

30 March 2016

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (TOURISM, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOBS) –  
COUNCILLOR GILLIAN CAMPBELL**

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The Places area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Fred Jackson (Municipal Assets),
- Councillor Mark Smith (Business and Economic Development) and
- Councillor Wright (Housing, Procurement and Income Generation).

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

## Corporate Issues

### Contracts and Procurement

Contract awards made since the last meeting are detailed below:

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Location)	CONTRACT VALUE
BCH Adaptations	Lot 1 – Bambers – Blackpool, Upholland - Skelmersdale, Sovini – Bootle. Lot 2 – Bambers – Blackpool, Upholland Skelmersdale, Eric Wright – Preston.	£650,000
In- patient Detox and Residential Rehab	Various – Acorn, ADS, ARCH, CAIS, Delphi, GMW, Harvey House, Holgate House, Mersey Care, Oasis, Salus, THOMAS, Turning Point.	Call off
Lift Maintenance	Knowsley Lifts – Liverpool	£320,000

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>PROVIDER (Location)</b>	<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>
Council Tax/ NNDR – Enforcement Agents and Property Inspection Services	Phoenix Commercial Collections – Bolton	The supplier generates income by applying a legislative charge to the debtors.
Ad Hoc Waste Removal	Fylde Environmental Services – Blackpool 3D Environmental Ltd – Preston	Approx. £15,000-£30,000
Squires Gate Bridge Repairs	Murphy’s - Leeds	£1,500,000
Bridges – Gas Works Subway	AE Yates - Bolton	£276,296
BOC/ BHC Auditors	Smith Craven – Doncaster	£19,445
Removal and Disposal of Batteries	Recycling Lives – Preston	Income generation of approx. £7,000
Rubble/Hard-core removal	Blackpool Skip Hire – Blackpool	£9,900

### **Queens Park Development**

Preparations for the demolition by implosion of the three remaining tower blocks at Queens Park in May 2016 are now underway. This event will dramatically change the skyline of Blackpool and enable the completion of the Queens Park re-development through the construction of a further 99 high quality homes. Most of these new homes will be much needed two, three and four bedroom family houses for affordable rent. Consultation with residents in the immediate area is starting now so that people know the arrangements for moving to safe observation points while the demolition takes place. The last new homes will be completed by March 2018.

### **Princess Street Bridge**

The Council was successful in acquiring capital funding in excess of £11m in 2015 for the repair and reconstruction of ten bridges within the town, from Challenge and Growth Funding streams.

The first bridge on the programme is Princess Street bridge. Work to replace the bridge was completed ahead of schedule with both Princess Street and Seaside Way re-opening to traffic

on 17 March prior to the Easter Bank Holidays and completed within the £1.3m budget. The next bridge on the programme is Plymouth Road bridge, which the works programme is being scoped and developed with Network Rail and due for replacement in 2017.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Public Space Protection Order**

In October 2014, the Government implemented the Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014. The purpose of the Act is to give local authorities and the police more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), providing better protection of victims.

Amongst these new tools is the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO), which are designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space.

The Council embarked on a PSPO public consultation exercise from 15 June to 31 August 2015 regarding PSPO's in relation to the Town Centre and Parks.

In relation to the Town Centre, PSPO's are now in place with the Executive agreeing on 7 March 2016 the PSPO for parks and open spaces within Blackpool.

A total of 1,062 responses were received from the public and the new PSPO for parks covers the following:

- Engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour, Vandalism, or Causing Harassment, Alarm or Distress;
- Consumption of Alcohol in a public place;
- The use of Psychoactive Substances; and
- Carrying out Regulated Activities without permission.

### **Public Space Protection Order- Dog Exclusion**

A public Space Protection Order (PSOP) is going through a public consultation process to prohibit dogs from all areas of beach between the north side of South Pier and the south side of the steps opposite the Solaris Centre and all areas between the slipway opposite Duchess Drive Bispham and the steps opposite Sandhurst Avenue Bispham, between 1 May and 30 September in each year.

The prohibition of dogs from these areas would facilitate the award of Blue Flag status at Blackpool South bathing water and a Seaside award at Bispham bathing water. This status and award are given in recognition, by independent organisations, of a standard of cleanliness and safety. If dogs are allowed in the proposed areas, these standards will not be achieved to the detriment of other beach uses, as the standards will not be met.

### **Litter Campaign with Keep Britain Tidy**

The Keep Britain Tidy organisation is currently working with us in consulting with businesses and residents alike regarding views and issues in relation to litter, in order to develop a more robust plan to tackle the problem.

Key areas of focus will be businesses, residents and visitors, with opportunities for businesses to sign up to the campaign, encourage residents to take more ownership and be part of doing the right thing in their neighbourhoods and a campaign to encourage and stop visitors from dropping litter. The plan will be launched in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy in April 2016.

### **Highways**

Hornby Road and Coronation Street will be made two-way to make it easier for drivers to reach the Town Centre in particular the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre and associated car parks, the work is scheduled to take place between May and June 2016.

### **Brownfield Register Pilot Project 2016**

The Government considers that brownfield (previously developed) land has an important role to play in meeting the country's need for new homes and has made a commitment to introduce local brownfield registers and ensure that 90% of suitable brownfield sites have planning permission for housing by 2020. Through the Housing and Planning Bill and secondary legislation, the Government intends to require local planning authorities to compile and maintain a register of brownfield land suitable for housing within their area, which if enacted is likely to take effect early 2017.

In January 2016, Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) invited Local Authorities in England to apply for a £10,000 grant to pilot a brownfield register. Blackpool submitted a successful bid in February (one of 36) to be part of the pilot scheme. The Government considers that brownfield registers will improve the quality, availability and transparency of information on brownfield sites that are suitable for housing and provide certainty for communities and other interested parties, encouraging investment in local areas. The grant funding of £10,000 for each authority is to assist in preparing and publishing a pilot brownfield register ahead of the statutory requirement to do so. Throughout the pilot process, authorities are expected to share best practice and feedback ideas to inform secondary legislation and guidance on brownfield registers. The expectation is that pilot brownfield registers should be published locally by the end of June 2016.

### **Policy Issues**

#### **Licensing Services**

Since the last Council meeting, the Licensing Committee has considered a number of policies either in their final form or as a draft, prior to consultation. A review of the Statement of Gambling Policy has been undertaken and a revised policy will now go out to consultation. Also

agreed to go forward for consultation is the 'Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy', which also took into account the recommendations from the scrutiny review.

Having received and considered consultation responses a revised 'Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy' was also agreed to be referred to the Executive for adoption.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Street Lighting/ Traffic Signals**

The PFI Street Lighting/ Traffic Signals contract has been refinanced at the end of January 2016, securing Council savings in the region of £3m over the remaining 19-year term of the contract. The new funders are SMBC and Nord LB Banks. The Department for Transport (sponsoring department) and HM Treasury supported the refinancing project.

### **Council website and Channel Shift**

The development of the Council website and channel shift programme is progressing well. The layout and the navigation have been updated in line with best practices. The website is now much more responsive and friendly to mobile devices and tablets. We are seeing a marked increase in traffic from mobile devices and tablets, with 40% of all traffic now coming from such devices. A recent analysis of some of the channel shift work has been awarded the top four-star rating by SOCITM.

The Channel Shift Working Group has now successfully moved a number of services on line including "missed bin reports", "bulky matters" and "report fly tipping". Over 48% of bulky item removal bookings were made on-line in December 2015. During a recent external assessment, the Council's on line missed bin web pages and online process was awarded four stars (the highest mark).

### **Keep Britain Tidy National Awards.**

The Council's Waste Services Team was named as Environmental Team of the year 2016 at the annual Keep Britain Tidy awards held in Birmingham recently, recognising their innovative works in cleaning up the environment and recycling initiatives.

In particular, praise was given for work with the Third Sector, which is helping to make it easier for people to recycle, waste going directly back into the community for use for use and training programmes and initiatives related to recycling.

### **New Grant Investment in Libraries and Arts Services**

Blackpool's popular festival of literature and arts, Wordpool, has secured £70,000 of funding from Arts Council England to develop its festival programme, now in its tenth year. To celebrate, the festival, which traditionally runs in July will now have three themed mini-festivals programmed through the year, A Festival of Stories in July, a Festival of Poetry and Performance in October and in the spring a Festival of the Written Word. The Arts Council

funding will develop Wordpool for two years, helping to making the festival stronger and sustainable, developing staff and volunteers and attracting a range of well-known authors, poets, artists and performers as well as developing new and emerging talent.

Wordpool works with a wide range of partners including the Grand Theatre, LeftCoast, altBlackpool, Friends of Stanley Park, Family Learning, Grundy Art Gallery, Arts for Health, Blackpool Museum Project, Save Our Stories, Blackpool Sixth Form, The Reading Working Party, BID (Blackpool Business Improvement District), Writing on the Wall, DigiEnable and the Fylde Coast Youth Dance Company.

Wordpool is one of a number of interventions to improve the skills of those 60% of residents whose literacy skills fall below average.

For more information, visit: [www.blackpoolwordpool.wordpress.com](http://www.blackpoolwordpool.wordpress.com) [facebook.com/wordpool](https://facebook.com/wordpool) [twitter.com/wordpoolfest](https://twitter.com/wordpoolfest)

## **Working with Partners**

### **Sea Defences**

The majority of the new £19 million Anchorsholme sea defence wall to the north and south of United Utilities (UU) Pumping Station, known as the headland is now complete. The outstanding elements include the headland, access ramp, tie-in to the existing Cleveleys sea wall in the north and the south tie-in at Little Bispham. The highway works are almost complete and lighting (columns and infrastructure) are well underway.

The sea wall will be completed in summer 2016 and is within the budgetary provision and preparation is underway for the Traffic Regulation Order for the new raised highway so that the road can be opened upon completion of the seawall.

The Council continues to work with UU with the delivery of their £80 million Anchorsholme Park development to provide storm water storage, a new pumping station and new outfall to sea to improve bathing water and the associated integration with the adjacent sea wall project.

### **Shakespeare Festival**

The Blackpool and Fylde Coast Shakespeare Festival 2016 will mark the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death (23 April) and follows the successful 2014 festival, which was held across the Fylde Coast to celebrate the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. Local groups and organisations are taking part this spring to celebrate some of Shakespeare's great works. Events include poetry workshops and performances, literary readings and a variety of performing arts. The festival will begin on Saturday 2 April, ending on 5 May.

### **Visit by 400 Arts Council of England Staff**

On 1 and 2 March, Arts Council England (ACE) brought the entirety of their 400 staff to Blackpool for their staff conference. This follows previous visits in the last 18 months by CEO Darren Henley and Chairman, Sir Peter Bazalgette. It is our understanding that this is only the second time that ACE has taken their conference outside London. The ACE selected Blackpool because they wanted to highlight how Arts Council England investment has enabled an increase in local cultural engagement in an area of considerable deprivation, as well as helping to draw in new investment from other sources. They are interested in our work to use culture to encourage economic growth, build community resilience and reposition Blackpool as a cultural as well as tourism destination. The Arts Council is keen to use Blackpool as a model of good cultural leadership with other local authorities.

### **Ambition for Excellence Award**

With the support of Blackpool Council's Cultural Services team, Blackpool Grand Theatre and LeftCoast have been successful in obtaining £700,000 from Arts Council England for two major projects, which will transform Blackpool's profile on a national stage. The first is for an immersive theatre production in the bowels of the Winter Gardens, *Absent* by the internationally renowned DreamThinkSpeak. The second is *Kong Live!* a reimagining of the classic tale of King Kong played across the streets and buildings of the town as part of a multi-platform, user-generated experience. The outstanding Frank Cottrell Boyce, who wrote the groundbreaking 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony, will rewrite the project for its Blackpool location.

### **Nickelodeon**

The Council is collaborating with global children's TV network Nickelodeon to present the first SLIMEFEST event in the UK.

SLIMEFEST, which has already been staged in Australia, Spain and Italy, will form a part of Blackpool's Illuminations Switch-On weekend with free and paid-for family events taking place throughout Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September.

The SLIMEFEST live-ticketed shows will take place at the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens, with the free outdoor festival staged on the Switch-On arena at the Tower Festival Headland. Highlights from SLIMEFEST will be broadcast on the Nickelodeon channel later in the month.

Arrangements for the Friday night Switch On event, which last year featured Hollywood film director, Tim Burton, are still at the discussion stage.