

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### PRESENT

#### **COUNCILLOR:**

Councillor Phil Riley  
 Councillor Julie Gunn  
 Councillor Mahfooz Hussain  
 Councillor Damian Talbot  
 Councillor Quesir Mahmood  
 Councillor Vicky McGurk

#### **PORTFOLIO:**

Leader of the Council  
 Children, Young People & Education  
 Digital & Customer Services  
 Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing  
 Growth & Development  
 Finance & Governance

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Councillor John Slater

#### **NON PORTFOLIO**

Leader of the Conservative Group

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

Muhammed Bapu

Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <p><i>Ahead of the commencement of the meeting, a minutes silence was observed in memory of the many lives lost in Turkey and Syria following the recent major earthquake. Councillor Phil Riley also advised Members of a vigil to be held the following evening outside Blackburn Town Hall.</i></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Riley, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors Jim Smith and Mustafa Desai and from Kazim Shah, Deputy Youth MP.</p> <p>The Leader also advised that Agenda Item 8.1 Homelessness Prevention Grant was incorrectly listed under Adults, Social Care and Health and would accordingly be considered at 8.2 under the Public Health, Prevention &amp; Wellbeing Portfolio. Cllr Riley also advised that items 8.3 and 8.4 would be considered after Agenda Item 6 in order that Councillor Vicky McGurk could fulfil a personal commitment.</p> <p>Members also made reference to the recent death of former MP for Rossendale and Darwen, Janet Anderson, and the Leader confirmed that a minutes silence would be observed at the Finance Council meeting.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	<b>Agreed</b>
3	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>No Declarations of Interest were received.</p>	

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4	<p><b><u>Equality Implications</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>	<b>Confirmed</b>					
5	<p><b><u>Public Forum</u></b></p> <p>In accordance with Part 3 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:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="341 647 1291 909"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="341 647 659 759"><b><u>Name of Person asking the Question</u></b></th> <th data-bbox="659 647 975 759"><b><u>Subject Area</u></b></th> <th data-bbox="975 647 1291 759"><b><u>Response by</u></b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 759 659 909">Zubair Valimulla</td> <td data-bbox="659 759 975 909">Residential Disabled Parking</td> <td data-bbox="975 759 1291 909">Councillor Qesir Mahmood, Growth &amp; Development</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As Mr Valimulla was not in attendance, it was agreed that a written response would be sent to him.</p>		<b><u>Name of Person asking the Question</u></b>	<b><u>Subject Area</u></b>	<b><u>Response by</u></b>	Zubair Valimulla	Residential Disabled Parking
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Zubair Valimulla	Residential Disabled Parking	Councillor Qesir Mahmood, Growth & Development					
6	<p><b><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></b></p> <p>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 out below:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="341 1312 1305 1816"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="341 1312 590 1447"><b><u>Name of Non-Executive Member asking the Question</u></b></th> <th data-bbox="590 1312 874 1447"><b><u>Subject Area</u></b></th> <th data-bbox="874 1312 1305 1447"><b><u>Executive Member and Portfolio</u></b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1447 590 1816">Councillor Neil Slater</td> <td data-bbox="590 1447 874 1816">Petition: Junction 5 Strategic Employment Site</td> <td data-bbox="874 1447 1305 1816">Councillor Qesir Mahmood, Growth &amp; Development</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Councillor Mahmood responded to the question and supplementary question, advising that the matters raised by Councillor Slater in his question had been addressed in previous reports to meetings of the Executive Board and Council Forum.</p> <p>Councillor Mahmood also referenced the ongoing Local Plan Examination in Public, and dedicated hearing time to address all relevant matters relating to the proposed strategic employment</p>	<b><u>Name of Non-Executive Member asking the Question</u></b>	<b><u>Subject Area</u></b>	<b><u>Executive Member and Portfolio</u></b>	Councillor Neil Slater	Petition: Junction 5 Strategic Employment Site	Councillor Qesir Mahmood, Growth & Development
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Councillor Neil Slater	Petition: Junction 5 Strategic Employment Site	Councillor Qesir Mahmood, Growth & Development					

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7	<p>site. Finally, Councillor Mahmood advised that to date no relevant evidence or reasoned objections had been received following engagement with local stakeholders and national public bodies.</p> <p><b><u>Youth MPs Update</u></b></p> <p>The Youth MP verbally reported on recent events and activities including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conclusion of the second pilot inspection of SEEDS, with the third and final pilot inspection due to commence with inspections of Nightsafe, Leaving Care and the Youth Justice System.</li> <li>• Involvement in the Social Care Recruitment Event.</li> <li>• Discussions with the SEND Charter Project.</li> <li>• Involvement in the recent Holocaust Memorial Day Event at Blackburn Town Hall.</li> <li>• Updates on the work of the Youth Forum.</li> <li>• Reference to the forthcoming Total Respect training at the next Corporate Parent Specialist Advisory Group Meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Julie Gunn praised the work and involvement reported.</p>	Noted
8.1	<p><b><u>Creation of New Specialist School Places</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board was provided with a report that proposed to increase the capacity of specialist school places in Blackburn with Darwen to support current and forecasted demand.</p> <p>Blackburn with Darwen had seen an increase in demand for specialist school places resulting in a number of children that require more specialised placements being offered places out of Borough and/or putting additional pressures on existing in Borough Special Schools to accommodate more pupils within their existing estate.</p> <p>Direction was being sought currently from the Department for Education on how the proposed new primary places would be established in school organisation terms, which might be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by the primary provision being affiliated to an existing established local specialist school operating on a split site model, or,</li> <li>• by the establishment of a new special free primary school.</li> </ul> <p>Information would be reported to Executive Board with regards to this at a later date. Costs associated to each of these projects were detailed at Appendix 1.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p>	

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approves the detailed projects and associated expenditure (Appendix 1);</li> <li>• Gives approval for the funding for academy schools to be delegated to the associated Trust so as to enable the agreed works to be directly managed by the Trust;</li> <li>• Gives approval for the Council to enter into a legal agreement with each Trust by way of a Funding Agreement (Appendix 2).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b><u>Homelessness Prevention Grant</u></b></p> <p>Members were advised that the Government had allocated £682,962 to Blackburn with Darwen over the next 2 years (April 2023 to March 2025) under the Homelessness Prevention Grant programme. The allocation included additional funding in support of the expansion of priority need to those who were homeless as a result of domestic abuse. This came into force as part of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021).</p> <p>Blackburn with Darwen had received an allocation from this programme in previous years. This was however the first multi-year commitment and represented a circa 10% increase on the 22/23 allocation, and more than double that of 2020/21.</p> <p>The funding was used on a range of prevention and intervention measures as part of the overall approach to tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the funding being made available to Blackburn with Darwen.</li> <li>• Gives approval to supplementary revenues estimates for the homelessness prevention grant as set out in the financial implications over the next 2 years.</li> <li>• Approves expenditure against this budget in discharging the requirements of the grant conditions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<b>8.3</b>	<p><b><u>Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 2022-23</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted which provided an update on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/23 on the basis of a budget monitoring exercise undertaken at the end of December 2022.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED-</b></p> <p>a) give approval to the Portfolio Cash Limit Adjustments as outlined in Appendix 1;</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	b) note the General Fund Budget Summary position as at December 2022;	<b>Noted</b>
	c) in view of the forecast overspend of £5.670m, the Executive Board request Portfolio Holders to review their budgets for the remainder of 2022/23 with a view to addressing the issues identified and limiting the amount of monies that would be required to be taken from reserves at financial year end;	<b>Approved</b>
	d) note the Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balance position as at 31st December 2022.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>8.4</b>	<p><b><u>Corporate Capital Budget and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report 2022/23 – Quarter 3 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022</u></b></p> <p>Members received a report on the overall financial position of Council in respect of the Capital Programme as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, highlighting the key issues and explaining variations in the first 9 months of the year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>The Executive Board is asked;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>• to approve the slippage requests detailed in Appendix 3.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<b>9.1</b>	<p><b><u>Listed Mill Acquisition to support Employment Growth</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board received a report setting out the background and rationale to the Council acquiring Imperial Mill, including the Gatehouse and adjoining site.</p> <p>The current owners, a manufacturing business, occupied the first floor of the Mill. The owner was prepared to sell this building to a public body. The restoration and reuse of Imperial Mill represented an important long-term opportunity to create a new, sustainable future for the site that delivered new employment and cultural opportunities, as part of the Council’s growth plans for the strategic corridor linking Blackburn Town Centre, Linear Park and commercial developments at Carl Fogarty Way, Greenbank and J6 M65 – a key corridor within the Council’s Blackburn Growth Axis.</p> <p>The restoration and reuse of Imperial Mill created the opportunity to bring significant and unique employment space back into use, both within the Mill and into the land at the rear which adjoined the Council’s land. In addition, there was the opportunity to build on</p>	

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	<p>the unique character of the Canal corridor, derived from the Canal setting and the heritage assets that sat within it. The economic, cultural and physical legacy of the Canal remained a great source of local distinctiveness, identity and industrial heritage. The potential to make improvements to the cultural offer, community amenity and benefit in the spaces around the Mill making full use of the canal corridor and natural environment surrounding it, would bring lasting benefits to the area, the residents, employers and visitors.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approves the acquisition of Imperial Mill, which includes the Grade II listed Mill, the Gatehouse, adjoining car park and approximately 1.5 Hectares of land to the rear, as highlighted on the plan set out at Annex</li> <li>2. Notes that this acquisition and the necessary remedial works will be funded from the Asset Management Fund budget allocation in the Council’s Capital Programme (net of the UKSPF funding below);</li> <li>3. Note and approve the lease back of first floor and loading bay to Lancashire Saw Company Limited, the current business owner of Imperial Mill, for 15-years to continue manufacturing from Imperial Mill and safeguard 35 local jobs.</li> <li>4. Approves the early investment to make the property safe, wind and watertight and develop a delivery strategy as set out in the Council’s Capital Programme for 2023/24;</li> <li>5. Note Government has confirmed the Council’s UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) allocation of c£6 million with £250,000 set aside in 2023/24 to support and contribute to the Council’s early investment and feasibility work for Imperial Mill, as part of the Borough’s 3-year UKSPF Investment Plan; and</li> <li>6. Agree to delegate the conclusion of legal and commercial arrangements, consistent with the draft terms set out in this report, to secure the Council’s ownership of Imperial Mill to the Strategic Director for Growth &amp; Development, Director of Finance and Deputy Director, Legal &amp; Governance , in consultation with the Executive Members for Growth &amp; Development and Finance &amp; Governance.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<p>10.1</p>	<p><b><u>Junction 5 Strategic Employment Site Petition</u></b></p> <p>Members received a report advising of a petition signed by 1,525 members of the public, who resided within and outside of the Borough, had been submitted to the Council requesting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Summary: BwD Council want to release greenbelt in</li> </ul>	

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	<p>order to build industrial units as identified in their local plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action: we want the green belt area of Belthorn and Guide removing from the plan”.</li> </ul> <p>At this stage of the Local Plan preparation process, the Planning Inspectors were not able to accept a petition. However, the lead petitioner was already registered as a participant for the ongoing Public Inquiry and would have opportunity to put the case of residents forward at the relevant hearing session.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>2.1 Notes the petition.</p> <p>2.2 Requests that officers notify the lead petitioner that the draft Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and is currently undergoing examination. The matter of potential Green Belt release will be considered through the examination, with Public Inquiry commencing on 31<sup>st</sup> January.</p> <p><b>AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</b></p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<p>11.1</p>	<p><b><u>Listed Mill Acquisition to support Employment Growth</u></b></p> <p>Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 9.1, additional information was submitted for consideration by the Executive Board which was considered commercially sensitive and therefore exempt from publication. The resolutions at 9.1 were unchanged</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> The Executive Board approve the recommendations in the report.</p> <p>Signed at a meeting of the Board</p> <p>on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023</p> <p>(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>