# **EXECUTIVE BOARD** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

#### 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

#### **NON PORTFOLIO**

Leader of the Conservative Group

# ALL IN ATTENDANCE:

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER** 

Councillor John Slater

Muhammed Bapu Hasti Jahanghiri

Youth MP Deputy Youth MP

Item	Action
Welcome and Apologies	
The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Mustafa Desai and Isabelle Crawford, Deputy Youth MP.	
Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.	Agreed
Declarations of Interest	
There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
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
Public Forum	
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:-	
	<ul> <li>Welcome and Apologies</li> <li>The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Mustafa Desai and Isabelle Crawford, Deputy Youth MP.</li> <li>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</li> <li>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.</li> <li>Declarations of Interest</li> <li>There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.</li> <li>Equality Implications</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Public Forum</li> <li>In accordance with Part 4 of the Executive Board Procedure Rules for questions/statements have been received, details of which are set</li> </ul>

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## Action

Name of Person asking Question	Subject Area	Response By	
Amin Kapadia	Council Land, Sunnybower, Blackburn	Councillor Phil Riley, Growth & Development	
Rick Moore	Impact of Housing Growth on infrastructure	Councillor Phil Riley, Growth & Development	
lain Sykes	Traffic calming measures, Sunnybower, Blackburn	Councillor Phil Riley, Growth & Development	
Lisa Quinn	Impact on wildlife of building on land on Whalley Old Road, Blackburn	Riley, Growth &	
	re's question, gave	details of highways	
erms of Rick Moo mprovements planned nfrastructure such as were considered within Written responses wo	re's question, gave d and advised that the GP services and ope n the published Infrastr puld be sent to lain S	details of highways provision of other key n spaces and schools	
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	Item	Action
	Executive Board Members thanked the Youth MPs for the update and for their ongoing positive impacts across several areas relating to Young People. Executive Member Reports. Leader's Update The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, verbally reported on details of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which replaced former EU funding, detailing the funding allocation to the Council. Cllr Khan also referred to the end of a £100M national grant that tackled obesity, referred to the rise in inflation to 7% and rising interest rates on students loans.	Noted
8.1	Update on Children's Services ILAC Inspection	
	Members received a report advising of the results of an Ofsted 'Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) across the three week period 24 January 2022 and 4 February 2022. The report was published on the Ofsted website on 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 with confirmed judgements across four categories and recommendations for improvement. The structure of the Ofsted ILACS Inspection comprised one week of off-site activity to consider Blackburn with Darwen data, strategies and plans. Additionally the quality of audit activity and the impact of audits on practice and outcomes for children and young people were used to determine key lines of enquiry. This was followed by 2 weeks of onsite activity by a team of four Social Care Ofsted Inspectors, one Education Inspector and a Quality Assurance Inspector. Additionally a virtual Regulatory Inspector	
	considered Fostering and Adoption support and services.	
	The judgements across the 4 categories were:	
	<ul> <li>The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – 'requires improvement to be good'</li> <li>The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers – 'requires improvement to be good'</li> <li>The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – 'requires improvement to be good'</li> </ul>	
	• <b>Overall Effectiveness –</b> 'requires improvement to be good'	
	The report was clear that the Council's response was timely and appropriate when children were at immediate risk of significant harm. Inspectors confirmed that children in local authority care needed to be in care, and that most children and their families received early help and support when they needed it.	
	Additional areas of strength were highlighted in the report	

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	Item submitted, along with areas for improvement that had been	Action
	identified.	
	Immediate actions had already been taken to address some of Ofsted's findings. Lancashire Constabulary had committed to provide resources to support timely strategy discussions and the management of the Leaving Care Team had been changed as of the 28 February. A post - inspection Action Plan would be submitted to Ofsted by 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 which would continue to build on the Council's commitment to supporting the most vulnerable. The plan would address the key concerns around multi-agency strategy discussions, data and assurance, and Council services and support for care leavers up to the age of 25.	
	The plan would be driven by a multi-agency 'Achieving Excellence' partnership board which would be chaired independently to oversee the delivery of the response and actions identified. The inaugural meeting of the Board was at the end of April.	
	<b>RESOLVED -</b> That the Executive Board:	
	<ol> <li>Notes the Ofsted report findings (Appendix A);</li> <li>Acknowledges areas of good practice and areas for</li> </ol>	Noted Approved
	<ul> <li>development;</li> <li>3. Notes the development of the Action Plan in response to the Inspection findings and the establishment of a multiagency partnership board to monitor improvements and build on existing strengths.</li> </ul>	Noted
	<ol> <li>Notes that further updates will be provided on the financial implications and in year investment as the Action Plan is refined and finalised for submission to Ofsted.</li> </ol>	Noted
	Environmental Services Update	
	Councillor Jim Smith verbally reported that the work by the Shrub Team had been very positively received by residents.	Noted
8.2	Household Support Fund	
	A report was submitted seeking agreement from the Executive Board to the proposed distribution of the Household Support Fund (HSF2) Round 2.	
	Members were reminded that at the beginning of October 2021, the Government announced that a new HSF worth over £500m would be made available to Upper Tier Local Authorities to support those households most in need over the winter period to March 2022. Details of the grant allocations and supporting information on how the grant should be used were released to Councils on 7th October 2021 and a report on this matter was considered by the Executive in November 2022 where the distribution of the fund was agreed. Blackburn with Darwen Council received £1.619m	

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	and at the closure of the Scheme on 31st March 2022, all of the funding had been used as planned.	
	As part of the recent Spring Statement 2022, the Government announced an extension to the HSF by providing a further £500m for the Scheme as part of a package of measures to support those affected by the rising cost of living. The Council's share of this additional funding was £1.619m and the grant funding must be used by 30th September 2022 (although, as with Round 1, there was an implicit acknowledgement from DWP that funds committed by that date could be defrayed after the end of the financial year should that be necessary).	
	<b>RESOLVED-</b> It is recommended that the Executive Board agree to the distribution of the Household Support Fund Round 2 as set out in the report.	Approved
9.1	Growth Programme 2022/23	
	The Executive Board received a report providing a summary of progress on growth projects to date and outlining the Growth Programme for 2022/23, which was attached as Annex A.	
	The key programmes were divided into two programme themes; Place and Thematic across employment, housing and town centres' sectors.	
	The report highlighted that the procurement and delivery stages for many of the housing, employment and strategic sites continued to experience delay following the pandemic, the impacts of Brexit and increasing construction and development inflation cost increases. Despite this, the Borough remained committed to maintaining growth momentum, with very encouraging signs from continued local developer presence and interest together with new high quality entrants to the market.	
	The delivery programme would be continuously updated, ensuring Growth Programme resources were always directed towards maximising outcomes for the Borough.	
	The report advised that levelling up plans may provide an opportunity for the Council and its partners to seek funding towards strategic development opportunities and other stalled sites.	
	<b>RESOLVED –</b> The Executive Board:	
	That the Executive Board:	
	<ol> <li>Notes the continued good progress made by the Growth &amp; Development Team during 2021-22;</li> <li>Notes the good progress made by Barnfield Blackburn Ltd and Maple Grove Blackburn Ltd – the Council's two joint venture development companies with Barnfield and Eric Wright respectively;</li> </ol>	Noted Noted

	Item	Action
	<ul> <li>3. Approves the Growth Programme for 2022-23 for officers to progress projects from feasibility stage through to procurement and tender stage as required by project timelines and delivery;</li> <li>4. Subject to compliance with Financial and Contract Procedure Rules, delegates authority to revise the Growth Programme for 2022/23 (by adding, removing or prioritising sites) to the Growth Director in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth &amp; Development and Executive Member for Finance and Governance; and</li> </ul>	Approved Approved
	5. Delegates authority to the Growth Director to proceed to procurement for partners to support in the development of a business case for a new Local Housing Company.	Approved
9.2	Land at Whalley Old Road, Blackburn	
	Members received a report outlining the outcome of the informal tender exercise for land at Whalley Old Road, Blackburn ("the Site") as illustrated on the plan attached at Annex A.	
	The report sought approval to dispose of the Site for housing development to the recommended preferred bidder, and asked the Executive Board to note that Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lea Hough & Co, representing the two private landowners, had jointly brought forward the development opportunity through an informal tender process administered by Council officers.	
	Board Members were asked to note that Outline planning consent with all matters reserved for residential development of up to 165 dwellings with reference 10/20/0716 was granted by Blackburn with Darwen Council on 18 February 2021.	
	This report outlined the process for the disposal of 'open space' and requested delegated authority for the consideration of any objections and approval for the disposal of 'open space' to the Growth Director.	
	RESOLVED -	
	The Executive Board:	
	That the Executive Board:	
	2.1 Approves the sale of the Council owned land to Bidder A for the agreed purchase price and part deferred payment profile.	Approved
	2.2 Notes that Lea Hough & Co, representing the two private landowners, are in agreement to appoint Bidder A.	Noted
	2.3 Notes that the land conveyancing process will be coordinated by an external solicitor acting on behalf of all the landowners, including the Council.	Noted
	2.4 Authorises the Strategic Head of Service for Legal and	Approved

	Item	Action
	Governance to complete the necessary legal formalities in the disposal process.	
	2.5 Authorises the Growth Director to finalise and complete the terms of the disposal.	Approved
	2.6 Delegates authority to the Growth Director, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth & Development to:	Approved
	a)Consider any objections to the proposed disposal of 'open space' at Whalley Old Road; and if appropriate	
	b) Approve the proposed disposal of 'open space' at Whalley Old Road.	
	Before the meeting moved into 'Part 2' the Leader noted that this was his last Executive Board meeting, thanked everyone for their support over the years and passed on best wishes. All in attendance gave Councillor Khan a round of applause.	
	AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.	
11.1	Land at Whalley Old Road, Blackburn	
	Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 9.2, an additional report was submitted, containing commercially sensitive information.	
	RESOLVED -	
	The Executive Board:	
	2.1 Approves the sale of the Council owned land to Bidder A for the agreed purchase price and part deferred payment profile.	Approved
	2.2 Notes that Lea Hough & Co, representing the two private landowners, are in agreement to appoint Bidder A.	Noted
	2.3 Notes that the land conveyancing process will be coordinated by an external solicitor acting on behalf of all the landowners, including the Council.	Noted
	2.4 Authorises the Strategic Head of Service for Legal and Governance to complete the necessary legal formalities in the disposal process.	Approved
	2.5 Authorises the Growth Director to finalise and complete the terms of the disposal.	Approved
	2.6 Delegates authority to the Growth Director, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth & Development to:	Approved

Item	Action
a)Consider any objections to the proposed disposal of 'open space' at Whalley Old Road; and if appropriate	
b) Approve the proposed disposal of 'open space' at Whalley Old Road.	
Signed at a meeting of the Board	
on 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	
(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)	
Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed	