

# Council

Wednesday, 26th January, 2022, 6.00 pm

Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

## Agenda

### Important Information Regarding Covid-19

In response to the current government guidance surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held with hybrid measures in place to enable participation by members of the public.

Members of the Council must take part in person at the COVID-secure Civic Centre if they wish to vote, in accordance with regulations.

[Members of the public are kindly asked to watch the proceedings via a YouTube livestream by clicking here.](#)

### **1 Apologies for absence**

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested to indicate at this stage in the proceedings any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that if the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct) they must leave the room for the whole of that item.

If the interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but is such that a member of the public could reasonably regard it as being so significant that it is likely that it would prejudice their judgment of the public interest (as explained in the Code of Conduct) then they may make representations, but then must leave the meeting for the remainder of the item.

### **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

### **4 Mayors Announcements**

(Pages 5 - 12)

<b>5 Cabinet</b>	(Pages 13 - 16)
To receive and consider the report of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2021. The report from the meeting held on 19 January 2022 will follow.	
<b>6 Urgent Decisions</b>	(Pages 17 - 22)
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.	
<b>7 Governance Committee</b>	(Pages 23 - 24)
To receive and consider the report of the Governance Committee held on 30 November 2021.	
<b>8 Scrutiny Committee</b>	(Pages 25 - 28)
To receive and consider the report of the Scrutiny Committee held on 11 January.	
<b>9 Final Recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Health Inequalities</b>	(Pages 29 - 36)
To receive and consider the report of the Task Group.	
<b>10 2022/23 Calendar of Meetings</b>	(Pages 37 - 42)
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.	
<b>11 Birch Avenue Playground Refurbishment Budget</b>	(Pages 43 - 46)
Report of the Director of Customer and Digital attached.	
<b>12 Appointment of the External Auditor</b>	(Pages 47 - 50)
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.	
<b>13 Revised Gambling Policy 2022 - 2025</b>	(Pages 51 - 56)
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Planning and Development.	
<b>14 Statutory Taxi &amp; Private Hire Vehicle Standards</b>	(Pages 57 - 66)
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Planning and Development.	
<b>15 Nomination of Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for 2022/2023</b>	(Pages 67 - 72)
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.	

- 16 Greater Lancashire Deal** (Pages 73 - 90)  
To receive and consider the report of the Chief Executive.
- 17 Notice of Motion** (Pages 91 - 92)  
To receive and consider the enclosed Notice of Motion.
- 18 Questions to the Leader of the Council**
- 19 Questions to Cabinet Members**
- 20 Exclusion of Press and Public**  
To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.  
  
By Virtue of Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)  
Condition:  
Information is not exempt if it is required to be registered under-  
The Companies Act 1985  
The Friendly Societies Act 1974  
The Friendly Societies Act 1992  
The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978  
The Building Societies Act 1986 (recorded in the public file of any building society, within the meaning of the Act)  
The Charities Act 1993  
Information is exempt to the extent that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.  
  
Information is not exempt if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992(a).
- 21 Allocation of Budget for ICT Hardware and Software** (Pages 93 - 100)  
To receive and consider the report of the Director of Customer and Digital.

Gary Hall  
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Council

The minutes of this meeting will be available on the internet at [www.southribble.gov.uk](http://www.southribble.gov.uk)

Forthcoming Meetings

6.00 pm Wednesday, 23 February 2022 - Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

<b>Minutes of</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Wednesday, 24 November 2021</b>
<b>Committee members present:</b>	Councillors Jane Bell (Mayor), David Howarth (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Renee Blow, Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Carol Chisholm, Colin Coulton, Mal Donoghue, Bill Evans, James Flannery, Derek Forrest, Paul Foster, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jon Hesketh, Mick Higgins, Cliff Hughes, Clare Hunter, Susan Jones, Chris Lomax, Jim Marsh, Keith Martin, Caroline Moon, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Mick Titherington, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Matthew Trafford, Angela Turner, Kath Unsworth, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Gareth Watson, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Carol Wooldridge
<b>Committee members attended virtually (non-voting):</b>	Councillor David Suthers
<b>Officers present:</b>	Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Chris Sinnott (Deputy Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Mark Lester (Director of Commercial), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Jonathan Noad (Director of Planning and Development), Louise Mattinson (Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer), Darren Cranshaw (Shared Services Lead - Democratic, Scrutiny & Electoral Services) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)
<b>Public:</b>	10

## **59 Minute's silence**

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of former Councillors Barbara Askew, Sheila Jenkinson and Tom Sharratt.

Councillors Margaret Smith, Matthew Tomlinson, Carol Wooldridge, David Howarth and the Mayor paid tribute and sent their condolences to the families.

## **60 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jaqui Mort, Stephen Thurlbourn and Barrie Yates.

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Councillor David Suthers attended the meeting via Microsoft Teams and so was not able to participate in voting.

## 61 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

## 62 Minutes of the last meeting

**Resolved (by majority 44:0:1)**

**That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 September 2021 be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment on item 56 Questions to Cabinet Members, Questions to the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Regeneration) to remove ‘and the loss of income for the car park on that day’ and insert ‘and if there were alternative plans in the event the current plan was called in.’**

For: Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Jane Bell (Mayor), Renee Blow, Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Carol Chisholm, Colin Coulton, Mal Donoghue, Bill Evans, James Flannery, Derek Forrest, Paul Foster, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jon Hesketh, Mick Higgins, David Howarth (Deputy Mayor), Cliff Hughes, Clare Hunter, Susan Jones, Chris Lomax, Jim Marsh, Keith Martin, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Mick Titherington, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Matthew Trafford, Angela Turner, Kath Unsworth, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Gareth Watson, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Carol Wooldridge

Abstention: Caroline Moon.

## 63 Notice of Motion

The Mayor explained that due to the number of members of the public who were in attendance for this item she had decided to take this item first.

A motion was moved by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building), and seconded by Councillor Ange Turner.

The motion stated:

‘Women and girls of South Ribble are suffering from misogyny, expressed in sexual harassment, domestic abuse and death. Lancashire women suffer a higher than average rate of deaths – the femicide census ranks Lancashire as 11th highest in numbers for female killings in a list of 42 police forces in England and Wales (2009-18). Currently, only 12 forces around the country record Misogyny. Misogyny affectseveryone, not just women.

We call upon the Council to write to the Minister of State for Crime and Policing, KitMalthouse, the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, with the following requests:

-That the Government prepares legislation to make misogyny a hate crime, to be recorded as such by all police forces across the UK, and prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service. Currently only 12 forces to do this and Lancashire is not one of them.

-That police forces should be required to record all instances of femicide, the killing of a woman or girl by a man, with immediate effect.

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- That a task force be set up before the end of this year to assess the extent and impact of incel (involuntary celibate) groups both online and offline, and to work with voluntary groups and experts who have already begun work in this field.
- That all incidents of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, assault, grievous bodily harm or sexual assault and rape, should be prosecuted automatically without the victim being required to make a formal complaint.
- That policing resources should be increased to ensure that police forces are able to deal with these new responsibilities. At the very least they should return to pre 2010 strength'.

An amendment to the motion was tabled by the Conservative Group but the Mayor ruled that the amendment was considered a new motion.

Members spoke in support of the motion, including Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Mick Titherington, Jacqui Alty, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman, Karen Walton and David Howarth.

One member of the public spoke in support.

**Resolved (by majority 44:0:1)  
That the motion be supported.**

For: Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Jane Bell (Mayor), Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Carol Chisholm, Colin Coulton, Mal Donoghue, Bill Evans, James Flannery, Derek Forrest, Paul Foster, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jon Hesketh, Mick Higgins, David Howarth (Deputy Mayor), Cliff Hughes, Susan Jones, Chris Lomax, Jim Marsh, Keith Martin, Caroline Moon, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Mick Titherington, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Matthew Trafford, Angela Turner, Kath Unsworth, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Gareth Watson, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Carol Wooldridge.

Abstention: Renee Blow.

## **64 Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor gave an update on her recent duties, and noted that she would be raising a flag for White Ribbon Day the following day. This would mark the start of a 16 day campaign to end violence against women.

## **65 Returning Officer Report**

Members received the report of the Returning Officer, Gary Hall.

The report informed the Council that the person duly elected as a councillor for the Bamber Bridge East ward by-election on 18 November 2021 was Clare Hunter.

Members from across the political parties welcomed Councillor Hunter to the Council.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.

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## 66 Cabinet

Members received a general report of the Cabinet meetings held on 13 October and 17 November.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.

## 67 Urgent Decisions

Members received a report setting out a number of urgent decisions taken in accordance with urgency procedures outlined in the Council's Constitution since the report to the last meeting of Council.

These urgent decisions include 'key' decisions taken by the Executive (i.e. Cabinet of Individual Executive Members) as defined in the Cabinet Forward Plan / Notice of Executive Decisions, decisions which include confidential or exempt information, and urgent decisions for which the Mayor agreed to waive scrutiny call-in. For clarification, these do not relate to urgent decisions arising from the COVID pandemic.

Members noted that these measures should be used sparingly.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.

## 68 Capital Strategy Update

Members received the report of the Director of Finance. The Capital Strategy was approved by Council alongside the budget on 23 February 2021. The requirements of the Prudential Code 2017 mean the Council must produce a Capital Strategy report and monitor it once a year.

A more thorough evaluation of business cases is being developed to ensure the Council fully evaluates the rewards and risks of new investments. This will be shared with Councillor Alan Ogilvie once completed.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, and subsequently Resolved (unanimously)

1. To note the contents of the report including the updated performance indicators.
2. To note the Council's current position regarding its portfolio of investment assets.

## 69 Governance Committee

Members received a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 29 September.



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It was proposed by the Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Ian Watkinson, seconded by the Vice Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Colin Sharples and subsequently Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.

## 70 Scrutiny Committee

Members received a general report of the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 October and the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel held on 15 November.

It was proposed by Councillor David Howarth, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, seconded by Councillor Michael Green, Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and subsequently Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.

## 71 Corporate Strategy Update 2021

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought approval for the refresh of the Corporate Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24.

The proposed strategy builds on a year of significant progress to deliver the corporate priorities, while continuing to deliver excellent quality services, providing support to residents in response to the pandemic. The Corporate Strategy for 2020 delivered key outcomes including new affordable housing units, implementing the new community hub model, progress with Worden Hall and the Leyland Town Deal and establishing a joint partnership comprised of key partners for Chorley and South Ribble.

Fifteen priority projects have been identified for delivery over the next 12-18 months, including work to support thriving communities through the enhancement of community hubs and a programme of events and attractions to provide things to do and places to go.

### **An Exemplary Council**

- Deliver the peer challenge action plan to ensure continued improvement
- Deliver the shared services development plan to build a more resilient organisation
- Implement more efficient and effective working practices at the council through the Workplace Strategy
- Deliver more joined up public services through working with our partners

### **A fair local economy that works for everyone**

- Deliver transformational regeneration projects including the Town Deal
- Support communities to access community cooperatives in South Ribble as part of growing a fair local economy
- Support residents to recover from the pandemic with advice, support and key services

### **Thriving communities**

- Develop the Youth Council to make sure the views of young people are represented

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- Deliver Music in the Park 2022 and Queens Jubilee Celebrations
- Review and enhance the community hubs as a primary way to work closely with residents
- Develop the visitor offer in South Ribble

## **Good homes, green spaces, healthy places**

- Improve leisure facilities in South Ribble to improve wellbeing
- Deliver the new Worden Hall complex as a flagship venue
- Lead action to address climate change for South Ribble
- Deliver affordable homes

The strategy includes 27 performance indicators to measure and report against in order to demonstrate success and progress towards achieving the priorities and long-term outcomes. All of the measures and targets have been reviewed and updated to ensure that they remain challenging to reflect Council ambition.

It was clarified that the homes being created at the McKenzie Arms will be social housing at affordable rent. The issue of 'right to buy' is currently being investigated.

Members discussed performance indicators and noted different opinions on whether indicators were sufficiently challenging or consistent. Indicators would be reviewed as the Strategy moved forwards.

It was noted that the draft Corporate Strategy had been considered by the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently Resolved (by majority 28:0:18)

That the Corporate Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24 be approved.

For: Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Jane Bell (Mayor), Renee Blow, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Mal Donoghue, Bill Evans, James Flannery, Derek Forrest, Paul Foster, Harry Hancock, Mick Higgins, David Howarth (Deputy Mayor), Clare Hunter, Susan Jones, Chris Lomax, Keith Martin, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Mick Titherington, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Matthew Trafford, Angela Turner, Kath Unsworth, Ian Watkinson, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Carol Wooldridge

Abstention: Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Matt Campbell, Carol Chisholm, Colin Coulton, Mary Green, Michael Green, Jon Hesketh, Cliff Hughes, Jim Marsh, Caroline Moon, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Karen Walton, Gareth Watson,

## **72 Changes to Council Appointments**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented the report of the Director of Governance which sought approval for changes to appointments to South Ribble Partnership following its amalgamation with Chorley Public Service Reform Board.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Mick Titherington, and subsequently

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Resolved (45:0:1)

1. That the Leader of the Council is appointed to Chorley and South Ribble Partnership Executive.
2. Additional recommendation: that Councillor Clare Hunter be appointed to the Planning Committee and Councillor Colin Sharples to become a reserve in place of Councillor Matthew Trafford).

For: Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Jane Bell (Mayor), Renee Blow, Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Carol Chisholm, Colin Coulton, Mal Donoghue, Bill Evans, James Flannery, Derek Forrest, Paul Foster, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jon Hesketh, Mick Higgins, David Howarth (Deputy Mayor), Cliff Hughes, Clare Hunter, Susan Jones, Chris Lomax, Keith Martin, Caroline Moon, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Mick Titherington, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Matthew Trafford, Angela Turner, Kath Unsworth, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Gareth Watson, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Carol Wooldridge

Abstention: Jim Marsh

## **73 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Councillor Matthew Tomlinson asked if the Leader agreed identity theft is unacceptable. Councillor Foster agreed and commented on some unfortunate incidents during the recent by-election campaign by some.

Councillor Will Adams asked if the Leader would meet with himself and a local campaign to support the campaign in relation to the proposed Health and Care Bill. The Leader agreed and expressed his opposition to the proposed Bill.

Councillor Matthew Tomlinson asked if the Leader would agree for the Mayor to write to officers to thank them for their work on the new logo following comments by an online reviewer. The Leader agreed.

## **74 Questions to Cabinet Members**

Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder – Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building)

Councillor Matthew Trafford asked for a meeting with the Cabinet Member and a representative from Preston Prison to discuss mental health issues faced by young adults who commit crime as an alternative to homelessness, and what action can be taken from a housing perspective to assist offenders on release back to South Ribble. Councillor Bylinski Gelder supported this request.

Councillor Matthew Tomlinson – Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets)

Councillor David Howarth asked what constituted a majority and noted recent comments on social media relating to investments made at Birch Avenue. Councillor Tomlinson acknowledged the project was being delivered in conjunction with the Liberal Democrat Group.

Councillor Bill Evans – Cabinet Member Planning, Business Support and Regeneration)

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Councillor Phil Smith queried the number of businesses supported by the boost program in South Ribble and how much money has been spent. Councillor Evans undertook to supply this information following the meeting.

## **75 Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster proposed, Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing), Councillor Mick Titherington seconded, and subsequently

Resolved (unanimously)

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act.

## **76 Potential Development**

The Cabinet Member Planning, Business Support and Regeneration), Councillor Bill Evans, presented the confidential report of the Director of Planning and Development which advised Council of an emerging development proposal.

A presentation was given by interested parties in the emerging development. This will be shared when appropriate.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member Planning, Business Support and Regeneration, Councillor Bill Evans, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, and subsequently

Resolved (unanimously)

That the report and the presentation be noted.

Chair

Date

# Agenda Item 5

## **Report of Cabinet**

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.

## **General Report of the Cabinet - Meeting held on 15 December 2021**

### **Communities Service Update**

2. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Communities providing an update on the work of the Communities Service, including progress on the Review of Community Involvement.
3. The report was for information and followed on from the update provided to Cabinet in June 2021.
4. In addition to providing a position statement on the progress of Community Hubs in relation to the cross-party review of community involvement, a snapshot of wider work across the Communities Service was provided.
5. A question was asked about progress regarding the Youth Council. The Cabinet Member (Social Justice, Communities and Wealth Building) indicated that a report was being prepared and would be submitted to Cabinet, however in the meantime a written update would be provided to Councillor Ogilvie. Councillor Trafford, Leader Member for Youth and Mental Health Awareness gave verbal update including the priorities identified such as period poverty and knife crime. He was happy to be contacted for further information.
6. The Cabinet resolved that the work of the Communities Service be noted; that the evaluation of Community Hubs be noted and that the continuation of the current model be agreed.

### **Moss Side Community Centre Update**

7. A report was presented by the Director of Communities informing the Cabinet of the findings and recommendations of the Moss Side Community Centre Task Group. The report sought approval on resource and management arrangements for the Centre going forward.
8. Recommendations were made following a robust public consultation exercise and appraisal by a member of the task group. The task group was satisfied that the proposals in the report are in the best interests of both existing centre users, and the wider community who are potential users.

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9. The creation of a new revenue budget, a charging structure, usage conditions and staffing requirement were key to the effective management of the community centre, and its ongoing sustainability.
10. Cabinet therefore resolved to:-
  1. To approve the proposal of the task group, as listed in paragraphs 25 to 34.
  2. To approve the creation of a new £16,000 revenue budget, to support the operational management of the community centre.
  3. To agree to delegated authority to the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) to create a charging structure, general conditions for community use and determine staffing requirements.

## **Leyland Town Deal – Stage 2 Designs**

11. A report of the Director of Planning and Development was presented to the Cabinet giving details of the Stage 2 Designs for the Leyland Town Deal.
12. The initial concept design (stage 2) had been produced in line with the design brief established in stage 1, which had now been presented to the client and was appended to the report for consideration by Members.
13. The report indicated that a series of stakeholder consultation events were undertaken week commencing 22 November 2021, with a project and staff members consultation on 11 November 2021.
14. The various stakeholder consultation events were scheduled with various stakeholder groups and provided an opportunity for these stakeholders to see and learn more about the designs and provide feedback via an online survey.
15. The report was noted.

## **Urgent Item – Delivery of Improvement Works at Vernon Carus Sports Club**

**In accordance with paragraph 5.5 of Part 4C of the Council’s Constitution, the Mayor agreed that the following be considered as a matter of urgency for the reasons that the Council has only just received the cost information to allow the contract to be awarded and contract procedure rules need to be waived for the project to deliver to the set timescales.**

16. A report of the Director of Commercial Services was presented to Cabinet seeking approval to depart from Contract Procedure rules and to delegate the award of a contract to undertake refurbishment works at Vernon Carus Sports Club.

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17. Councillor Walton, Leader of the Opposition, expressed concerns about the lack of notice given for this proposed decision. She made a comment about the use of urgency procedures, which the Leader disputed. Councillor Walton was invited to put her views in writing.
18. The decision was required to meet the small window of opportunity for refurbishment of the club between January and April, following commitments to venue hire and prior to the start of the cricket season and to reflect the current market conditions in the construction industry and the limited availability of contractors to undertake the works in the required timescale, which have been particularly exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.
19. Cabinet agreed the following:
  1. That a waiver of relevant contract procedure rules is granted in line with the South Ribble Borough Council Constitution;
  2. That any changes to the scope of works or spend within the approved budget levels are delegated to the Director of Commercial Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets);
  3. That approval of the contract award is delegated to the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets).

## **Approval for Contract Procedure and Award for the Procurement of ICT hardware and software support**

20. A report of the Director of Customer and Digital was presented informing members of the proposed shared procurement for ICT hardware, software and support to seek agreement to the sharing of costs and assessment criteria. The report followed on from a report to Cabinet on 10 February 2021 requesting approval for a number of joint procurements for hardware, software and support services.
21. An addendum to the report was also presented, seeking approval for the direct contract award for use across South Ribble and Chorley Council for time management and door access.
22. The addendum proposed that the contracts will not be joint but will be separate for each Council; that capital costs are funded from Facilities, and software costs are funded from ICT; and explained the procurement route.
23. Cabinet therefore resolved to:-

That with regard to the addendum to the main report:-

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1. Cabinet approves the direct award for the delivery of a time management and door access system and associated implementation as detailed in the addendum to the report;

That with regard to the main report, Cabinet agrees to:-

2. With the exception of the contract referred to above at (1), approve the contract award procedure for a number of further joint procurements outlined at Appendix 1 for software, hardware and support services;
  3. To approve carrying out appropriate tender exercises via the councils' e-procurement portal (The Chest) or alternatively the use of existing procurement frameworks such as Crown Commercial Services or similar;
  4. To approve evaluation criteria of 80% cost and 20% quality where appropriate;
  5. To waive the requirement to use the Social Value Portal;
  6. That the decision to award the contracts is delegated to the Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building).
- 
24. With regard to the decision at (1), the Councils wished to award a door access and time management solution via a direct award. Following negotiations directly with the current provider the Council had reached a compelling commercial position as detailed in the report.
  25. With regard to decisions at (2 – 6), by jointly procuring the remaining contracts it ensured alignment of software and hardware across both Authorities supporting Shared Services.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform))	Council	Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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## Urgent Decisions

### Purpose of the Report

1. This report informs Council of a number of urgent decisions taken in accordance with urgency procedures outlined in the Council's Constitution since they were last reported to the relevant meetings of Scrutiny Committee on 11 January 2022 and Council 24 November 2021.
2. These urgent decisions include:-  
 'key' decisions taken by the Executive (i.e. Cabinet or Individual Executive Members) as defined in the Cabinet Forward Plan / Notice of Executive Decisions, including decisions which contain confidential or exempt information;  
 urgent reports taken to Cabinet;  
 urgent decisions taken outside the budget and policy framework;  
 and urgent decisions for which the Mayor agreed to waive scrutiny call-in.  
 For clarification, **these do not relate to urgent decisions arising from the COVID pandemic.**

### Recommendations to Council

3. Council is asked to note the report.

### Reasons for recommendations

7. This report informs Council and the Scrutiny Committee of the following decisions which have been taken under urgency procedures:-

### Part 4C – Access to Agenda and Report Before a Meeting

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- **5.5** The Council will always endeavour to publish reports at least three working days before the meeting. Lesser notice than this may only be given if the Mayor decides that there are highly exceptional circumstances.

## **Part 4C - Reports on Special Urgency Decisions to Council & General Exceptions**

- **19.1** The Leader must submit a report to the next available Council meeting setting out the details of any executive decision taken as a matter of special urgency under the procedure set out in Rule 18 (Key Decision - Special Urgency).
- **19.2** The Cabinet must prepare a report to the next available Council meeting setting out the details of any executive decision taken without giving 28 days' notice under the procedure set out in Rule 17 (Key Decision – General Exception).

## **Part 4D – Urgent Decisions outside the Budget or Policy Framework**

- **4 (a)** The Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet, an individual member of the Cabinet or officers, a Community Hubs chairman or joint arrangements discharging executive functions may take a decision which is contrary to the Council's policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget approved by full Council if the decision is a matter of urgency. However, the decision may only be taken: i) if it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the full Council; and ii) if the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee agrees that the decision is a matter of urgency.

## **Part 4F – Scrutiny Procedure Rules - Call In and Urgency**

- **11.14.** All decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency. The next available meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will review the process for agreeing the urgent decision and make appropriate recommendations.

## **Other options considered and rejected**

8. None, for the reasons given above.

## **Corporate priorities**

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

<b>An exemplary council</b>	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

## **Background to the report**

10. Following the meetings of Council 24 November 2021, the following decisions were taken under the Council's urgency procedures, as detailed below.

## **Details of urgent decisions taken in accordance with the Constitution**

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11. The Council will always endeavour to publish reports at least three working days before a meeting. Lesser notice than this may only be given if the Mayor decides that there are highly exceptional circumstances under paragraph 5.5. of Part C of the Council Constitution.
12. Key decisions *for which it was not possible to give 28 days' notice on the Cabinet Forward Plan but published at least 5 workings days before the decision is taken* fall under Council Procedure Rule 17 – Key Decision – General Exception in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution, which requires the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to be informed of the reasons for the urgency.
13. Key decisions *published less than 5 working days before the decision was taken* fall under Council Procedure Rule 18 - Key Decision – Special Urgency in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution, where the decision may only be made where agreement has been obtained from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.
14. Any urgent decision to waive scrutiny call-in must be agreed by the Mayor in accordance with paragraph 11.14 of Part 4F of the Constitution. A decision will be considered urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.
15. An individual member of the Cabinet may take a decision which is contrary to the Council's policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget approved by full Council if the decision is a matter of urgency and agreed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with paragraph 4a) of Part 4D the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

Decision	Date and Decision Maker	Reasons for urgency
Approval for ICT Procurement and Award of Contracts	Cabinet 15 December 2021	This report was taken under the General Exception Procedure. It was not possible to give 28 days on the Cabinet Forward Plan as the decision was necessary to enable a number of further ICT contracts to be awarded in the New Year.
Delivery of Improvement works at Vernon Carus Sports Club	Cabinet 15 December 2021	The Mayor agreed that the report be considered as a matter of urgency for the reasons that the Council had only just received the cost information to allow the contract to be awarded and contract procedure rules needed to be waived for the project to deliver to the set timescales.  The Chair of Scrutiny Committee agreed that this be taken under the special

# Agenda Item 6

		urgency procedure in order that the delegated decision for the contract award would to meet the timetable for project to be delivered.
Climate Emergency Grant Funding	21 December 2021  Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing)	The Chair of Scrutiny Committee agreed that this be taken under the Council's urgency procedures (Part 4D - Urgent decisions outside the budget and policy framework). It was not possible for the matter to be submitted to Council on 26 January 2022 as the decision was required before Christmas to meet the timescales for the project.
Award of Contract for refurbishment works at Vernon Carus Sports Club	7 January 2022  Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets)	In accordance with paragraph 11.14 of Part 4F of the Council's Constitution, the Mayor agreed to waive the Scrutiny call-in procedure in respect of this decision for the reasons given below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to get work on site so we can complete the work before the start of the Cricket season in April</li> <li>• to meet the expectations of the Vernon Carus Sports Club</li> </ul> <p>The Chair of Scrutiny Committee also agreed to the Special Urgency procedure in order that the decision could be taken in less than 5 working days for the reasons given above.</p>

## Climate change and air quality

16. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## Equality and diversity

17. There are no Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and Equality Act implications arising from this report.

# Agenda Item 6

## Risk

18. None.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. The Chief Finance Officer (s151) comments have been included on all the urgent decisions referenced in this report.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. It is considered that the Council's Constitution has been followed in this regard. Monitoring Officer comments were included on all of the decisions. This report is just for information.

## Background documents

Council Constitution

[Modern.gov link to Decisions page](#)

## Appendices

None.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)	clare.gornall@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625625	14.1.2022

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# Agenda Item 7

## **Report of Governance Committee**

I am pleased to present the general report of the Governance Committee summarizing the business which was considered on 30 November 2021.

Please note that the report may not reflect the wording used in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed.

### **Audit Progress Report and Sector Update**

1. The committee considered a report of the Council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton which sought to provide a general sector update and information for members on various reports of interest.
2. The External Auditor's explained that an unqualified opinion had now been given on the financial statements and the value for money work was still ongoing. The External Auditors were hoping to report the annual report at the next meeting of the committee, with the certification work starting soon to meet the end of January deadline.
3. In response to a member enquiry, it was confirmed that value for money considers whether the council has arrangements in place to provide value for money. When looking at capital projects and overspends the auditors would consider various factors such as how soon the overspend was identified, how it was corrected and the reasons behind the overspend. The auditors would only be concerned if the overspend was identified at the end of the project.

### **Appointment of External Auditors**

4. The Service Lead (Audit and Risk) presented a report that set out the options available to the council for the appointment of an external auditor for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28. Following abolition of the Audit Commission in 2018 the council opted into the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) scheme to appoint the external auditors and it had now come to the end of the appointment period.
5. The Service Lead (Audit and Risk) explained that the recommendation was to opt back in to the PSAA scheme and committee were requested to refer the decision to opt back in to full Council for ratification.
6. Members enquired how PSAA allocate external auditors. It was explained by the Service Lead (Audit and Risk) that PSAA would undertake a procurement exercise, identify the available firms and allocate local authorities to them. Previously PSAA had tried to allocate External Auditors based on the geographical locations.

### **Treasury Management Activity Mid-Year Review 2021/22**

7. Members considered the report of the Director of Finance which sought to report on the Treasury Management performance for the financial year, 2021/22 to the end of September.

# Agenda Item 7

8. The Principal Financial Accountant advised that the continuing effects of the pandemic were visible on both the cash flow and the level of interest on investments. In terms of cash flow, there was still relatively high levels of cash balance in the accounts averaging around £54 million. The balance within the accounts were currently over £60 million and it was expected to tail off before the end of the year.
9. Members noted the limited investment opportunities, and it was explained that it was because local authorities had more cash than usual and were not looking to borrow. The Principal Financial Accountant provided that interest earned averaged at 0.11% and had exceeded the council's target of 0.10%.
10. In response to a member enquiry, the Principal Financial Accountant explained that the placement with Goldman Sachs was a termed deposit and it would have been ideal to place the extra £2 million with them, however they weren't looking for the investment at the time.
11. Members asked if the council were still receiving the 0.4% interest rate from Santander and noted that this was the rate being received on 30 September 2021, although this had varied.
12. Members commented on the results of the Peer Review and stated that it might be time to be less risk averse and make better use of investment. It was provided that the Investment Policy would be reviewed as part of the budget process.

## **Recommendation**

I would like to recommend that Council note the report.

Councillor Ian Watkinson  
Chair of the Governance Committee

CA



# Agenda Item 8

## Report of Scrutiny Committee

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 11 January 2022.

### Scrutiny Portfolio Update: Strategy and Reform

2. The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive presented an update on the work of the Strategy and Reform portfolio since May 2019.
3. We welcomed the progress made on the portfolio over the last year and also queried that challenges facing the portfolio.
4. We queried how internal communications can be made more effective as this was identified as a challenge and it was explained that new tools had been introduced such as bi-monthly Employee Voice meetings, a monthly Team Brief newsletter, and a development programme to promote the role of managers in supporting staff.
5. We queried progress on public service reform and the County Deal and were advised that a report would shortly be considered by Full Council on joint working in Lancashire, which sought agreement to move forward with the County Deal.
6. We questioned how the council could continue to strengthen its governance and the advantages of the Scrutiny and Governance Committees in challenging the work of the council and administration were emphasised.
7. We were grateful for the reassurance that governance remains a focus and priority for the Council and ensuring that it is embedded into the work of the Council.
8. We also sought clarity as to the meaning of the Corporate Strategy project to “transform the way the council operates”. It was explained, in response, that this referred to fundamental changes to the way the council operates and delivers services.
9. We questioned how the Peer Challenge Action Plan would be monitored and it was explained that this would be done by the Cabinet within quarterly performance monitoring reports which are also considered by the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel.
10. We requested further information on events which took place outside of Leyland in 2021.
11. We suggested that communications key indicators be developed further for future years and be more outcome focussed.
12. We also requested that the results of the Residents’ Survey and Employee Survey be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.
13. We asked that consideration be given to the Council’s online customer service system allowing third parties to be able to report and make service requests.

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14. We thanked the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive for their attendance and report.

## **Partnership Working 2021**

15. The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive presented an update on the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership, which was established in July 2021.

16. We queried how a focus on South Ribble's needs and issues would be maintained given the shared nature of the new Partnership and it was explained that the new Partnership would be of benefit for South Ribble as more senior partners, such as the NHS, were engaged.

17. We also queried member engagement in the Partnership and it was advised that the Leader of the Council attends meetings and reports back to the council. Data from each My Neighbourhood Community Hub, which all members are involved in, also feeds into the Partnership and it is subject to scrutiny by the council.

18. Following this, we welcomed the possibility of undertaking joint scrutiny with Chorley Council.

19. We raised a query regarding how the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership Strategy 2021-2024 was developed and agreed and were advised that it was created by officers and has been agreed by the Partnership. It was acknowledged, however, that the document was constantly evolving.

20. We welcomed the wide range of partners involved and suggested that parish and town council representatives could be involved in the work of the partnership.

21. We questioned what progress could be expected by the next update and it was stated that work on healthcare would have progressed, although this was subject to the engagement of the relevant partners, and that there would be clear plans and priorities for economic growth and skills and training.

22. We thanked the Leader of the Council and Deputy Chief Executive for their report and attendance and wished the partnership well in delivering its strategy and looks forward to receiving future monitoring reports.

## **Final recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Health Inequalities**

23. We received the draft final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group into Health Inequalities, which sought approval to be presented to Full Council and highlighted the rationale, objectives, methodology and findings of the review in addition to final recommendations.

24. We sought clarification on statistics relating to life expectancy between wards and between men and women and were advised that one statistic was based on an

# Agenda Item 8

average figure whilst the other was based on true data. This would be clarified for the final report.

25. We expressed concern that the social prescribing model which the review recommended emulating was not sustainable and was overly target-driven and it was suggested that the development of a social prescribing system in South Ribble could be modeled to take these views and best practice into account should the recommendation be accepted.

## **Urgent Decisions**

26. We received a report which outlined a number of urgent decisions taken since 29 October 2021 in accordance with urgency procedures outlined in the Council's Constitution.

27. We noted that 4 urgent decisions had been submitted during this period.

28. We reiterated concerns made previously over the number of urgent decisions taken, given that these were not subject to call-in and therefore ineligible to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

## **Partnership Update on Waste Service**

29. The Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building and the Director of Customer and Digital presented a confidential report which provided an update on the waste and recycling collection contract with FCC Environment.

30. We discussed a number of areas and topics including:

- Upcoming waste contract extension negotiations
- Increased cost pressures
- The potential for future sharing with Chorley Council
- Recycling rates
- Recycling and waste provisions for community groups
- Use of electric bin lorries
- Achieving the targets set out in the national Waste and Resources Strategy

31. We welcomed the reassurance that the Council has the necessary resources and expertise to deliver the timeline for the waste contract extension negotiations.

32. We asked that contact be made with West Lancashire Borough Council to see if anything might be learned on their approach to increasing recycling rates.

33. We requested that the possibility of the recycling service being extended to community groups and voluntary organisations be explored further.

34. We thanked the Cabinet Member and Director for their attendance and report.

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## **Recommendation(s)**

That Council note the report.

Councillor David Howarth  
Chair of Scrutiny Committee  
CL

Draft

# Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities

December 2021

# Agenda Item 9

## Draft

### Foreword by Councillor David Howarth, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee selected this review because health inequalities are important for the quality of life of our residents. Whilst we found that South Ribble is relatively affluent, this does mask a number of issues around deprivation, low income, food poverty and ill-health. This reduces the life expectancy in the Borough with residents living an additional 9 years in one ward when compared with another ward only 4 miles away.

We have explored all of these issues and come up with a series of recommendations to help tackle health inequalities. These recommendations include the Council building on recent initiatives, strengthening partnership working and using data to provide a local holistic approach and embedding health inequalities into everything we do.

I would like to thank my fellow task group members and all the stakeholders we have met from our partners, agencies and Members and staff. We've heard some inspiring stories of the commitment and dedication of some of the charities and volunteers who work for the benefit of our residents. I would like to commend them for all the great work that they do. The Cabinet Member, Councillor Mick Titherington has also been invaluable in supporting the review and we are grateful for his help.

It would be remiss of me not to say how disappointed the task group was that the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) were unable to engage with us or provide information to support our review.

Finally, we hope that the outcomes from this review lead to more of a concerted effort to reduce health inequalities and support our residents even more in the future.

Councillor David Howarth  
Chair of the Scrutiny Committee & Task Group



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### Members of the Task Group

The following Members were appointed by the Scrutiny Committee to undertake this review:

- Councillor David Howarth (Chair)
- Councillor Will Adams
- Councillor Colin Coulton
- Councillor Matthew Trafford
- Councillor Karen Walton

### Rationale for the Scrutiny Review

The health of residents in South Ribble is varied, with deprivation rates relatively low. However, there are health inequalities in South Ribble with men in the least deprived areas expecting to live 5.7 years longer than men in the most deprived wards and for women this difference is over 6.3 years.

Following the period of austerity following the financial crash and future implications for the economy as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is felt that a scrutiny review of economic and income deprivation is appropriate. There are also tangible links between economic and income deprivation with people's mental health and wellbeing.

The task group has therefore agreed to look at this, find out what the real issues are in South Ribble and what more can be done to tackle them in a partnership approach.

### Objectives for the Review

- To understand the true scale of health inequalities in South Ribble and how economic/income deprivation impacts this
- To assess material and economic impacts on health and mental wellbeing
- To highlight issues around deprivation and health inequalities
- To explore existing initiatives and assess their effectiveness

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- To investigate different initiatives and models for improving health equalities and assessing how effective they could be in South Ribble
- To identify levels of accountability for health inequalities linked to economic deprivation
- To produce a series of recommendations to Council to improve access to high-quality healthcare and support for all residents

### Links with Corporate Plan

There is a strong desire by the current administration to improve health and wellbeing for residents in South Ribble and the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Health Inequalities will compliment this work.

The revised Corporate Strategy for 2021/22-2022/23 explicitly expresses an intent to reduce health inequalities and ensuring that the Council continues to support the most vulnerable.

The work of the Scrutiny Review will also support the Council's vision of *"A healthy and happy community, flourishing together in a safer and fairer borough that is led by a council recognised for being innovative, financially sustainable and accountable."*

It will link with the following Corporate Priorities:

- Thriving communities
- A fair local economy that works for everyone
- Good homes, green spaces, well places

### Methodology Adopted

#### Meetings with Stakeholders

The Task Group met with the following stakeholders as part of its review:

- Councillor Mick Titherington, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing – South Ribble Borough Council
- Nigel Evans – MP for Ribble Valley
- Katherine Fletcher – MP for South Ribble
- Jennifer Mullin, Director of Communities – South Ribble Borough Council
- Rebecca Heap, Communities Manager – South Ribble Borough Council
- Andy Bamber, Revenues Manage – South Ribble Borough Council



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- Alison Salisbury, Customer Services Team Leader – South Ribble Borough Council
- Jennifer Mullin, Investment and Skills Manager – South Ribble Borough Council
- Howard Anthony, South Ribble Partnership Manager
- Guy Simpson, Advice Services Manager – Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Wendy, Lostock Hall New Day Church Food Bank
- Andrea, The Base In Broadfield

### Site Visit

Councillor Will Adams spent time with the Lostock Hall New Day Church Food Bank talking with volunteers, agencies and food bank users' and feedback to the group on the learning.

### Review of Documents

The Task Group reviewed the following documents and evidence sources as part of their review:

- 2013 'Mind the Gap' Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities
- 2014 Update on 'Mind the Gap' recommendations
- LGA's Social determinants of health and the role of local government
- Government white papers
- National research
- Independent research and papers
- LG Inform
- 2010 Marmot Report '*Fair Society, Healthy Lives*'
- The Marmot Review: 10 Years On
- Corporate Plan

### Events Attended

Members of the Task Group and officers attended the following events as part of their research:

- 'A Wellbeing Economy: Could this be a gain as we emerge from COVID-19?' webinar
- North West Employers' Meet Marmott event

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### Key Findings

In reviewing all the evidence from the review, the Task Group found the following:

- The Universal Credit process does not help residents in need in the way they sanction applicants and delay payments being made which can lead to vulnerable residents having to access food banks, approach loan sharks and has an adverse impact on mental health.
- The majority of the actions from the Scrutiny Committee's last review of health inequalities in 2013 have been completed with the only outstanding ones being around local targeted support to deal with issues in individual needs. Improved provision and presentation of localised health and wellbeing profile information could be broken down to Community Hub level and allow a tailored approach to needs.
- The other outstanding action from the original review is the Council embedding health inequalities and considerations in to the everyday work and decision-making of the Council through carrying out impact assessments and prompting Members and officers to think through and see what can be done to improve health inequalities.
- The Council has done a great deal over the last two years in support residents in need through the following initiatives:
  - South Ribble Together Hub as part of the COVID response
  - Providing food parcels to families in need
  - Bringing the leisure centres in-house with a priority of community delivery, but more is needed on the pricing policy for these facilities to encourage participation
  - Creating a food bank network and funding.
  - Holiday Activity Programme
  - Reducing the amount paid as part of the Council Tax Support Scheme
  - Approach to community wealth building
  - New Credit Union
  - Uniform swaps
- There some good practice examples of partnership working through South Ribble Partnership such as data sharing as a result of COVID response, reducing digital isolation. Further work would be helpful ensuring Referent is embedded and that a social prescribing model is put in place with GPs, leisure and other health partners.
- The number of young people in employment has decreased as a result of COVID with the number of apprenticeships also going down, which the Council could

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help with. The Local Plan review also provides an opportunity to require developments to do more the increase employments and skills development.

- Encouraging residents to access support was an area of development whether that be access to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, knowing what was available and how to claim and also having a small discretionary fund to help with emergency and incidental expenses to provide support to those in need. Governance of this would be important and it was felt that local agencies might be best placed to administer this in a way that helps those most in need.
- Sadly food banks play an important part in ensuring the families can eat in the borough, with concerns about how sustainable this is in the absence of changes to the benefits system mentioned earlier. The work on the Food Bank Network has been helpful and it is felt that this could be developed further to include community larders and co-operatives.
- This review found that mental health was a major issue for our residents with some projects being undertaken by the Council, including Mental Health First Aid training for front-facing staff and some councillors. It was felt that an overview for Members would be useful with a view to providing Members with more in-depth training should that be appropriate on a Member by Member basis.
- Road safety and the number of road casualties and deaths remains high when compared with other Lancashire districts and continues to be flagged as part of the health profile. This is of concern to the Task Group and is suggested worthy of a further more in-depth review with partners such as the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office, Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and health bodies etc.

## Recommendations

Based on the research and findings from the review the Task Group make the following recommendations for the Council and Cabinet to consider:

1. The Council uses its influence with the Local Government Association and other bodies to encourage the Government to change the approach taken to Universal Credit to help residents and reduce the need to access food banks.
2. Health Impact Assessments be required as part of all decision-making processes, policy development and project management frameworks.
3. My Neighbourhood Community Hubs be provided with health and wellbeing data, including areas of deprivation and encouraged to consider projects focusing on improving health and wellbeing.

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4. A Scrutiny Review of Road Safety is established to work with partners.
5. A social prescribing model, similar to that in operation in Chorley, is implemented.
6. A review of pricing policies for leisure facilities is undertaken and schemes to provide access to and affordability of leisure centres be created in a similar model to the Holiday Hunger and HAF Programmes.
7. A re-launch of the Council's Apprenticeship Factory takes place to focus on the development of apprenticeships amongst partners and other major employers within the borough are encouraged.
8. As part of the review of the Local Plan consideration be given to designing planning policies that require developers to provide more support to apprenticeships and providing more local skilled job opportunities.
9. The Citizens Advice Bureau be asked to undertake outreach programmes and satellite sites across the borough as part of their performance monitoring to receive council funding.
10. The Council mounts a publicity campaign to encourage the take-up of benefits to those eligible.
11. A small discretionary Hardship Fund be created to be administered by local agencies, possible Citizens' Advice Bureau, to help with incidental and emergency funds that might help those in need of support.
12. The Council supports the establishment of Food Clubs, Co-ops and Community Shops across the borough to reduce food poverty
13. A Member Briefing be held on Mental Health First Aid and an introductory session provided to communicate an overview of the training.

### Further Information

For further information, please contact Darren Cranshaw, email: [darren.cranshaw@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:darren.cranshaw@southribble.gov.uk), tel: 01772 625512.

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform))	Council	Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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## 2022/23 Calendar of Meetings

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members notice of and to seek approval for the calendar of meetings scheduled for the 2022-23 municipal year.

### Recommendations to Council

2. That the 2022-23 calendar of meetings, as shown at Appendix 1, be approved.

### Reasons for recommendations

3. Approving the calendar of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year at this time will ensure that preparation can begin, and arrangements be made in advance of May 2022.

### Other options considered and rejected

4. There were no other options to be considered. The Council must organise and publicise a schedule of meetings to allow for preparation of reports and work programmes; to ensure availability and attendance of members and officers; and to facilitate public participation in meetings where permitted.

### Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

<b>An exemplary council</b>	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

# Agenda Item 10

## **Background to the report**

6. The Calendar of Meetings is devised on an annual basis in advance of the new municipal year.
7. Members will be aware that the Calendar of Meetings is normally submitted for consideration at this time of the year to assist officers and Members with forward planning.

## **Overview of Calendar of Meetings**

8. Appendix 1 presents a draft timetable of Full Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings for the period 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2023 inclusive.
9. The timetable takes into account:
  - Existing decision-making arrangements
  - School holiday closures (as requested by members)
  - Bank holidays
  - Parish council meetings
  - Political group meetings
10. It should be noted that some months are busier than others, with January and September always more difficult to accommodate any changes.

## **Consultation carried out and outcome(s) of consultation**

11. The proposed Calendar of Meetings was considered at a meeting of the Leader and Deputy Leader Briefing in December 2021. Their feedback has been incorporated into the appended calendar.
12. Copies of the proposed Calendar of Meetings were emailed to the Leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups on 4 January 2022. Feedback was received from the Leader of the Conservative Group and accepted where possible.
13. The Shared Senior Management Team was also consulted on the calendar and their feedback has been incorporated into the appended calendar.

## **Climate change and air quality**

14. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## **Equality and diversity**

15. There are no implications on equality or diversity arising from this decision.

## **Risk**

16. It should be acknowledged that the calendar of meetings is a fluid document and there may be occasions where meetings are called or cancelled with little notice. The Democratic Services team will endeavour to avoid such events, but this is not often possible due to the ever-changing nature of the decision-making process.

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## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

17. There are no direct financial implications of this report.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

18. There are no concerns from a Monitoring Officer perspective. This is something we have to do an annual basis.

## Background documents

19. There are no background papers to this report

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed 2022/23 Calendar of Meetings

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Charlotte Lynch (Democratic and Member Services Officer)	charlotte.lynch@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625563	13/12/2021

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**South Ribble Borough Council  
Timetable of Meetings 2022/2023**

	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Mon				1 SS									1 Bank Holiday
Tue				2			1 PTC LPC						2 PTC LPC
Wed		1		3			2			1	1		3
Thu		2 Bank Holiday		4	1 ICB		3 ICB	1 ICB		2 ICB	2 ICB		4 E
Fri		3 Bank Holiday	1	5	2		4	2		3	3		5
Sat		4		6	3	1	5	3		4	4	1 CG	6
Sun	1	5	3	7	4	2	6	4		1 New Year's Day	5	2	7
Mon	2 Bank Holiday	6 ST FPC	4 MB FPC	8	5 MB FPC	3 MB FPC	7 MB FPC LHPC	5 FPC	2 Bank Holiday	6 MB FPC	6 LPWG FPC	3 FPC	8 LHPC
Tue	3 PTC LPC	7 LP LPS PTC LPC	5 LP PTC LPC	9	6 LP LPS PTC LPC	4 LP PTC LPC	8 LP	6 LP LPS PTC LPC	3 PTC LPC	7 LP PTC LPC	7 LP LPS PTC LPC	4 LP PTC LPC	9 MI
Wed	4	8 LPWG MHPC	6	10	7 LPWG	5	9 LPWG MHPC	7 PT	4 CE	8 CE MHPC	8 G MHPC	5	10 MHPC
Thu	5	9 ICB	7 P	11	8 P	6 P	10 P	8 P	5 ICB	9 P	9 P	6	11
Fri	6	10	8	12	9	7	11	9	6	10	10	7 Good Friday	12
Sat	7	11 CG	9 CG	13	10 CG	8 CG	12 CG	10 CG	7	11	11 CG	8	13 CG
Sun	8	12	10	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	12	9	14
Mon	9 LHPC	13 MB LHPC	11 CG LHPC	15 LHPC	12 SCBP CG LHPC	10 CG LHPC	14 SCBP CG	12 CG LHPC	9 MB LHPC	13 LHPC	13 SCBP CG LHPC	10 Easter Monday	15
Tue	10 CE	14 ScT	12 SC	16	13 SS	11 SC	15	13 TTF	10 LP	14	14 SS	11	16
Wed	11 MHPC	15 CE	13 CAB MHPC	17	14 CAB MHPC	12 CAB MHPC	16 CAB	14 CAB MHPC	11 SS LPWG	15	15 CAB	12 MHPC	17 AC
Thu	12	16 P	14	18	15 S	13 CE	17 CE	15 S	12 P	16	16	13	18 GT
Fri	13	17	15	19	16	14	18	16	13	17	17	14	19
Sat	14 CG	18	16 LG	20	17 LG	15	19 LG	17	14 CG	18 CG	18	15 LG	20
Sun	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	19	16	21
Mon	16	20 SCBP CG	18 CG	22	19 CG	17 SS	21 CG	19	16 CG	20 BSC	20 SC	17	22 LT
Tue	17	21 J	19	23	20 J	18 ScT	22 J	20	17 SC	21 SS	21 J TTF	18	23 G
Wed	18 AC	22 CAB	20 C	24	21 C	19	23 C	21	18 CAB	22 BCAB	22	19	24 PT
Thu	19 GT	23 S	21 CE	25	22 CE SPC	20	24 SPC	22	19 G	23	23 S SPC	20 CE	25 SPC
Fri	20	24	22	26	23	21	25	23	20	24	24	21	26
Sat	21	25	23	27	24	22	26	24	21 LG	25 LG	25 LG	22	27
Sun	22	26	24	28	25	23	27	25 Christmas Day	22	26	26	23	28
Mon	23 LT	27 SS	25	29 Bank Holiday	26 G	24	28 MB	26 Boxing Day	23 J CG	27 CG	27 CG	24	29 Bank Holiday
Tue	24 G	28 TTF	26 G	30	27 TTF	25	29 G	27 Bank Holiday	24	28	28 CE	25	30
Wed	25 PT	29	27	31	28 PT	26	30 SS	28	25 C	29 CT	29 C	26	31
Thu	26 CW SPC	30 ICB	28 P SPC		29 ICB	27		29	26 SPC		30 P	27 P	
Fri	27		29		30	28		30	27		31	28	
Sat	28		30			29		31	28			29	
Sun	29		31			30			29			30	
Mon	30					31			30				
Tue	31								31				

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C	Council
AC	Annual Council
CT	Council Tax Setting Council
CAB	Cabinet
BCAB	Budget Cabinet
ICB	Informal Cabinet Briefing (5pm)
CW	Cabinet Workshop (4pm)
P	Planning Committee
PT	Planning Training (5.30pm)
LPWG	Local Plan Working Group

LPS	Licensing & Public Safety Committee
LP	Licensing Sub Panel (2pm)
TTF	Taxi Trade Forum
LT	Licensing Training (5:30pm)
S	Standards Committee
ST	Standards Training (5.30pm)
SC	Scrutiny Committee
BSC	Budget Scrutiny Committee
ScT	Scrutiny Training (5.30pm)
SCBP	Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel (5pm)

G	Governance Committee
GT	Governance Training (5.30pm)
MB	Member Briefing
MI	Member Induction
SS	Shared Services
J	Central Lancs Strategic Planning JAC
CE	Climate Emergency Task Group
E	Election/Referendum

FPC	Farington Parish Council
LHPC	Little Hoole Parish Council
LPC	Longton Parish Council
MHPC	Much Hoole Parish Council
PTC	Penwortham Town Council
SPC	Samlesbury and Cuedale Parish Council
LG	Labour Group meetings
CG	Conservative Group meetings

	Weekends/Bank Holidays
	School Holidays

Meetings commence at 6pm unless otherwise stated

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer and Digital (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets))	Cabinet	Wednesday, 19 January 2022
	Council	Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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<b>Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000</b>	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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## Birch Avenue Playground Refurbishment Budget

### Purpose of the Report

1. Birch Avenue Playground is one of the borough's playground sites identified for improvement this financial year. A budget of £75,000 has been included in the approved capital programme however, as a result of public consultation feedback and an updated survey of the site's condition, a budget uplift of £70,000 is requested providing a total budget of £145,000.

### Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That, subject to Council approving the changes to the capital programme, the changes to the refurbishment works detailed in the body of the report be approved.
3. That recommendation is made to Council to approve an increase of £70,000 in the capital programme in respect of this scheme.

### Recommendations to Council

4. That an increase of £70,000 in the capital programme is approved in respect of this scheme to allow the additional works detailed in the body of the report to be carried out.

### Reasons for recommendations

5. Birch Avenue Playground is the 10<sup>th</sup> playground site identified for refurbishment under the current capital improvement programme. The sites refurbished up to now were generally last improved in the late 1990's and were not upgraded under the previous improvement programme requiring a complete re-build to bring them in line with contemporary standards

# Agenda Item 11

and best practise. The scope of required works has generally required budgets of £175,000 - £225,000 per site.

6. The playground at Birch Avenue is the first site in the current improvement programme listed for a partial refurbishment having been refurbished in 2005 under the previous programme. A budget of £75,000 was included for the replacement of some equipment with the modern equivalents, entrance gates, the safety surfacing under the equipment and repainting of the metal railings.
7. The public consultation highlighted that some of the proposed replacement equipment and existing items proposed to remain were not popular and alternative equipment was requested. It is therefore proposed to replace items with alternative equipment in line with the most common consultation responses with safety surfacing areas amended as required to accommodate these. In addition, more seating was requested by many respondents and therefore additional seating/picnic tables and associated hard surfacing is recommended for inclusion in the scheme. An additional £20,000 is requested for the alternative equipment and seating and £10,000 for safety surfacing extensions/amendments.
8. As well as the changes recommended due to consultation feedback, a recent survey of the existing play area has found the deterioration of the bitmac has accelerated in recent months, much faster than other sites of this age, where the surface remains in good condition. The existing bitmac has become very open textured and susceptible to frost damage potentially as a result of the way it was originally laid. It is likely that significant patching will be required within the next 5 years and therefore, with the new equipment proposed to have a design life of at least 20 years, it is suggested that the existing bitmac surface is removed and re-laid with a denser surface finish as part of the refurbishment project. An additional £40,000 is requested for this work – an amount sufficient to replace all of the bitmac and also to swap the bitmac to safety surface where this is appropriate to the designs received for playground improvement.

## Other options considered and rejected

9. The option of sticking with the originally suggested replacement equipment was considered and rejected as this would go against much of the consultation feedback received and potentially undermine the feeling of community ownership in the site and may undermine confidence in future public consultation exercises.
10. The option of patching the worst areas of the bitmac surfacing for now is not recommended as, although this would initially cost much less, the majority of the surface area is now rapidly deteriorating and therefore regular patching will be needed over the next five years, requiring temporary closures of the play area and potential damage to adjacent surfacing and equipment. Although the resurfacing of the whole area is more costly, doing it in a single operation during the refurbishment while the playground is already closed is considered to maximise efficiencies and get the best rates for bitmac laying.

## Corporate priorities

11. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	<b>Good homes, green spaces, healthy places</b>

# Agenda Item 11

## Climate change and air quality

12. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's Green Agenda:
- Reducing waste production.
13. The following remediations have been undertaken to limit the environmental effect:
- Waste materials arising from the demolition of the existing playground features including timber, metal, stone and rubber, will be reused and recycled where possible minimising the amount of material disposed of at landfill.

## Equality and diversity

14. The new play area will be more inclusive and accessible by design.

## Risk

15. A number of risks linked to the current site designs will be addressed through the improvement proposals. The project risk register identifies other key risks, the majority of which will be mitigated by the procurement process followed.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

16. The current budget of £75k is funded by £13k of section 106 receipts and £62k borrowing. The requested increase in the budget of £70k would be financed through further borrowing. The revenue costs associated with this, through MRP and interest, would be around £5k per year and would be factored into the upcoming budget setting process.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

17. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

There are no background papers to this report

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Greg Clark (Senior Parks Technical Officer)	greg.clark@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625561	14/01/2022

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Governance (Introduced by the Leader of the Council)	Council	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Appointment of the External Auditor

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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### Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the options available to the Council for the appointment of an external auditor for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.
2. To inform members that the Governance Committee has already considered the various options available at its meeting on 30th November 2021 and is now recommending that Council accepts the invitation from PSAA to become an opted-in authority for the purposes of the appointment of its external auditor.

### Recommendations to Council

3. Consider the recommendation of the Governance Committee.
4. Approve that Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited be recommissioned to act as the appointing person for the appointment of an external auditor for South Ribble Council for the five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

### Reasons for recommendations

5. A relevant authority must appoint an external auditor to audit its accounts and council must make a decision whether to opt into the national arrangement for the procurement of external audit or procure external audit for itself.

### Other options considered and rejected

6. The Governance Committee has already considered the various options available at its meeting on 30th November 2021.

### Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

# Agenda Item 12

<b>An exemplary council</b>	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

## Background and Future Arrangements

8. A relevant authority must appoint an external auditor to audit its accounts. The Council can either appoint its external auditor directly or an “appointing person” can make the appointment on the Council’s behalf. The only “appointing person” is the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) who are a not for profit organisation.
9. Following the abolition of the Audit Commission, the Council took advantage of the national collective scheme administered by the PSAA for the appointment of its external auditors for the five years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
10. The second appointing period is to span the five consecutive financial years commencing 1 April 2023 and cover the audit of accounts for the financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28.

11. The council is required to appoint an external auditor by 31 December 2022 to commence 1 April 2023. There are three options available for appointing its external auditor:

### *Option 1*

Establish its own independent auditor panel under part 3, section 9 and schedule 4 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The panel must be made up of a majority, or of wholly independent members and must be chaired by an independent member. It would therefore be necessary to undertake a selection process to appoint the panel, whose members may be remunerated. The panel's role would be to advise the council on the selection of its external auditor and therefore to oversee a procurement process.

### *Option 2*

Establish a joint independent auditor panel to carry out the function on behalf of two or more councils which would therefore have to agree on the selection criteria firstly for the panel's members and then for the external auditor, and then oversee a procurement process.

### *Option 3*

Opt into PSAA's sector led national scheme. Legislation requires a resolution of Full Council if a local authority wishes to opt into the new national arrangement. No significant further action would then be required by the Council.

12. On 22 September 2021 PSAA invited all principal local government bodies to become opted-in authorities. Eligible bodies have until 11 March 2022 to formally respond and accept the opt-in invitation.
13. The national scheme is considered to represent the best option as the Council will benefit from PSAA's experience of working within the context of the Regulations to appoint auditors, manage contracts with audit firms, setting and determining audit fees.



# Agenda Item 12

It avoids the necessity to establish an independent auditor panel and undertake a procurement exercise and assures the independence of the auditor's appointment for the council.

14. The Governance Committee, at their meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> November resolved that Full Council be recommended to agree to option 3 set out in the report, to recommission Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited to act as the appointing person for the appointment of an external auditor for South Ribble Council for the five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

## Climate change and air quality

15. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## Equality and diversity

16. This material presented and discussed in this report has no direct implications on equality or diversity.

## Risk

17. A relevant authority must appoint an external auditor to audit its accounts Please summarise the key risks identified in any risk assessments.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

18. Efficiencies and economies of scale should be obtained by opting-in to the procurement exercise to be undertaken by PSAA, who will do so on behalf of many councils across the country, rather than trying to procure in isolation, or with another/several other council(s).
19. There are only a limited number of external audit firms who have the capacity and specialist teams to undertake local authority audits and therefore there is a risk that in trying to procure in isolation/in a small group, we may get a low level of interest, and/or higher cost, as the external audit firms would be likely to focus their efforts in securing a larger contract through the PSAA procurement exercise

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. The recommendation will demonstrate best value in the appointment of external audit.

## There are no background papers to this report

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Dawn Highton Service Lead Audit and Risk	Dawn.highton@southribble.gov.uk		14/1/22

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Licensing and Public Safety Committee Council	Tuesday, 7 December 2021 Tuesday, 26 January 2022
Is this report confidential?	No	
Is this decision key?	Not applicable	

## Revised Gambling Policy 2022 – 2025

### Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to outline to Members the proposed revisions required to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling). The last Gambling Policy was published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and is due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

### Recommendations to Licensing and Public Safety Committee

2. Members should consider all revisions and recommendations for approval to full council before the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

### Recommendations to Council

3. To approve the revised Gambling Policy 2022 – 2025.

### Reasons for recommendations

4. Relatively minor policy amendments are required to the existing policy, the necessary changes were highlighted in report taken to committee in December 2021.

### Other options considered and rejected

5. There are no further options to consider as under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005. Local Authorities are required to renew their Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) every 3 years.

# Agenda Item 13

## Corporate priorities

6. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	<b>Thriving communities</b>
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

## Background to the report

7. The council's Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) sets out the way the council will generally promote the Licensing Objectives when considering and making decisions on applications made under the Gambling Act (the Act).

The council's current Statement of Policy is due to expire on the 31st of January 2022. Under the Act policies endure for a 3-year period.

8. The council is constrained by the provisions of the Act, the Guidance and any Regulations made under the Act. However, the Authority may depart from the Guidance if it has reason to do so but must give full justification for any such departure.

9. The council is required by Section 349 of the Act to publish a new Gambling policy by the 31st of January 2022. This Statement of Policy shall be effective from the 31st January 2022 and shall remain in effect for three years; therefore, this Statement will be reviewed again in January 2025.

10. South Ribble does not have a particularly wide offer of Gambling establishments with 11 Betting shops, most of which are national operators. The gaming machine offer is much broader with virtually every Licensed Premises in the Borough taking advantage of the right to site machines in their premises.

## Changes required to your Gambling Policy

11. Below are the updates required for your Gambling Policy. Only relatively minor modifications are being proposed. This includes a minor amendment to the Local area Profile.

### **Page 3, section 1.1 of your Policy currently states;**

*"The population in South Ribble is 103,900 which has remained relatively stable over the last decade following a period of rapid growth in the 1970s and 1980s."*

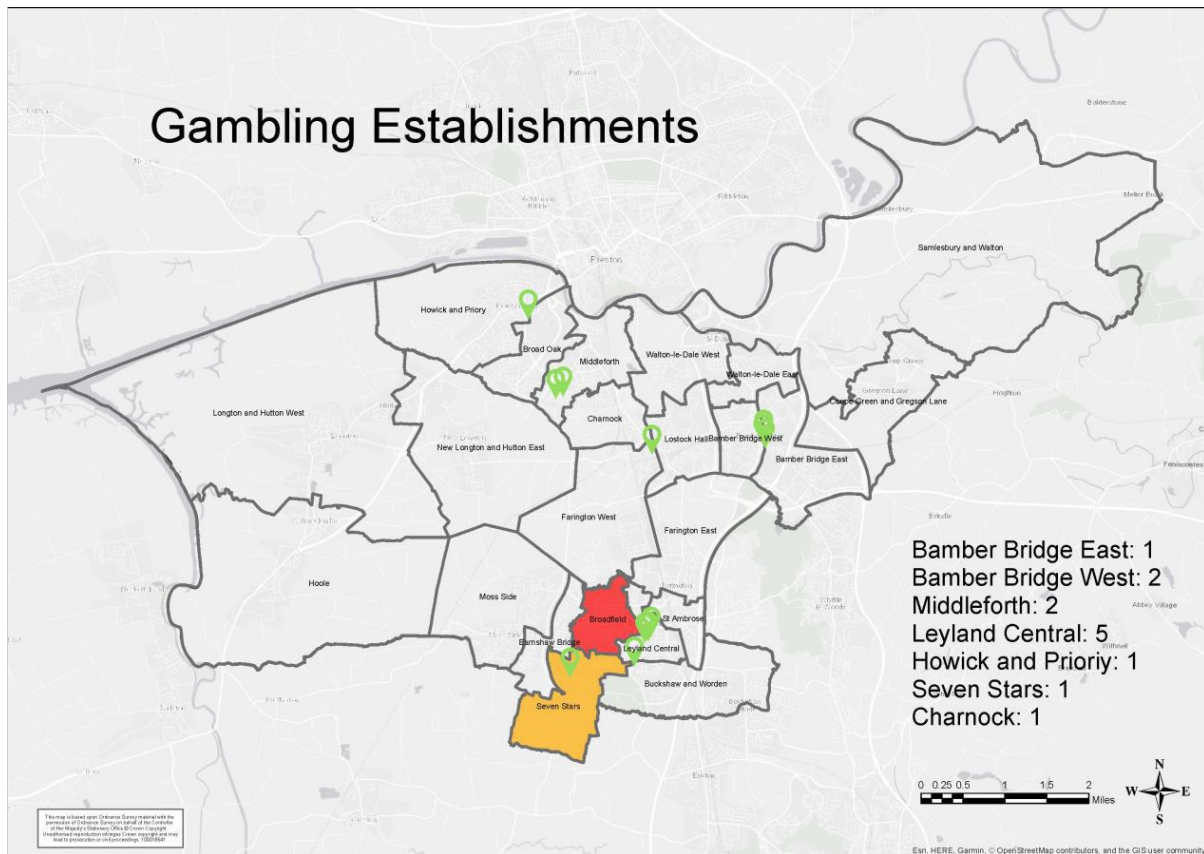
### **To be replaced by;**

*"The population in South Ribble is **111,086** which has remained relatively stable over the last decade following a period of rapid growth in the 1970s and 1980s."*

And;

### **Page 4, section 1.1 of your Policy currently shows the following data;**

# Agenda Item 13

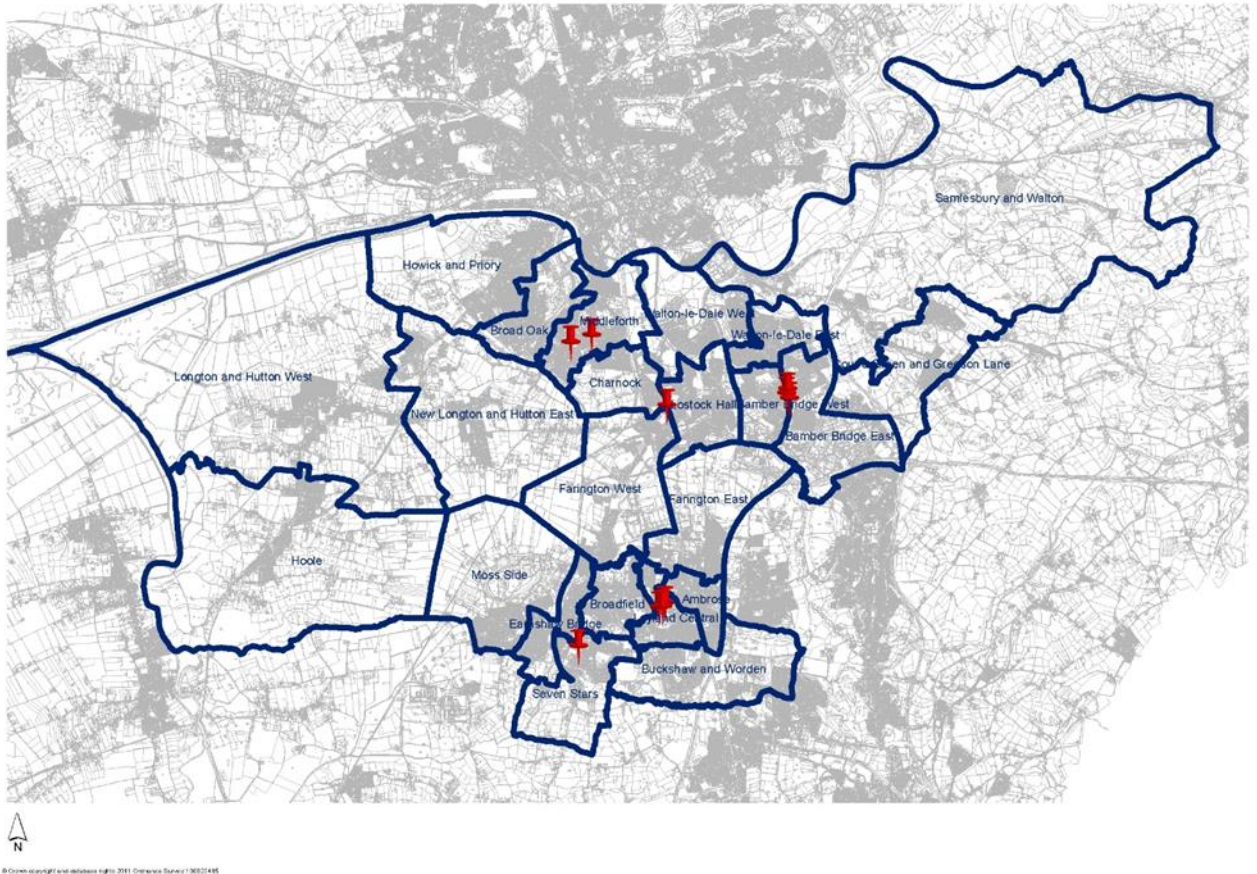


**A change is required to the map to update the local area map to;**

***To be replaced by***

***To be replaced by an updated map produced on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021;***

# Agenda Item 13



## Equality and diversity

12. There are no implications within this report on equality and diversity, as this report is to simply to extend a current licensing policy.

## Risk

13. If the Council fails to implement the Regulations, it may be challenged when exercising its functions.

## Climate change and air quality

14. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

15. No comment.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

16. The duty to review the policy every three years is referred to in the body of the report as well as the consideration of the policy in making determinations under the Gambling Act 2005.

# Agenda Item 13

17. Functions under section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 including approval of the policy are reserved to full Council by virtue of Section 154(2)(c) of the 2005 Act.

## Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

## Appendices

### Background documents

Background Document 1 – Report to Licensing and Public Safety Committee 07/12/2021, is accessible using the below link and can be found at agenda item 5.

<https://southribbleintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=483&Mid=2197&Ver=4>

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Stephanie Newby (Licensing Officer)	stephanie.newby@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625337	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2021

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development (Introduced by the Cabinet Member Planning, Business Support and Regeneration)	Council	Tuesday, 26 January 2022

## Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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### Purpose of the Report

1. Considering the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken between - 9th July 2021 – 20th August 2021, and the approval by the Licensing & Public Safety Committee, this report invites members of the Council to formally adopt the changes to the Taxi Licensing policy following the recommendations from the department for transport's statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

### Recommendations to Council

2. Members are requested to note the contents of the report.
3. Members are requested to formally adopt the agreed proposal following the approval by the Licensing and Public Safety Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### Reasons for recommendations

4. Minor policy amendments are required to the existing policy to meet the implied DFT Statutory Standards. The necessary changes were highlighted in a report taken to committee in June 2021.
5. Within the Statutory Standards guidance document, the introduction to the Standards states that the Department for Transport "expects these recommendations to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to."

### Other options considered and rejected

6. Options available are to;
  - a) Keep the policy as it is and make no changes
  - b) Agree to the changes proposed

# Agenda Item 14

## Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

## Background to the report

8. Section 177 of The Policing and Crime Act 2017 enables the Secretary of State for Transport to issue statutory guidance on exercising taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions to protect children and vulnerable individuals who are over 18 from harm when using these services.
9. The Statutory Standards reflect the significant changes in the industry and lessons learned from experiences in local areas since the 2010 version of the DfT Best Practice Guidance.
10. The focus in these standards is on protecting children and vulnerable adults, but all passengers will benefit from the recommendations in the report.
11. There is consensus that common core minimum standards are required to regulate better, the taxi and private hire vehicle sector across all local authorities.
12. The Standards contains a number of recommendations regarding matters connected to taxi and private hire licensing functions including:
  - Criminality checks for licence holders
  - Working with the Police
  - Sharing information with other licensing authorities
  - Dealing with complaints about drivers and operators
  - Training for Members
  - Criminal convictions and rehabilitation of offenders
  - Safeguarding awareness advice, guidance and training for drivers
  - Language proficiency
  - CCTV in licensed vehicles
  - Regulation of booking and dispatch staff
  - Record keeping
13. The Standards states that the Department for Transport “expects these recommendations to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to.”
14. The standards recommends that all licensing authorities make publicly available a cohesive policy document that brings together all their procedures on taxi and private hire licensing, including the relevance of convictions, a ‘fit and proper person’ test, licence conditions and vehicle standards.
15. The SRBC Taxi Licensing Policy has been in place since 2016. It is available for public inspection via the council’s website.

# Agenda Item 14

16. Since the SRBC Taxi Licensing Policy was first adopted by the Licensing and Public Safety Committee in 2016, various changes and amendments have already been made.
17. With the hard work of officers and members over the last 5 years, the SRBC policy is recognised as a robust and up to date policy, some changes are still required to bring the policy up to the new statutory standards set by the DfT. Those changes can be found between section 27 – 61 of this report.
18. It should be noted with some satisfaction that the authority's current taxi licensing policy overall is broadly compliant with all the DfT recommendations.

## **Previous Licensing and Public Safety Committee meetings**

19. A report highlighting the required changes to policy was presented at committee on 08/06/2021. The report is attached as Background document 1.
20. Following the committee approval to consult stakeholders regarding the changes required, a six-week consultation was conducted from 9th July 2021 – 20th August 2021.

The consultation highlighted the required amendments to our policy and invited feedback from stakeholders.

21. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021, members of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee received a feedback report from the consultation exercise that took place between 9th July 2021 – 20th August 2021 – see background document 2.
22. The officer advised members although the policy was broadly compliant, some amendments were necessary in order for the policy to comply with the implied Statutory Standards DfT. Following consultation, only one response had been received and was all in favour of the changes.
23. Members were advised that CCTV had been omitted from the policy changes and would be reconsidered at a later date as part of its own report, as it did not need to be addressed as part of the DfT changes as a policy for CCTV already existed and is compliant with the standards.
24. The officer advised that training would be provided to members of the committee in the next twelve months and would take into consideration the implications of GDPR.
25. Having received only one consultation response during the consultation period, officers concluded due to the implied statutory nature of the changes needed, this has impacted on the number of responses to the consultation. The one response was in favour of all the changes being added to the policy and had no comments to make.
26. The committee considered the report and recommended the proposed policy changes be referred for decision by full council. Details of that report including the attached consultation response can be found attached as background document 2.

# Agenda Item 14

## **Changes required within the SRBC Taxi Licensing Policy.**

### **Formalisation and adoption of a clear whistleblowing policy, covering the Licensed Taxi Trade.**

27. The Statutory Standards refer to the licensing authority having a robust whistleblowing policy, so that effective internal procedures are in place for staff to raise concerns about the application of the licensing authority's policies and for any concerns to be dealt with openly and fairly.
28. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA), commonly referred to as whistleblowing legislation, provides protection for those that have a reasonable belief of serious wrongdoing, including failure to comply with professional standards, council policies or codes of practice/conduct.
29. Once agreed a section will be made within the taxi licensing page within the council's own website, for drivers to report allegations of illegalities or wrong doings in the taxi/private hire trades regulated by South Ribble Borough Council Licensing.

### **The Disclosure and Barring Service**

30. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) provides access to criminal record information through its disclosure service for England and Wales. The DBS also maintains the lists of individuals barred from working in regulated activity with children or adults.
31. The statutory standards requires licensing authorities to perform update service checks every 6 months. Currently the SRBC Taxi Licensing Policy has no time scales that checks should be performed, but within officers written procedures, requires officers to perform these checks every 12 months on its licenced drivers' records.
32. The Statutory guidance states that Licence holders should be required to notify the issuing authority within 48 hours of an arrest and release, charge or conviction of any sexual offence, any offence involving dishonesty or violence and any motoring offence. An arrest for any of the offences within this scope should result in a review by the issuing authority as to whether the licence holder is fit to continue to do so.
33. The taxi licensing policy currently states that drivers should complete a declaration of convictions every 12 months, to stop any confusion for drivers this statement has been removed out of the proposed policy as drivers are required to report any convictions received anyway within 48 hours.

### **Referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Police**

34. The statutory standards state that *"referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Police In some circumstances it may be appropriate under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 for licensing authorities to make referrals to the DBS."*
35. A decision to refuse or revoke a licence as the individual is thought to present a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, should be referred to the DBS.
36. The power for the licensing authority to make a referral in this context arises from the undertaking of a safeguarding role. Further guidance has been provided by the DBS.

# Agenda Item 14

37. The statutory standards recommends that licensing authorities should make a referral to the DBS when it is thought that:
- an individual has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult;
  - an individual has satisfied the 'harm test' ; or
  - received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence and;
  - the person they are referring is, has or might in future be working in regulated activity;
38. If the above conditions are satisfied, the DBS may consider it appropriate for the person to be added to a barred list. These referrals may result in the person being added to a barred list and enable other licensing authorities to consider this should further applications to other authorities be made. Further information on referrals to DBS is available.

## **CSE Training - County Lines Framework**

39. The current policy states that the type required training is in the form of the online / e-learning training course on Child Sexual Exploitation (2017) run by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board.
40. This training has now been discontinued, and officers have struggled to find an alternative course, that is either to the same standard or isn't too onerous for the level of taxi drivers.
41. Officers have created an alternative training package that is to be used as a temporary fix until an alternative package is found, but this is not an online/ eLearning package, so does not fully comply with the current policy wording.
- This training package contains all the relevant sections that the training provided by Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board provided to an equivalent standard.
42. The Statutory Standards recommend that the licensing authority provide safeguarding advice, guidance and training to drivers which includes 'County Lines' exploitation. Officers have now added the county lines framework to our Driver CSE safeguarding awareness training. This includes further training on such topics as;
- Children and young people travelling in taxis or private hire vehicles alone;
  - travelling at unusual hours (during school time, early in the morning or late at night);
  - travelling long distances;
  - unfamiliar with the local area or do not have a local accent;
  - paying for journeys in cash or prepaid.
43. In response to a member enquiry at the meeting on 07/12/2021, it was confirmed that no suitable alternative CSE training had been found by officers and that neighbouring authority, Chorley Borough Council were also looking for a new package.
44. Training had been found online but this was two hours long aimed at teachers and other professionals in that industry and was not a suitable replacement.

# Agenda Item 14

45. Officers confirmed that the training they had designed, is to the same standard as the previous online training used and has been adapted to include County Lines.

They confirmed that they actually preferred this method as it could be adapted to suit any ongoing current issues.

## **Conviction Policy Amendments.**

46. The Statutory standards recommends to licensing authorities within the annex on page 35 of background document 1, on the assessment of previous convictions in the determination of the suitability of taxi and private hire vehicle licensees.
47. Officers have compared the recommended timescales for each offence to that within this authorities Taxi Licensing policy, whilst broadly compliant, the DfT Recommendations do recommend for some offences a longer period that should elapse after the completion of the sentence imposed:
48. The following changes are required to the taxi licensing policy;
- a) **Possession of a weapon** - Increase from 3 years to 7 Years
  - b) **Drink driving** – Increase from 5 years to 7 years
  - c) **Using mobile phone whilst driving** – Increase from intermediate offence to major traffic offence
  - d) **Dishonesty** – Increase from 5 years to 7 years
  - e) **Exploitation**- Wording added to Policy
  - f) **Discrimination** – Wording added to policy
49. Authorities must consider each case on its own merits, and applicants/licensees are entitled to a fair and impartial consideration of their application.

## **Fit and proper Test**

50. Licensing authorities have a duty to ensure that any person to whom they grant a taxi or private hire vehicle driver's licence is a 'fit and proper' person to be a licensed driver. Since 2016 the taxi licensing policy has used a fit and proper assessment of our licenced drivers both before licenses are issued and for current licenced drivers.

The DFT Statutory standard proposes a slightly different wording for the assessment of drivers to be "fit and proper".

## **Expedited Process, line to be added in policy reflecting badge to be issued for remaining life of licence, for a driver after a successful appeal.**

51. Following a revocation of a licence, should further information be received that alters the balance of probability of a decision previously made. The statutory guidance states that a licensing authority should have an expedited process within its taxi licensing policy, reflecting reissuing the licence for remaining life of licence , for a driver after a successful appeal.
52. New evidence may be produced at an appeal hearing that may result in the court reaching a different decision to that reached by the council or an appeal may be settled by agreement between the licensing authority and the driver on terms which, in the light of new evidence, becomes the appropriate course. If, for example, the

# Agenda Item 14

allegations against a driver were now, on the balance of probability, considered to be unfounded, a suspension could be lifted or, if the licence was revoked, an expedited re-licensing process used.

The Following Wording is proposed to be added to be added to SRBC Taxi Licensing Policy:

*In cases where a driver has successfully won an appeal challenge against a revocation of their Licence through the court procedure and is entitled to drive. The Council will expedite reissuing of the badge for the remaining life of Licence before revocation.*

53. In response to a member enquiry at the meeting on 07/12/202, Members discussed changing the heading to 'Statement of Intent' Officers were open to amending the wording as Members desired. It was agreed to change the wording to 'Expedited Policy Process'.
54. The officer clarified a Member query whether driver's whose license had been revoked could resume work immediately after a successful appeal. The expedited policy would speed that process up. Officers also answered a follow up query by confirming that any in date documentation would be valid for the duration of the licence.

## **Medical change wording**

55. Within the current taxi licensing policy, officers have found a contradiction in the wording between the wording in section "5.6 Medical Fitness" and that within the actual medical form.
56. The taxi licensing policy states that "Medical certificates completed by the driver's own GP are required on first application and then every five years until the driver reaches the age of 65 and thereafter every year.

Whereas the Group 2 Medical Examination Report Form found on page 39 of the taxi licensing policy states - This form is to be completed by the applicant's own General Practitioner (GP) **or any other doctor with FULL ACCESS to applicant's medical records** and is for the confidential use of the Licensing Authority.

57. With changes to technology and medical records now being digitally recorded, drivers medical records can be accessed by any registered General Practitioner, not just the drivers own.
58. Drivers often struggle to obtain appointments with their own GP and officers feel providing the drivers previous medical records are accessed, any GP can perform the medical examination. ( as per the statement within the medical form).

Officers proposed to change the policy wording to match that currently within the Group 2 Medical Examination Report Form.

## **To create a consultation document highlighting who has taken part in the consultation.**

59. Licensing authorities should consult on proposed changes in licensing rules that may have significant impacts on passengers and/or the trade. Currently when significant changes are made, the licensing authority consults the trade and various stakeholders.

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The consultation is also placed on the council's website, so such consultation includes not only the taxi and private hire vehicle trades, but also groups likely to be the trades' customers.

60. Although this is not a policy change, officers thought it necessary to update members of the proposed consultation document to be used going forwards. Please find attached to this report within background document 1, To record who has been consulted, when they have been consulted, and they type of consultation being carried out to be used on all consultations going forward.
61. All new proposed changes to the wording within the taxi licensing policy, to meet the requirements of the above sections, required policy changes can be found attached to the report of 08/06/2021, as background document 1.

## **Proposal**

62. Members of The Council are invited to consider the feedback given from the two previous Licensing and Public Safety Committee's and the consultation exercise.
63. Members are asked to take the decision to formally adopt the proposed changes stated above within this report and the policy wording attached to this report as background document 1, to the South Ribble Borough Council Taxi Licensing Policy.

## **Climate change and air quality**

64. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## **Risk**

65. The Standards states that the Department for Transport "expects these recommendations to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to. If the Council fails to implement the Regulations, it may be challenged when exercising its functions.

## **Equality and diversity**

66. Equality and diversity implications are considered by the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

## **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

67. There are no direct financial implications of this report.

## **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

68. There is a requirement for any changes to the Taxi policy to be approved by Full Council, which is the request for Members to approve

## **Background Documents**

**Background document 1** - Report to Licensing and Public Safety Committee 08/06/2021, is accessible using the below link and can be found at agenda item 66.



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<https://southribbleintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=483&MId=2145&Ver=4>

**Background Document 2** – Report to Licensing and Public Safety Committee 07/12/2021, is accessible using the below link and can be found at agenda item 7.

<https://southribbleintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=483&MId=2197&Ver=4>

## Appendices

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Chris Ward Licensing team leader.	christopher.ward@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625330	07/01/2021

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer(Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform))	Cabinet	Wednesday, 19 January 2022
	Council	Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Is this decision key?	No
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Is this report confidential?	No
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## **Nomination of Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for 2022/2023**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to allow Cabinet to nominate the Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for 2022/2023 (with a view to becoming Mayor 2023/2024) and to put forward a protocol for the selection of future Mayors based on length of service and political rotation to Full Council.

### **Recommendations to Cabinet**

Cabinet agrees:

2. That Councillor David Howarth be nominated as Mayor-elect for 2022-2023.
3. That Deputy Mayor for 2022-2023 be nominated at the meeting with a view to becoming Mayor in 2023-2024.
4. That from 2024-25 the Mayor be nominated on the basis of length of service and being a member of the Conservative Group as outlined in this report.

### **Recommendations to Council**

Council agrees:

5. That Councillor David Howarth be nominated as Mayor-elect for 2022-2023.

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6. That Deputy Mayor for 2022-2023 be nominated at the meeting, following Cabinet, with a view to becoming Mayor in 2023-2024.
7. That from 2024-25 the Mayor be nominated on the basis of length of service and being a member of the Conservative Group as outlined in this report.

## Reasons for recommendations

8. To ensure that the Mayor is appointed by the Council for the next municipal year.

## Other options considered and rejected

9. Not applicable as legally we must appoint a Mayor to chair council meetings and undertake the required duties within the Council's constitution.

## Corporate priorities

10. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

<b>An exemplary council</b>	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

## Background to the report

11. Each year Cabinet nominates to Council the Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for the following municipal year (May to May).
12. Traditionally the Deputy Mayor becomes Mayor-elect is nominated and a new Deputy Mayor-election is nominated.

## Nomination of Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect

13. It is proposed that Councillor David Howarth be nominated as Mayor-elect for the 2022-2023 municipal year.
14. The nomination for Deputy Mayor-elect for 2022-2023 with a view to becoming Mayor-elect from 2023-2024, subject to the council elections, will be put forward at the meeting.

## Protocol for selecting nominations for Mayor

15. Over recent years there has been some discussion about how best to select nominations to become Mayor with a number of informal mechanisms used previously.

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16. As the Mayor must be politically impartial in their role it is felt that a more objective way of selecting nominations for Mayor be adopted for the Deputy Mayor appointment in 2023/2024 with a view to them being Mayor for 2024-2025.
17. It is proposed that the nomination for Mayor be based on the number of years of service as a Member of the Council and that this be by rotation across the political groups on the Council.
18. In practice this would mean that the Mayor for 2024-2025 would be from the Conservative Group and in subsequent years rotated around the other political groups in the order of the number of seats held at that time.
19. A list of Members who have not yet served as Mayor in the order of their length of service is attached at Appendix 1.
20. The existing practice of Deputy Mayor becoming Mayor would continue and a Member may only serve as Mayor once.
21. The Member may opt to decline the offer of Mayor. Where this is the case, the Member declining the role will be kept on the list in order of length of service and will be re-considered the following time it is that political group's turn to nominate.
22. Neither the Leader or any Cabinet Member can be elected as Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
23. Where a member may have joined the Council at the same election as another Member and shares the same number of years of service, the offer will be decided in alphabetical order of their surname.
24. Those nominated will be reminded of the importance of the Mayoralty being politically impartial, the time commitment required and maintaining high ethical standards in upholding the Council's constitution and code of conduct.

## **Climate change and air quality**

25. The proposals in this report do not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's green agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

## **Equality and diversity**

26. The proposed protocol for making nominations for Mayor provides a more objective approach and therefore promotes greater equality of opportunity.

## **Risk**

27. There are no risks as a result of this report.

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## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

28. There are no financial implications as a result of this report as the costs associated with the Mayoralty are already included within the Council's budgets.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

29. This report meets statutory and constitutional requirements.

## Background documents

There are none.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of Members who have not yet served as Mayor in the order of their length of service.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Shared Services Lead - Democratic, Scrutiny & Electoral Services	dcranshaw@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625512	18/12/21

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## Appendix 1

### List of Members who have not yet served as Mayor in the order of their length of service on the Council

<b>Dated Elected to the Council (including any broken service)</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>
4 May 1995 ( <i>broken 3 May 2007 to 6 May 2011</i> )	Evans, Bill
4 May 1995 ( <i>broken 3 May 2007 to 2 May 2013</i> )	Howarth, David
6 May 1999 ( <i>broken 3 May 2007 to 6 May 2011</i> )	Forrest, Derek
1 May 2003	Coulton, Colin
1 May 2003	Green, Michael
1 May 2003	Mullineaux, Peter
3 May 2007	Foster, Paul
3 May 2007	Smith, Phil
1 May 2003 ( <i>broken 3 May 2007 to 13 October 2011</i> )	Higgins, Mick
16 Mar 2017 ( <i>broken 10 May 2011 to 15 March 2017</i> )	Chisholm, Carol
3 May 2007 ( <i>broken 6 May 2011 to 2 May 2013</i> )	Ogilvie, Alan
4 June 2009	Tomlinson, Caleb
6 May 2010	Moon, Caroline
3 May 2007 ( <i>broken 7 May 2011 to 5 May 2015</i> )	Blow, Renee
5 May 2011	Jones, Susan
5 May 2011	Martin, Keith
5 May 2011	Mort, Jacqueline
4 May 1995 ( <i>broken 5 May 1999 to May 2019</i> )	Wooldridge, Carol
1 May 2003 ( <i>broken 3 May 2007 to 7 May 2019</i> )	Shaw, David
7 May 2015	Walton, Karen
7 May 2015	Watkinson, Ian

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<b>Dated Elected to the Council (including any broken service)</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>
7 May 2015	Wharton-Hardman, Paul
5 May 2016	Donoghue, Mal
3 May 2007 ( <i>broken 4 May 2011 to 6 May 2021</i> )	Buttery, Julie
7 May 2019	Adams, Will
7 May 2019	Alty, Jacky
7 May 2019	Bretherton, Damian
7 May 2019	Bylinski Gelder, Aniela
7 May 2019	Campbell, Matt
7 May 2019	Flannery, James
7 May 2019	Lomax, Chris
7 May 2019	Sharples, Colin
7 May 2019	Thurlbourn, Stephen
7 May 2019	Trafford, Matthew
7 May 2019	Turner, Angela
23 October 2019	Watson, Gareth
6 May 2021	Unsworth, Kath
18 November 2021	Hunter, Clare



Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Leader of the Council)	Council	Wednesday, 26 January 2022

## Greater Lancashire Deal

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Not applicable

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Full Council with an update on work undertaken towards development of strengthened joint working, a long term strategic plan and a County Deal for the Lancashire area and seek agreement to progress this work.

### Recommendations to Council

2. Support the outline "Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire" at Appendix 1 as the initial draft basis for further discussion and development of a possible County Deal for the Lancashire area;
3. Agree the principles of governance as set out in Appendix 2 for any future deal; an
4. Agree that the Leader of the Council continues to work with Lancashire Leaders in line with the principles agreed in recommendations 1 & 2 above, and note that any formal proposals will require approval by Full Council at the appropriate time.

### Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

<b>An exemplary council</b>	<b>Thriving communities</b>
<b>A fair local economy that works for everyone</b>	<b>Good homes, green spaces, healthy places</b>

### Background to the report

6. The attached report is being considered by the Full Council of each of the fifteen local authorities in Lancashire, that is, the county council, two unitary authorities and each of the 12 district councils.

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7. The intention is that this report sets out the general principles and high level priorities of a long term strategic plan and County Deal. As progress is made, more details about specific asks will be developed, and there will be opportunities for all of the partner authorities to contribute to and influence that, including identifying specific schemes and activities.
8. Full Council is asked to consider the report and the recommendations set out above

## Introduction

9. Lancashire has a rich heritage, it is a diverse county which has opportunities for all and is home to globally leading firms and nationally significant assets. Its thriving £34bn economy was growing rapidly prior to the pandemic with the 4<sup>th</sup> largest aerospace cluster in the world helping achieve significant productivity gains. With a population of 1.5m people, Lancashire's 54,000 businesses generate 749,000 jobs across a range of important and emerging sectors from manufacturing and hospitality to cyber, digital and low carbon. A place of amazing beauty, its natural assets support the economy and workforce as well as providing a thriving tourism destination for visitors and an opportunity to support net zero and cleaner energy ambitions.
10. Local government arrangements in Lancashire are complex with a county council, two unitary authorities and 12 district councils. However, over the last two years, the context of a global emergency response has created a platform to empower Leaders of all the 15 local authorities in Lancashire to strengthen relationships and partnerships with wider stakeholders. Whilst the pandemic has generated significant, bespoke impacts in Lancashire that have exacerbated longer-term underlying structural issues and inequalities, Leaders are using this foundation as a basis for recovery and to drive forward economic growth.
11. With a robust evidence base and utilising the strong local knowledge of elected representatives, Leaders are developing a vision and ambition for the future of Lancashire looking ahead to 2050 to recover, grow and decarbonise the economy, improving the place and the life opportunities of its people. Their plans to achieve this will not only realise opportunities for Lancashire and UK plc but in doing so, help address many of the structural deficits and level up across the county.
12. With the government's much-anticipated levelling up White Paper on the horizon, the time is right for Lancashire to move forward together with a collective voice to make the case for more powers and investment for all of Lancashire.
13. Leaders have identified that the work is now at a stage where it is important to secure the engagement and support of all members. This report is therefore being presented to all fifteen local authorities.
14. This report covers:
15. **Lancashire 2050**, which sets out the headline themes which could be included in a long term strategic plan and ambition for Greater Lancashire.

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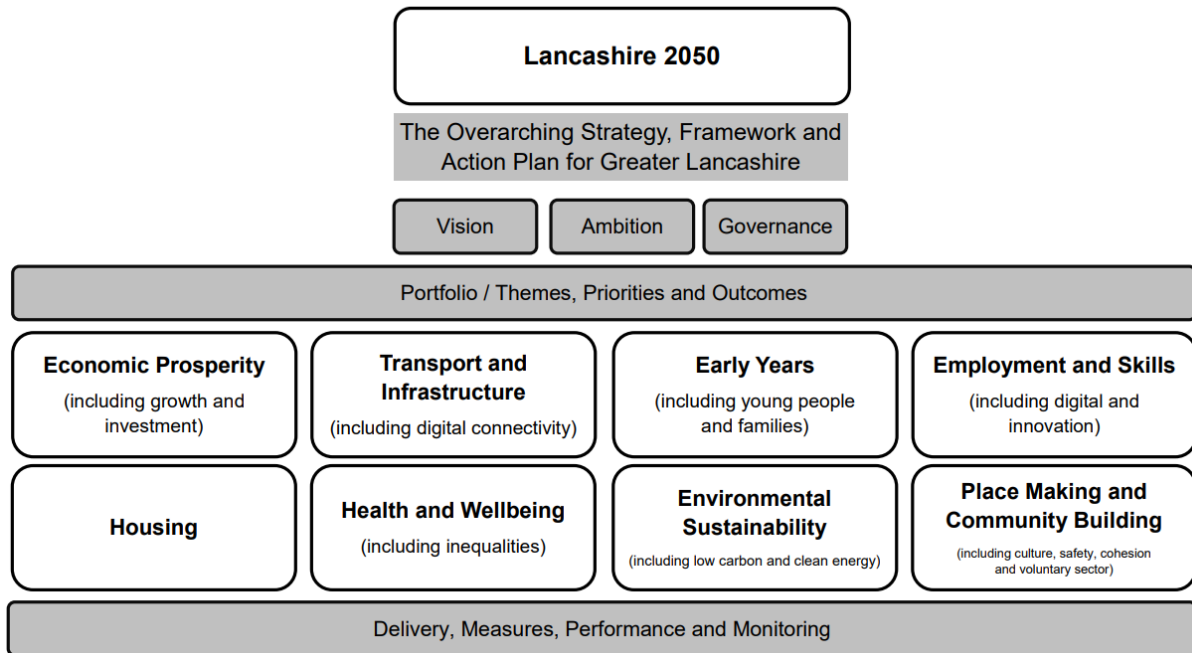
16. **Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire**, which sets out an initial scope and is a first phase of work that could begin to frame a set of devolution asks as part of a County Deal.
17. **Governance**, which sets out information about the governance options to oversee the long-term plan and deliver the deal, and the principles agreed by Leaders for any governance arrangements.
18. It is important to note that the government's anticipated Levelling Up White Paper will influence to a large extent the shape and substance of a County Deal that Lancashire authorities will be able to pursue. The information, advice and proposals in this paper may therefore, need to change to reflect the white paper. This report and recommendations seek to position Lancashire so it is better placed to commence early County Deal discussions with Government.

## Developing a Lancashire Plan

19. Significant work has taken place across Lancashire to gather evidence that will shape an overarching vision, strategy and plan for the whole of 'Greater Lancashire'. This work has helped inform the scale of ambition and the development of robust key priorities within the scope of what Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire could look like, together with the governance principles described in this report.
20. Once fully developed and adopted, in tandem with a devolution deal, Lancashire's overarching strategic plan will be forward looking and take a long term view, setting the vision and ambition over a 20-30 year period. Approaching this strategic framework in this way will ensure that the scope of Lancashire's devolution proposals addresses both the immediate priorities and longer term ambitions.
21. Hence, an overarching strategic plan that looks to Lancashire in 2050, would need to describe a broader ambition beyond the immediate priorities framed by the four themes set out within the scope for Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire [at Appendix 1]. Developing the strategy and priorities this way also ensures that policy areas overlap to tackle cross cutting opportunities such as skills, health and the environment, avoiding any unintentional policy silos. For example, tackling priorities that are currently included in the devolution scope around early years, housing quality, employment and skills, will also address some of the wider determinants of poor health as part of a longer term ambition for Lancashire, even though health priorities are yet to be agreed and fully set out working with our partners in the NHS through the Lancashire and South Cumbria integrated health and care system.
22. As a result, in addition to the four themes identified within Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire, additional policy areas within the Lancashire 2050 strategic plan could include themes such as health (including inequalities, improvement and wellbeing) and community building (including crime and public safety), see Diagram 1 below. Work to shape and consult on Lancashire 2050 will continue in tandem with work on Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire over the coming months and report through to Leaders and Councils and ultimately through any new governance arrangements adopted.

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Diagram 1 Lancashire Plan Scope Illustration



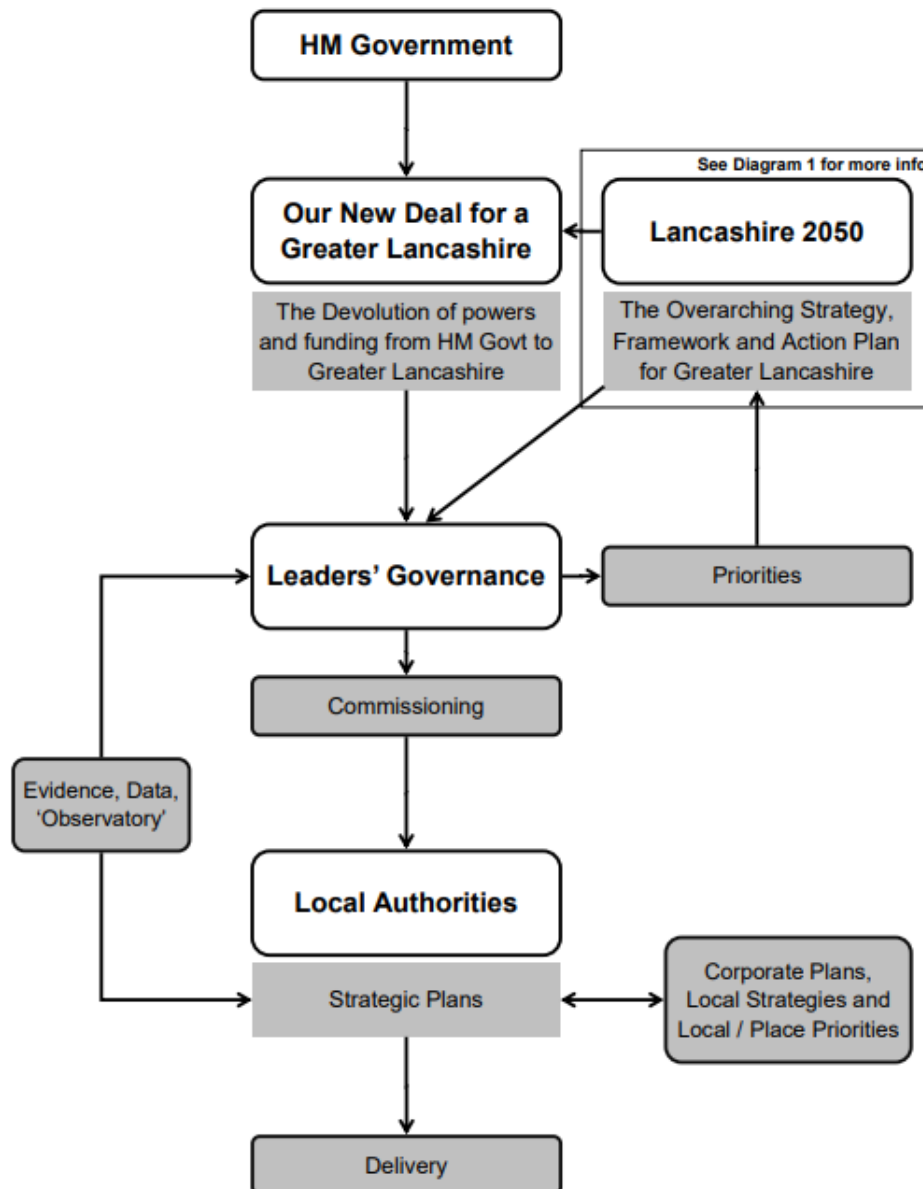
## Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire (Appendix 1)

23. With a long term strategic plan in place, our ask of government through a county deal, would be for the devolved powers, flexibilities and funding to accelerate the delivery of the immediate priorities set out in the plan, see Diagram 2 below. Based on the experience of other areas which have secured devolution deals, our ask could be in the order of say £5bn investment into the wider Lancashire area to address local needs and priorities as determined by and in Lancashire over the next 5-10 years. This would be across four core themes of:

- Economic growth and investment
- Transport, connectivity and infrastructure
- Early years, education, adult skills and employment
- Environment, climate change and housing quality

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Diagram 2 Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire Illustration



## Next Steps

24. In order for Lancashire to move forward with a strong collective voice, the engagement and support of all councils will be extremely important. This will give Leaders a mandate to collectively move forward on the issues set out in this report, and to engage with government to develop and deliver a great deal for Lancashire, for presentation back to each Full Council in Lancashire to consider and decide.

## Climate change and air quality

25. At this time the work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability.

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## Equality and diversity

26. As this report addressed the delivery of council services there are likely to be Equality Act implications at later stages. At this time however, the report seeks agreement to principles and the continued investigation of the proposal at the attached appendix. There are no direct implications for the Equality Act in this decision, consideration of equality and diversity obligations will form part of the future discussions and members will be advised at that time of the implications.

## Risk

27. At this time the main risk is loss of opportunity should this proposal not be pursued. The benefits of investigating, progressing and ultimately delivering a Greater Lancashire are detailed in the report and appendix. Failure to deliver this will put opportunities for central government devolution of powers at risk.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

28. The report sets out the general principles and high level priorities of a long term strategic plan and County Deal for Lancashire and as such, there are no specific financial implications arising from the report, although it is anticipated that with a long term strategic plan in place, the 'ask' from government through a county deal, would be for funding to accelerate the delivery of the immediate priorities outlined in the plan. Based on the devolution deals secured in other areas, this could be in the order of around £5bn investment into the wider Lancashire area.

29. As progress is made, more details about specific asks will be developed, with opportunities for all of the partner authorities to contribute to and influence these, including identifying specific schemes and activities; any formal proposals, including any associated financial implications for South Ribble BC, would require approval by Full Council at the appropriate time.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

30. Given that decision at this point is to seek agreement to principles for the establishment of Greater Lancashire and for the Leader of the council to continue negotiations and discussions on behalf to the Council, there are no real legal implications. The proposed governance arrangements will require further development but are a sound framework on which to build.

## Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Initial Scope

Appendix 2 – Governance

Appendix 3 – Presentation slides

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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Gary Hall (Chief Executive)	<a href="mailto:gary.hall@southribble.gov.uk">gary.hall@southribble.gov.uk</a>	01772 625625	12 January 2022
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## **Initial Scope of Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire**

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### **Purpose**

This document sets out an initial scope and is a first phase of work that could begin to frame a set of devolution asks as part of Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire – through which potential powers and responsibilities would be devolved to Lancashire from Government – in order to support delivery of Lancashire's overarching strategic plan (Lancashire 2050). The initial scope of the deal is focused on the key priorities agreed by Leaders, having considered the available evidence, on four key themes which require devolution from Government:

- economic growth and investment
- transport, connectivity, and infrastructure
- early years, education, adult skills, and employment; and
- environment, climate change and housing quality.

Within each theme, initial funding asks have been identified varying from single figures to suggested multi-year settlements over a range of time periods. **The total indicative value of the request of Government for these initial proposals is in the order of £5.6billion over a seven year period.**

### **Theme 1 - Economic Growth and Investment**

#### **Overview**

The scale and importance of the Lancashire economy cannot be overstated, being the second largest in the North West behind only Greater Manchester. A thriving Lancashire remains one of the pre-requisites to a successful economy in the North of England. It is a location which can continue to build on existing clusters of excellence, whilst embracing the opportunity offered by new and emerging technologies and challenges such as cyber, low carbon and clean energy.

The focus of our work will be to ensure that proposals are aligned to supporting fast and sustainable economic recovery and onwards to long-term growth. It will focus on protecting existing employment and economic activity, whilst also driving up productivity, accelerating the commercialisation of low carbon technologies and seeking out new opportunities through stimulating innovation and developing collaborative partnerships. Climate action and mitigation will be key in relation to reducing energy emissions from housing and driving up technological skills. The future role of our towns will also be key and the part they play as places to live, work, study and innovate, consume, and visit. In doing so, this will help to reverse the major impacts of the pandemic on the Lancashire economy, its employers, its workforce and address the wider determinants of health across the communities in which they live.

#### **Strategic objective:**

**To strengthen, grow and diversify our economy to extend the existing pockets of UK leading productivity across Lancashire as a whole and maximise the value of our people, land, and business assets. We will deliver growth through investment and manufacturing/innovation accelerators in town centres and local economies, unlocking strategic sites and focusing on jobs, skills, low carbon, health innovations, clean energy, and renewables, maximising our assets and strengths in manufacturing, cyber, digital, and the visitor economy.**

## Appendix 1

**The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Economic Development and Investment theme is in the order of £200million per annum.**

### **Theme 2 - Transport, Connectivity and Infrastructure**

#### **Overview**

Lancashire's economic geography is complex and spatially polycentric. Connectivity - both physical and digital - is unequally distributed and under-provided. This is holding back Lancashire's full potential and that of the North as a whole. There are compelling reasons to want to improve both East-West and digital connectivity in Lancashire to tackle some of the worst climate, health and socioeconomic outcomes; provide employers with a larger pool of workers to draw from, enabling the development of more highly specialised sectors, increasing productivity through agglomeration; and integrating Lancashire's divided economy into one.

Strategically positioned between the rural areas of Cumbria and Pennines and the major cities of Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool, Lancashire's best transport connectivity runs North-South, but most people live East-West in a central corridor stretching from Pendle and the Yorkshire borders to Blackpool and the coastal economies. Improving links East-West across the county allows residents to access the major North-South connections more easily maximising opportunities such as high speed rail (HS2). The focus for these links will include bus, renewables-powered electric heavy and light rail, and active travel (walking and cycling).

Lancashire is 80% rural and does not have one major settlement which everywhere looks towards. Rather it has groupings of small cities, large towns and freestanding medium-sized towns within urban areas. Those urban areas are better served by digital connectivity. Improved digital connectivity will support the people, businesses, rural and coastal economies and associated natural environment to achieve their significant economic potential, help level up health and wider inequalities and achieve demanding environmental ambitions.

Furthermore, aligning investment in transport and digital infrastructure and utilities with investment in major development and strategic priorities will unlock the economic potential of Lancashire. The high-speed digital cable into Blackpool; the Pennine Industrial District connected by the M65 Manufacturing Corridor; and strategic road and rail connections including cross borders to the major cities of Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool, will maximise potential across Lancashire and the north as a whole.

#### **Strategic objective:**

**To level up transport infrastructure along the east-west growth corridor and connect people, business, jobs, education, and investment through improved transport supported by active travel, bus, cycling and walking and full fibre broadband unlocking major development and employment investment**

**The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Transport, Connectivity and Infrastructure theme is in the order of £150million per annum.**

### **Theme 3 - Early Years, Education, Adult Skills and Employment Workstream**

#### **Overview**

## Appendix 1

Skills investment is arguably one of the most important priorities for the country (and county) to level up – creating places attractive to higher productivity businesses and increasing social mobility and improving life chances, health outcomes and opportunity for all Lancashire's 1.5million residents.

Through skilling up the population, Lancashire aims to build a talent pipeline aligned with the needs of the economy, enhancing productivity, tackling climate change and, by connecting the workforce to good quality jobs, open up opportunities for career progression, higher wages and improved standards of living. This theme will cover an increased focus on preparing children in the early years of life (0-5) for school readiness as well as focusing on upskilling and improving outcomes for young people and adults (post 16) and those in their working years. This will include working with businesses to improve skills utilisation, job quality, wages, and recruitment.

Most places in Lancashire have a very low skills base with 23% of residents with either no qualifications or NVQ1 qualifications and there is a major skills deficit at NVQ Level 4 when compared with the North West and UK averages.

### **Strategic objective:**

**To increase focus on preparing children in the early years of life (0-5) for school readiness and to 'level up' the skills of the working age population, by ensuring that Lancashire residents are able to effectively access high quality skills provision and compete for employment opportunities which enables them to secure a higher quality of life and maximise the existing and emerging strengths in Lancashire's economy including climate change, clean energy, cyber, digital and data.**

**The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Early Years, Education, Adult Skills and Employment theme is in the order of £260million per annum.**

## **Theme 4 – Environment, Climate Change, and Housing Quality**

### **Overview**

Tackling climate change and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions is one of the biggest challenges facing our society and significant action is needed across Lancashire to achieve government targets set to reach net zero by 2050. Working together will improve the resilience of Lancashire to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, on communities, businesses and the wider economy. There is a need for locally led, place-based approach to energy solutions such as decarbonising heating systems, improving energy efficiency and local renewable electricity generation to meet current and future growth needs. Much of Lancashire's housing stock falls severely below standards and is energy inefficient – domestic gas is the second biggest contributor to emissions in Lancashire, after transport. Beyond the environmental and health benefits of reducing emissions, there are significant economic opportunities locally and nationally in the transition to low carbon energy technologies with growth in new high-value industries and more productive, higher paid jobs.

Very poor housing quality is a prominent feature of many of Lancashire's urban centres with some areas having significant volumes of stock over 120 years old and others having very low volumes of houses built to more modern quality standards over the last 20 years. Poor quality and condition including cold, damp and energy inefficient housing, contributes to high CO2 emissions and fuel poverty. This poor-quality housing – typically older, private sector rented stock – plays a crucial role in driving some of the worst health outcomes in England and plays a key role in constraining efforts to regenerate the county's most deprived places. Existing powers are not effective in delivering strategic change and reversing cycles of decline.

## Appendix 1

Intervention in these areas of chronic housing failure will create a platform for better social outcomes, supporting regeneration and economic growth. Benefits include the creation of new jobs, skills and training in construction as well as tackling climate change through installation of cooling and heating systems and mitigating future risks from increased flooding. Improving the quality of housing stock will help to provide residents with attractive, spacious, appropriately heated homes with affordable bills, which are better adapted for life long living. In turn, this will contribute to the strength of the workforce and health of the population as a whole. Devolution presents an opportunity to bring forward new powers and resource that can tackle the challenges and create more balanced, better-quality housing that can stabilise and transform lives in the areas of greatest opportunity in Lancashire.

### **Strategic Objective:**

**To level up green action and investment in Lancashire to achieve our pathway to net zero carbon emissions, protecting our natural environment and neighbourhoods, investing in carbon reduction measures and transforming housing quality. This will include a specific focus on developing a skilled workforce and business supply chain, delivering large programmes to drive improvements in the energy efficiency and quality of homes.**

**The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Environment, Climate Change, and Housing theme is in the order of £200million per annum.**

## Appendix 2

### **Governance**

The governance structures for delivering the strategic plan priorities and accelerating that delivery through a County Deal would need to be designed with two aims in mind:

- to create the best arrangements to deliver the priorities within the strategic plan and the Deal itself
- to ensure decisions are made democratically and with all partners having an equal voice.

To this end, Leaders have agreed a set of core principles which should be applied in the establishment of any governance arrangements for joint working and delivering a County Deal. The principles set out below will form the basis of a negotiation with Government including the implications of any white paper:

- Lancashire authorities do not collectively support a Mayoral Combined Authority or local government reform
- Each authority would be represented on the decision making body by their Leader
- Each authority's current services, including statutory functions and discretionary services would not be included in any county deal arrangement without the express agreement of that authority
- The voting principle is one council, one vote, with a two thirds majority required for any proposal
- Each council will have a veto if any proposal is in their area, if their money is required or if they can reasonably demonstrate that it is reasonably likely to have a material impact on their area unless there are special circumstances to proceed (e.g. policy, legal, public safety reasons).
- Individual councils will have the right to leave the Deal and the decision making body arrangements
- It would initially be chaired by Lancashire County Council which will also act as the accountable body (under some governance models an Accountable Body may not be necessary)

Initial discussions with Leaders have started to consider a range of possible options for more formal joint working and to govern the delivery of a devolution framework and a county deal. A number of options are being explored, including joint committees, statutory boards, non-statutory boards, a local authority owned company and other informal working arrangements. This may also be largely dependent on the contents of the White Paper and any specifications it makes for the governance of County Deals.

Whatever the arrangements identified as best suited to the Lancashire area, each individual Local Authority's Full Council would need to give approval to its participation

As the governance arrangements are developed further, a number of important issues will need to be addressed, such as managing possible conflicts of interest, providing indemnities to members against liabilities, borrowing and funding arrangements and the detail of meeting processes. Each governance model option may require different solutions to these kinds of issues. A representative working group of officers including several Monitoring Officers has already begun work on these issues.

### **Resources**

As progress is made, consideration will need to be given by Leaders and councils to support and resource options to manage and deliver any agreed plan and Deal. Local Authorities will

## Appendix 2

need consider a fair way for each partner authority to contribute. It is also the intention to seek capacity funding from Government as part of the negotiation process for a new Deal.

# Our New Deal for a **Greater Lancashire**

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## Why are we doing this?

- Lancashire deserves its place at the table
- Lancashire should not be left behind
- Lancashire has a vision
- The time is now to bring this forward

## What are we proposing?

- A new governance arrangement
- A bold and clear set of proposals that will see powers and funding devolved to Lancashire around four themes:
  - **Economic growth**
  - **Transport**
  - **Education and skills**
  - **The environment**
- Substantial additional funding to deliver our themes





## What are the new proposed governance arrangements?

- Any body must adhere to a clear set of agreed principles.
- A range of options are being actively considered.
- If councils agree to develop proposals, the informal leaders' meetings will become a Leaders County Deal Working Group to negotiate with government and develop governance proposals further

## What this is not

- **Not** about one area having a bigger voice than others
- **Not** about merging or abolishing councils
- **Not** about imposing a specific model of governance
- **Not** about reducing local decision-making



## Next steps

- White Paper
- **Members will have their say – the proposals are subject to agreement at full council**
- If agreed, we could have a New Deal for Lancashire in 18 months' time



# Agenda Item 17

MOTION TO COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY, 26th JANUARY, 2022

5G Masts and Associated Equipment.

This council notes the current roll out of 5G broadband telecommunications masts and accompanying base stations into residential areas to a height of twenty metres in respect of on-street poles, and dimensions in excess of two metres in height and width for accompanying on-street base stations. Council further notes the potential for poles to increase in size to 30 metres where the applicants may deem it necessary.

Council therefore expresses its concerns in line with numerous other local authorities both locally and nationally, that amendments to the General Permitted Development Order 2015 allows telecommunications companies to install any structure to any height on the public highway under permitted development, thereby removing the rights of objection from local residents directly contradicting the localities agenda.

Council is further concerned that despite the adverse impact on the amenity of local residents and the street scene, the National Planning Policy Framework places an unreasonable expectation on planning authorities to approve such applications and the propensity for any appeal against refusal to favour the applicants, removing all rights of reply from those who will be affected the most.

This council therefore calls on the Government to bring the siting of all telecommunications equipment back under planning control, and require full planning permission for all telecommunications masts in residential areas regardless of their height, enabling residents and communities to have a say in decisions which directly impact upon them.

Council therefore resolves to-

Write to our local Members of Parliament to seek their support, and to Michael Gove the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge that planning legislation is amended accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor Angela Turner.

Seconded by Councillor David Howarth.

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# Agenda Item 21

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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