

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thursday 9th December 2021

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

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

PORTFOLIO:

Leader of the Council
Children, Young People and Education
Finance and Governance
Growth and Development
Public Health and Wellbeing
Digital and Customer Services
Environmental 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. Apologies were received from Councillor Mustafa Desai, the Youth MP Zara Hyatt and Deputy Youth MP Zainab Dassu.	
2	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 th November 2021 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> No questions from members of the public had been received.	
6	<u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u> No questions from Non-Executive Members had been received.	
7	<u>Youth MPs Update</u>	

	Item	Action
	<p>The Deputy Youth MP, Muhammed Bapu, verbally reported on recent events and activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from the update at the last meeting, a meeting had been held with Jo Siddle and Charlotte from public health to discuss the PSHE curriculum and mental health. The Forum discussed key issues they believed were affecting young people in the Borough alongside mental health support in primary, secondary and post 16 education. • The Forum had also been meeting regularly to discuss a wide variety of topics, such as vaccinations and the uptake of vaccinations amongst young people, lateral flow testing, mental health and the significant developments of the wellbeing champions project, the young inspectors project and much more. • The second SYA forum since the easing of lockdown had been held, which was chaired by Muhammed, Zara and Zainab. Young people from a variety of organisations shared their thoughts on different issues and topics, alongside some new ideas on development of the various projects. • Following on from the Leader's recent announcement that he would not be seeking re-election in May 2022, on behalf of the Youth MPs and the young people of the Borough, Muhammed thanked Cllr Khan for all the support and guidance he has provided over the years. • The Youth MPs were also coming to the conclusion of their two year tenure in the coming months as the Youth Elections were fast approaching. The candidates were set to embark on a three day residential to discuss their campaign issues and take part in team building activities as they prepared for a busy election period in the New Year. • Following on from this, Muhammed advised that he would be standing for re-election as Youth MP for Blackburn with Darwen for a two year term from 2022-24, with a fresh focus on mental health, alongside a focus on tackling food poverty within the Borough, as the impact of the pandemic has left an even more critical situation with regards to food poverty. <p>Executive Board Members reflected on the excellent ongoing work of the Youth MPs and Youth Forum.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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	<u>Executive Member Reports.</u>	
8	<p><u>Leader's Verbal Update</u></p> <p>Councillor Khan referred to the recent Government announcements relating to the implementation of Plan B to deal with the rise in Covid cases and advised that the situation would be closely monitored.</p>	Noted
	<u>Children, Young People & Education</u>	
8.1	<p><u>Teachers's Pay Policy</u></p> <p>Members received a report, along with associated appendices, which advised that the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document 2021 ("the STPCD") had been issued, and therefore Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Teachers' Pay Policy had been updated as required to implement the new STPCD.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board approve the Teachers' Pay Policy for 2021-22.</p>	Approved
8.2	<p><u>Quarter 1 Fostering Report 2021/22</u></p> <p>A report was submitted which provided information on the management and performance of the Local Authority's Fostering Service and was revised each quarter. This report, alongside Appendix 1, provided analysis of the period 1 April to 30 June 2021, and reflected upon data and any patterns within the Service to determine development and progress. The report also outlined how the Service continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board notes this Quarter 1 of 2021-22 report alongside Appendix 1 with service development updates and recommendations.</p>	Noted
	<u>Finance and Governance Verbal Update</u>	
	<p>Councillor Vicky McGurk advised that the Local Government Financial Settlement was expected around 15th December, and this may not be as good as the headline figures suggested, but indicated that Members would be advised of the details when they had been considered.</p>	Noted
9.1	<p><u>Climate Change Emergency Progress Report</u></p> <p>A report was submitted, which reminded Members that the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was published in February 2020 in support of the Council's Declaration to be</p>	

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	<p>carbon neutral by 2030. The report submitted was a progress report on the Action Plan's development and implementation.</p> <p>Progress since February 2020 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a programme of energy efficiency measures to cut carbon in a number of Council buildings using a grant awarded from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme; • Improvement of the energy efficiency of 99 low income, fuel-poor households with c. £1m grant secured from the Green Homes Local Authority Delivery fund (in conjunction with Cosy Homes in Lancashire) to be completed by March 2022; • Planning the expansion of active travel in the Borough and securing funding to support implementation; • The initial planting of 3ha of trees in small copses in urban areas by the end of March using the Local Authority Treescapes Fund; • Initiating electrification of the fleet with the acquisition of two electric vehicles and • Incorporation of Climate Emergency objectives into the Council's new and emerging Local Plan. <p>The current level of activity, though welcome, was clearly insufficient to achieve the Council's carbon neutral ambition by 2030. As the Council recovered from the impacts of COVID, the CEAP needs a renewed focus on delivering the changes required with much greater support required from Government in resourcing and empowering local action. The Council alone, along with many others across the country, would not achieve a carbon neutral position by 2030, as perhaps only around a third of an area's emissions were potentially influenced through direct action, place-shaping and local leadership. Carbon neutral status could not be achieved without co-ordinated action by local and national government, other sectors and individuals taking responsibility for securing the change needed.</p> <p>The CEAP would continue evolve to take account of new proposals and implementation of its current content and recommendations. It would, wherever possible, reflect the ambitions of other sectors and endeavour to measure and record the impact of activity. A progress report would be presented to Executive Board 12 months from the publication of the revised Action Plan.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>It is recommended that the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note and approve the updated CEAP; Note the roles of the Executive Member and Assistant Member for Growth & Development in leading, developing and communicating this agenda; Note the intention to seek additional CEAP capacity funding from the Council's Budget for 2022/23; and Request a further annual update to Executive Board in December 2022. 	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Noted and Approved</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>

	Item	Action
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Signed at a meeting of the Board
on 13th January 2022

(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed