

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### PRESENT

#### **COUNCILLOR:**

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

#### **PORTFOLIO:**

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

#### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Muhammed Bapu  
Zainab Dassu

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 were received from Councillor Mustafa Desai.	
2	<b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b>  The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 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>  No questions had been received from members of the public.	
6	<b><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></b>  No questions had been received from Non-Executive Members.	

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7	<p><b><u>Youth MPs Update</u></b></p> <p>The Deputy Youth MPs verbally reported on recent events and activities including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work relating to the return to school, mental health and young people’s views on the impact of lockdown and vaccines. In particular, a lot of recent activity had focussed on mental health issues for young people and future support including mental health first aid.</li> <li>• Initiatives to tackle food poverty, including a Schools Forum to be established to help gather the views of young people across the Borough.</li> </ul> <p>Members of the Executive Board thanked the Youth MPs for their update and ongoing positive work.</p> <p><b><u>Executive Member Reports</u></b></p> <p>.</p> <p><b><u>Children, Young People &amp; Education Update</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Julie Gunn verbally reported on the return to school, and thanked staff and parents for their support, and also advised that Lateral Flow Testing was progressing well. Councillor Gunn agreed to send data to Cllr Slater on the number of children who had not returned to school.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>
8.1	<p><b><u>Quarter 3 Fostering Report 2020-21</u></b></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 October to December 2020, and reflected upon data and any patterns within the Service to determine development and progress. The report also outlined how the Service had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – That the Executive Board notes the Fostering Service Report for Quarter 3, alongside the Appendix 1 report for further Service delivery information. The Board to also note the detail in relation to the Fostering Friendly Employer programme.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>
8.2	<p><b><u>Renewal of the Council’s Microsoft Licence Agreement for Server and Database Licences</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted seeking approval to enter into a new 3 year contract for Microsoft server and database licences along with the associated financial implications.</p>	

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	<p>The Council entered into an agreement previously with Microsoft in 2018. The SCE (Server and Cloud Enrolment scheme) was the most cost effective way to cover the Councils requirement for licences on its SQL estate (database environment), server estate and also for Sharepoint. The agreement was for a three year period and was due to end on the 31st March 2021, so in order to retain the software assurance on these products a new agreement was required.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to the approval of the Capital Programme at Finance Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the Executive Board is asked to approve the reallocation of £377,000 from the earmarked ICT Capital Reserve for Microsoft licences for the Councils server and database estate.</li> <li>2. Approves a revenue budget increase of £49,000 from year 2 of the agreement to offset the additional costs.</li> </ol>	<p></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<p><b>8.3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Repair and Restoration of Darwen Jubilee Tower</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board received a report advising that the Darwen Town Deal Board invited the Council to submit an application for funding to repair the Tower. After considering the application, the Board subsequently awarded a maximum of £225,000 towards the cost of repairing the Tower. This funding coupled with the £70,000 raised through local fund raising efforts led by Darwen Rotary and a £10,000 contribution from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council provided sufficient funding to complete the necessary repairs to Darwen Jubilee Tower.</p> <p>The report advised of the procurement process and next steps.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the contents of the report and the procurement process to appoint a main building contractor to repair Darwen Jubilee Tower.</li> <li>• Approves adding the project to the Capital Programme on the basis of the funding set out below.</li> <li>• Notes that the Director of Place shall award the contract following the procurement process, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development.</li> </ul>	<p></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>Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22</u></b></p> <p>Members received a report that advised that the Council was required to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year and also set Treasury and Prudential Indicators and a policy for determining a “prudent” level of</p>	<p></p>

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8.5	<p>Minimum Revenue Provision for repayment of debt, which was consistent with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p> <p>The Strategy for 2021/22 was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor John Slater on the total debt figure including historical debt and pension liability debt, Councillor McGurk advised that she would provide a full response to Cllr Slater after the meeting (see link to response below:)</p> <p><a href="https://democracy.blackburn.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&amp;cat=13342">https://democracy.blackburn.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&amp;cat=13342</a></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – It is recommended that the Executive Board:</p> <p>Approves the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22, detailed in Appendix 1, including the proposed Treasury Management Indicators.</p> <p><b><u>Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted, advising that the Council had been awarded a capital grant of £2.25m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes in the Council's estate. The report sought approval to accept the award.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – That the Executive Board:</p> <p>Approves acceptance of the grant and to add the scheme to the capital programme for 2021/22.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
	<p>Signed at a meeting of the Board</p> <p>on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021</p> <p>(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	

	Item	Action