<u>MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT</u>

Introduction

Where the Authority finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MHCLG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.

The broad aim of the MHCLG Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.

The MHCLG Guidance requires the Council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP, but authorities retain flexibility over their determination of what is prudent.

The proposed methodologies for use within Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council are set out below and reflect the basic principles set out in the guidance, along with some locally determined and prudent modifications.

Proposed MRP Policy Statement for 2022/23

The following MRP Policy is proposed, under guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is as follows:

(a) *For capital expenditure financed from debt arising up to 2007/08 and all new Government-supported borrowing arising from 2007/08 and thereafter* - to spread the cost outstanding at the end of 2014/15 over 50 years (from 2015/16 through to 2064/65), but to use the annuity variant, based on the average Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) annuity rates prevailing in 2014/15. **Annex 1** shows the profile of MRP charges on this debt.

(b) *For capital expenditure that is self-financed from debt arising in 2007/08 and thereafter* - to charge the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset ("the Asset Life Method"), but to use the annuity variant, based on the average PWLB annuity rates prevailing in the year of the expenditure (rather than charging on a straight line basis over the asset life).

(c) *For 'on-balance sheet' Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts* - to use the annuity variant of the Asset Life Method, using the annuity rates built into the financing arrangements for the contracts. This means that the MRP will relate to the estimated asset life and may not match the value written down each year against the balance sheet liability of the respective lease or PFI contract.

(d) *For assets acquired by leases* – MRP will be determined as being equal to the principal element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.

(e) Where former operating leases have been brought onto the balance sheet on 1st April 2022 due to the adoption of the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or discounts, then the annual MRP charges will be adjusted so that the total charge to revenue remains unaffected by the new standard.

(f) *For historic debt that was entered into prior to unitary authority status and is managed by Lancashire County Council (LCC)* - to spread the cost using an annuity variant, based on the average PWLB annuity rates prevailing in 2014/15, over 50 years (up to 2064/65), in alignment with the profile for historic supported borrowing.

(g) *In those cases where asset lives cannot be readily determined* - to use a default period of 20 or 25 years in line with government guidance. However the Council may make its own determination in exceptional circumstances, if the recommendation of the guidance would not be appropriate.

(h) For capital expenditure loans to third parties that are repaid in annual or more frequent instalments of principal, the Council will make nil MRP, but will instead apply the capital receipts arising from principal repayments to reduce the capital financing requirement instead. In years where there is no principal repayment, MRP will be charged in accordance with the MRP policy for the assets funded by the loan, including where appropriate, delaying MRP until the year after the assets become operational. While this is not one of the options in the MHCLG Guidance, it is thought to be a prudent approach since it ensures that the capital expenditure incurred on the loan is fully funded over the life of the assets.

As some types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure.

Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

Capital expenditure incurred during 2022/23 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2023/24.

Therefore, in the determination of MRP, the Council will be both:

(a) **prudent** - working within the principle that debt be repaid over a period reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, and

(b) **practical** - making detailed determinations where the impact of the calculation will be material, but allowing a more general approach if that would be reasonable.

Based on the Authority's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31st March 2022, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31 March 2022 Estimated CFR £m	2022/23 Forecast MRP £m
Capital Expenditure	209.7	6.0
Private Finance Initiatives	69.1	0.2
Transferred Debt	15.0	0.2
Total	**293.8**	**6.4**

Profile of MRP Charges on Supported Borrowings **Appendix 3 – Annex 1**

Year	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	2029/30 £'000	2030/31 £'000	2031/32 £'000
Annual MRP Charge	748.9	776.9	806.1	836.3	867.7	900.2	934.0	969.0	1,005.4	1,043.1	1,082.2

Year	2032/33 £'000	2033/34 £'000	2034/35 £'000	2035/36 £'000	2036/37 £'000	2037/38 £'000	2038/39 £'000	2039/40 £'000	2040/41 £'000	2041/42 £'000	2042/43 £'000
Annual MRP Charge	1,122.8	1,164.9	1,208.6	1,254.0	1,301.0	1,349.8	1,400.4	1,453.0	1,507.5	1,564.0	1,622.7

Year	2043/44 £'000	2044/45 £'000	2045/46 £'000	2046/47 £'000	2047/48 £'000	2048/49 £'000	2049/50 £'000	2050/51 £'000	2051/52 £'000	2052/53 £'000	2053/54 £'000
Annual MRP Charge	1,683.6	1,746.7	1,812.2	1,880.2	1,950.7	2,023.9	2,099.8	2,178.6	2,260.3	2,345.1	2,433.1

Year	2054/55 £'000	2055/56 £'000	2056/57 £'000	2057/58 £'000	2058/59 £'000	2059/60 £'000	2060/61 £'000	2061/62 £'000	2062/63 £'000	2063/64 £'000	Total £'000
Annual MRP Charge	2,524.3	2,619.0	2,717.2	2,819.2	2,924.9	3,034.6	3,148.5	3,266.6	3,389.1	3,516.2	**77,292.3**