# EXECUTIVE BOARD Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **PRESENT**

**COUNCILLOR:** 

Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE
Councillor Mustafa Desai
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Vicky McGurk
Councillor Phil Riley
Councillor Damian Talbot
Councillor Quesir Mahmood

**PORTFOLIO:** 

Leader of the Council
Adult Social Care
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

**ALL IN ATTENDANCE:** 

Muhammed Bapu Zainab Dassu Deputy Youth MP Deputy Youth MP

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1	Welcome and Apologies	
	The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Julie Gunn and Youth MP Zara Hayat.	
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
	The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.	Agreed
3	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
4	Equality Implications	
	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	Public Forum	
	No questions had been received from members of the public.	
6	Questions by Non-Executive Members	
	In accordance with Part 4 of the Executive Board Procedure Rules for questions/statements by Non-Executive Members, the following questions/statements had been received, details of which are set	

Executive Board Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Item Action

out below:-

Name of Non-Executive Member asking the Question	Subject Area	Executive Member and Portfolio
Councillor Mark Russell	Staff Voucher Scheme	Councillor Mohammed Khan, Leader

Councillor Khan gave details of the number of vouchers issued as a token of recognition for their commitment and hard work during the pandemic, supporting all residents, in particular those most vulnerable. Cllr Khan also gave breakdowns of the costs arising.

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr Russell relating to the use of Government funding to support market traders, Cllrs Khan and Riley advised of the £270k Government funding utilised relating to school meals and of support given to market traders to help them during the pandemic as they had stayed open in difficult trading conditions, and also advised of use of funds from the Government to support other local businesses.

Councillor John Slater requested information about the split of the £270k government grant funding between Blackburn and Darwen Markets.

## 7 Youth MPs Update

The Deputy Youth MPs verbally reported on recent events and activities including :

Noted

- Work to progress and establish Youth Mental Health First Aid Champions.
- Muhammed's recent appearance on Pendle Radio to discuss recent work to promote Covid safety amongst young people.
- Work with the NHS to identify wellbeing support for students.
- Ongoing work with partners to help alleviate Food Poverty.

Executive Board Members reflected on the excellent work of the Youth MPs and Youth Forum.

#### **Executive Member Reports**.

#### Leader's Update

Councillor Khan verbally reflected on the Government's confirmation that those people who had received both Covid vaccinations would not need to isolate after 16<sup>th</sup> August if they came into contact with someone who had subsequently tested positive.

Noted

	Item	Action
	At this point of the meeting Cllr Desai was not yet present, but Councillor John Slater requested an update on the costs arising from the delays relating to the Albion Mill project.	
	Public Health and Wellbeing Update	
	Councillor Damian Talbot verbally reported on the Borough's Covid infection rates being amongst the lowest in the Country and also the lowest in Lancashire, and he hoped that this would be reported in the press, who had previously been keen to highlight the position when it had been less positive.	Noted
8.1	Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington Cemetery	
	Members received a report which advised that the current Muslim burial grounds would be at capacity within 12-15 months at which point all future burials would take place in the new cemeteries extension which was located over ½ mile from the existing prayer shelter.	
	Traditionally, the deceased were taken to the Muslim prayer shelter and immediately following the prayers, the deceased was then carried to graveside and buried. The new Muslim burial grounds were located too far away from the existing prayer shelter to allow this practice to continue, hence the need for a new Muslim prayer shelter located in the new cemetery extension.	
	The need for a new Muslim prayer shelter had been accelerated by the impact of the pandemic with a significant increase in excess deaths in the Muslim community.	
	RESOLVED -	
	That the Executive Board:	
	<ul> <li>Approves the construction of a new modular build Muslim prayer shelter within the new cemetery extension at Pleasington Cemetery, subject to planning permission being granted.</li> </ul>	Approved
	<ul> <li>Approves the establishment of a capital budget in the financial year 2021/22 to fund the surveys, professional fees and construction costs.</li> </ul>	Approved
	<ul> <li>Delegates approval to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to award the contract to build the prayer shelter following a tendering process.</li> </ul>	Approved
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	Item	Action
8.2	Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 4 Outturn Position 2020/21  A report was submitted which detailed the overall revenue position of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2021, highlighting the key issues for review. It also determined the year end position with regard to portfolio under/overspends and the impact on earmarked and unallocated reserves.  RESOLVED - That the Executive Board approves:  the portfolio budget adjustments outlined in Appendix 1.	Approved
	<ul> <li>carry forward of the specific amounts shown in Appendix 1 from 2020/21 to 2021/22.</li> <li>the earmarked reserves position shown in Appendix 2</li> <li>the variations to revenue expenditure, as listed in Section 6, thereby giving rise to a revised balance of £8.373 million on the unallocated General Fund revenue reserve at 31st March 2021.</li> </ul>	Approved Approved Approved
8.3	Corporate Capital Budget and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report Quarter 4 2020/21  Members A report was submitted which advised of the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31st March 2021, highlighting key issues and explaining variations at the year end with regard to scheme under/overspends and slippage since the last report to the Executive Board in February 2021.  RESOLVED- That the Executive Board:	
	<ul> <li>to approve the revised capital programme as per Appendix 1,</li> <li>to approve the variations to the programme shown in Appendix 2</li> </ul>	Approved Approved
8.4	Corporate Capital Budget and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2021/22  The Executive Board received a report on the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021, highlighting key issues and explaining variations in	

Executive Board Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

	Item	Action
	the first 3 months of the financial year.	
	RESOLVED - The Executive Board:	
	The Executive Board is asked;  • to approve the revised capital programme as per Appendix 1,  • to approve the variations to the programme shown in	Approved Approved
	<ul> <li>Appendix 2,</li> <li>to approve the acceptance of the proposed commercial insurance settlement for the St John's Church.</li> </ul>	Approved
9.1	Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan	
	Blackburn with Darwen's first Walking and Cycling Plan envisioned a future where walking and cycling were first choice methods for making shorter journeys and enjoying local communities in a safe and healthy way. The plan aimed to coordinate the efforts of multidisciplinary stakeholders to increase walking and cycling uptake within the Borough.	
	The plan aimed to complement national, regional and local priorities in the realms of health and wellbeing, strategic planning, air quality, climate change and road safety. The plan pulls together the ongoing work around walking and cycling, aims to increase coordination between partners and stakeholders, and lays out our future ambitions for active travel.	
	RESOLVED -	
	The Executive Board:	
	<ul> <li>Note the content of and approve the Walking and Cycling Plan.</li> <li>Support the priorities set out in the Walking and Cycling Plan.</li> </ul>	Noted Noted
10	Petition: East Park Road - Road Safety Concerns	
	A report was submitted which advised that a petition been submitted signed by residents of East Park Road, East Park Court, Winston Road, Shear Brow, Beresford Road, The Croft and Langham Road requesting improved road safety for residents, pedestrians and people travelling around the East Park Road area.	
	Members were advised that to mitigate risk at this location the highways traffic team had already committed to undertaking investigation and implementation of a road safety scheme, prior to the receipt of the petition.	

	Item	Action
	RESOLVED -	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	<ul> <li>That the Executive Board:</li> <li>Notes the petition</li> <li>Notes that the service had already committed to designing and consulting on a road safety scheme for the area,</li> </ul>	Noted Noted
	following a request from Cllr Zainab Rawat, one of the Ward Councillors  • Supports the road safety scheme designed to improve road safety for the area  • Request that officers inform the lead petitioner of the decision	Approved Approved
	AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.	
11	<u>Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington</u> <u>Cemetery</u>	
	Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 8.1, an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.	
	RESOLVED - The Executive Board:	
	Approves the construction of a new modular build Muslim prayer shelter within the new cemetery extension at Pleasington Cemetery, subject to planning permission being granted.	Approved
	<ul> <li>Approves the establishment of a capital budget in the financial year 2021/22 to fund the surveys, professional fees and construction costs.</li> </ul>	Approved
	Delegates approval to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to award the contract to build the prayer shelter following a tendering process.	Approved
	Signed at a meeting of the Board	
	on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	
	(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)	
	Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed	

Item	Action