

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Thursday, 14th March, 2019

### PRESENT

#### **COUNCILLOR:**

Councillor Maureen Bateson MBE  
Councillor Shaukat Hussain

Councillor Andy Kay  
Councillor Mohammed Khan OBE  
Councillor Phil Riley  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Damian Talbot  
Councillor Brian Taylor

#### **PORTFOLIO:**

Children, Young People and Education  
Neighbourhood and Prevention  
Services  
Resources  
Leader of the Council  
Regeneration  
Environment  
Leisure and Culture  
Health and Adult Social Care

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER:**

Councillor John Slater

#### **NON-PORTFOLIO:**

Leader of the Conservative Group

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

Uday Akram  
A'Aishah Patel  
Corey McPartland

Youth MP  
Deputy Youth MP  
Deputy Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all present to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
3	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Maureen Bateson declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 8.3 and 8.4 (Strategic Youth Alliance and Football Foundation investment into new 3G pitches at Witton Park).</p>	<b>Noted</b>
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>No questions had been received from members of the public.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></b></p> <p>No questions had been received from Non-Executive Members.</p>	

	Item	Action
7	<p><b><u>Youth MPs Update</u></b></p> <p>The Youth MPs updated the Executive Board on recent activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where young people’s mental health was discussed.</li> <li>• Involvement in the recent interviews for the new Head of Education.</li> <li>• A forthcoming meeting with Healthwatch on young people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing services.</li> <li>• Work on gender equality and women’s rights, inspired by International Women’s Day, including fundraising ideas towards the proposed Barbara Castle statue.</li> </ul>	<b>Noted</b>
8	<p><b><u>Executive Member Reports</u></b></p>	

**LEADER**

**HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION**

Councillor Maureen Bateson verbally reported on some recent Ofsted inspections, namely that Pleckgate CLC had been rated ‘Outstanding’ and Longshaw Nursery which had been rated as ‘Good’ and Councillor Bateson noted the excellent progress made by both in recent years which had now been recognised by the recent inspections.

**8.1 Fostering Service Quarter 3 Report 1st October to 31st December 2018**

A report was submitted which provided information on the management and performance of the Local Authority’s Fostering Service.

**RESOLVED** – That the Executive Board:

Notes the Quarterly Report which is available on the Council’s website.

**Noted**

**8.2 Schools Capital Programme**

The Executive Board received a report containing details of the proposed Capital Programme for Schools and Education for 2019-20.

**RESOLVED** – That the Executive Board:

	Item	Action
	<p>1: Approves the attached list of projects as detailed in Appendix 1 &amp; 2 for inclusion in the 2019 -2020 Schools and Education capital programme funded from Basic Need, School Condition Allocation, Devolved Formula Capital, Healthy Pupil Capital Fund and SEN Capital Fund;</p> <p>2: Authorises officers to procure works in accordance with the Contracts Procedure Rules as written in the Council's Constitution;</p> <p>3: Approves expenditure to be incurred on individual projects, in line with the Council's Standing Financial Instructions; and</p> <p>4: Notes that regular reports will be provided for the Executive Member detailing any variations/amendments to programmes of work and seeking necessary approvals where these are required to ensure compliance with financial instructions and the Constitution.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
<p><b>8.3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Strategic Youth Alliance</u></b></p> <p>Members were advised that the 2018/19 agreed reduction of £313,000 in the Young People's Services budget had resulted in the need to reduce the universal neighbourhood and holiday provision available to children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen. As a result, there was a need to work collaboratively with partners to ensure a universal provision continued to remain available for local young people.</p> <p>To take the work forward the proposal was to establish a Strategic Youth Alliance, bringing together youth sector organisations, to develop and coordinate a Borough-wide offer of universal provision. The Council would support the universal provision with an investment of £150,000 and would continue to invest £500,000 to deliver Targeted Youth Support services.</p> <p>The proposal would allow the Council to influence the offer of key partners. In addition, the Alliance would work collectively to secure external funding to enhance universal neighbourhood provision and support to smaller youth sector organisations in order to meet the needs of young people in local communities.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board is asked to approve the proposal to establish a Strategic Youth Alliance Board and Network to develop and coordinate universal provision across Blackburn with Darwen neighbourhoods in term-time and during holiday periods.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>

**ENVIRONMENT**

**LEISURE AND CULTURE**

	Item	Action
8.4	<p><b><u>Football Foundation investment into new 3G pitches at Witton Park</u></b></p> <p>Members received a report which advised of external investment into new 3G pitches at Witton Park.</p> <p>Consultants, procured through the Football Foundation had provided a report identifying that the facilities were past their useful life span, and presented a health and safety concern.</p> <p>The Football Foundation were very keen to work with Blackburn with Darwen Council to create an excellent football hub which met FA league standards, promoted grassroots participation and provided the Borough with external investment into facilities with a robust business plan that secured funding for future replacement in 10 years' time.</p> <p>A funding bid to the FA (for Football Foundation funding) was submitted in December 2018 to secure a grant of £778,045 (matched by £400,000 of Section 106) to develop 2 new full sized 3G pitches (including floodlights and fencing) and refurbished changing rooms. On 28<sup>th</sup> February the Council were informed that the FA Board had approved the full amount of grant requested.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – That the Executive Board: NOTES the following:</p> <p>2.1 That the Football Foundation have confirmed external grant funding of £778,045 to Blackburn with Darwen Council for the development of 2 new 3G pitches and refurbishment of the changing rooms at Witton Park.</p> <p>2.2 The externally funded scheme will be managed by the council and be completed in September 2019</p> <p>2.3 The changing room refurbishment works were advertised using the councils “Chest” procurement system with companies required to price for a design provided by the by the councils building consultancy team. A successful contractor has been chosen and the Council is in a position to award the contract.</p> <p>2.4 The floodlight, fencing and pitch renewal program was advertised under the Football Foundation procurement framework by the FF consultants Robinson Low Francis Ltd. A successful contractor has been chosen and the Council is in a position to award the contract.</p> <p>That Executive Board APPROVES the following:</p> <p>2.5 Award of the works contracts to the successful contractors and delegates authority to the Director of Public Health in</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>

	Item	Action
	<p>consultation with Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Young People to enter into works contracts with both companies to deliver the proposed development within the April – September time frame.</p> <p>2.6 Delegates to the Director of Public Health in consultation with Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Young People to approve and enter into the Football Foundation funding agreement that will allow the scheme to be delivered and the agree outcomes following the completion of the development.</p> <p>2.7 Authorise the Director of Finance and Customer Services to arrange finances to cover the delay in the receipts of Section 106 contributions coming in from the housing developer.</p>	

## NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PREVENTION SERVICES

### REGENERATION

#### 8.5 Future High Streets Fund - Darwen Town Centre

The Executive Board was advised that the £675m Future High Street Fund was launched by Government on 26 December 2018. The purpose of the Fund was to help local authorities and their partners improve the performance of their town centres with a focus on those places struggling with rapid changes in the retail sector and consumer behaviour, but with the potential to create viable places which are attractive to residents, visitors, established traders and new business occupiers, as part of a wider place-focused growth strategy. This was a nationally competitive fund with over 400 submissions anticipated.

In the first instance, Government was only seeking an Expressions of Interest (EOI) by 22 March 2019. Government would then assess EOI submissions with a view to inviting selected town centres to develop their plans and business case in detail. However, there was no guarantee of funding, even if selected to develop more detailed plans.

Given the Government's bidding guidance, it was considered that Darwen Town Centre had the strongest strategic fit with this national funding opportunity. The report set out the opportunity and rationale to bid for funding in support of Darwen.

Additionally, the report sought approval to submit an EOI by 22 March 2019. Further updates would be submitted to the Board to update Members on progress.

**RESOLVED** - The Executive Board is asked to:

- Note and approve the decision to submit an Expression

**Noted and**

	Item	Action
	<p>of Interest to the Government's Future High Street Fund for Darwen Town Centre by March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Growth and Development, to finalise the Council's Expression of Interest;</li> <li>• Request the Director of Growth and Development to provide progress updates to the Executive Board.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>

## RESOURCES

### 8.6 Refinancing of Building Schools for the Future - Private Finance Initiative -Phase 1 - Pleckgate High School

Further to the Executive Board report in July 2017 and the Executive Member Decision in November 2018, Members received a report which provided an update on the recent refinancing of one of the two Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes which the Council entered into as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in 2010. The report focussed on the outcome relating to Pleckgate High School.

**RESOLVED** – That the Executive Board:

Notes the outcome of the recent refinancing exercise for the Phase 1 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme – Pleckgate High School, the funding for which was originally put in place as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in 2010.

**Noted**

## 9 Corporate Issues

### 9.1 Growth Programme 2019/20: Site Disposal & Development Projects

Members received a report outlining the growth programme for 2019/20 and details the schedule of sites for disposal and seeking approval to dispose of these sites for development.

The report requested delegated authority to vary the growth programme for 2019/20 by adding or removing sites as required reflecting emerging priorities.

Each site would undergo an options appraisal to select the best way of disposing the site for development, delegated authority was sought to finalise the disposal route for each site following the options appraisal.

The report also requested approval to extend the scope of the development investment fund to include all growth sites within the programme.

The Council would work with local registered provider partners, including; together housing, places for people and great places to build new affordable homes across the Borough.

	Item	Action
	<p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>2.1 Note the contents of this report and the Growth Programme for 2019/20 as attached in Annex 1;</p> <p>2.2 Delegates authority to revise the Growth Programme for 2019/20 by adding or removing sites to the Growth Programme Director and the Chief Executive (designate) in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Regeneration;</p> <p>2.3 Delegates authority to agree the disposal route for each site to the Growth Programme Director and the Chief Executive (designate) in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Regeneration with subsequent decisions on disposal by the Exec Member or Exec Board route as required.</p> <p>2.4 Note the funding of the ‘Development Investment Fund’ as approved at Finance Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to provide financial support to bring forward and enable Council owned sites for sale and development.</p> <p>2.5 Approve the extension of the scope of the Development Investment Fund to allow the funding to be used to bring forward and enable all Council owned housing and commercial sites.</p> <p>2.6 Approve the use of Affordable Homes commuted sum payments received from planning section 106 agreements to be used to support the development of affordable housing schemes by one of the Council’s Registered Provider Partners; Together Housing, Places for People and Great Places.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
10	<p><b><u>Treasury Management Strategy 2019/2020</u></b></p> <p>The Executive Board was reminded that Treasury risk management was conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the Treasury Management Code) which required the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year. The report fulfilled the Authority’s legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> That the Executive Board:</p> <p>2.1 Approves the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20, detailed in Appendix 1, including the proposed Treasury Management Indicators.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>
11	<p><b><u>Matters referred to the Executive Board</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Signed at a meeting of the Board on Thursday, 11 April 2019</p> <p>(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p>Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	