of the debts; 2. Approves the write-off of the debts as detailed in the report. <p>AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>
11.1	<p><u>Write-off of irrecoverable debt</u></p> <p>Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 9.1, an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the amounts of each of the debts detailed in the report and the action taken to date, in respect of the debts; 2. Approves the write-off of the debts as detailed in the report. <p style="text-align: center;">Signed at a meeting of the Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">on 14th January 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>