

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

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

Plymouth Road Bridge

The programme to repair or replace ten bridges within the borough continues with the replacement of Plymouth Road Bridge, which starts in July 2016.

The works are part of an £11.3m (Department for Transport £5.5m/Lancashire Enterprise Partnership £3.8m/Blackpool Council £2m) programme, which has already seen £1.5m spent on replacing Princess Street Bridge. The cost of replacement is £5.1m, although Network Rail requires the bridge heightening, which they will provide the extra funding for, which is circa £1m.

The bridge is in a poor condition and the works will link to the upcoming North Fylde line rail electrification, as it must be capable of accommodating the overhead line equipment. Partial road closures will operate from July until the end of the Illuminations, which will see utility services diverted, with the bridge closed for replacement after that date until April 2017. It will be reopened after that date with partial closures until July 2017 at which point it will be then reopened.

A robust approach to public consultation and awareness will take place, with the project following on from the same principles adopted in relation to the works to Yeadon Way and Princess Street Bridge, which were both completed on time, within budget and included comprehensive public and business communication plans.

The Tip Shop

The Household Waste Recycling Centre Shop, recently renamed The Tip Shop, has enjoyed its most successful run of performance since inception three years ago. To date, figures are over £5,000 up on the same period for last year.

All tip related activities (issuing permits, selling compost, etc.) have all been transferred to the Tip Shop, which has recently been fitted out with IT and networking capability. This has helped to increase the footfall and boost sales with a card payment facility soon to be made available.

Domestic Euro Containers (large containers)

Veolia are working more closely with Street Cleansing in serving areas where the Council has installed large domestic bins. Mechanical sweepers go in directly after the collection to ensure a clean sweep of the areas is undertaken, which is having a positive impact on the wider area. Veolia operatives are also becoming more integrated in terms of recording and reporting fly tipping to Street Cleansing maintaining a pro-active culture. The latest area to receive these large, communal containers is the alley between Brooke Street and Crossland Road, a map is being produced to highlight the areas where these are located.

Rover

Rover still continues to perform well and is very popular with residents. Locations are continually reviewed to ensure access to residents in hard to reach areas. In light of the pending changes to green waste, Rover will not accept any green waste and material have been update to reflect that.

Queens Park

The demolition by implosion of the three remaining tower blocks at Queens Park has been postponed by a couple of months from the planned date in May. This is because of delays in getting all of the services disconnected and to ensure that any lessons learned from the failed demolitions in Merseyside can be incorporated. Local residents in the immediate area will continue to be kept informed of the plans. The last new homes should still be completed by March 2018.

Car Parks

Parking Services has almost hit their £6 million income target, despite the targets being set prior to the closure of six car parks. In 2015/ 2016, income was up 5.1% on 2014/ 2015 and is the highest for five years.

Contracts and Procurement

Contracts awarded since the last meeting are as follows:

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	CONTRACT VALUE
Janitorial Products	Alliance Disposals (Cheshire)	Circa £80,000 per annum (dependent on usage)
Employee Assistance Programme	Health Assured (Manchester)	£110,000
Electoral Services Management Software	Xpress Software Solutions (London)	£36,000
Environmental Services for BCH	5 A.M. Contract Cleaners Ltd (Blackpool)	£450,000
PRU – Cleaning Tender	Elite Cleaning & Environmental Services Ltd (Manchester)	£300,000
Planning Report Consultancy	Keith Reed Ltd (Carnforth)	£26,000
Consultancy Support for Green Corridors Business Case	Regeneris (Manchester)	£14,325
Framework-i	Servelec Corelogic (Sheffield)	£305,875
Switch-On	Richmond Event Management (Bristol)	Circa £800,000
Lightpool Show for Blackpool Illuminations	The Macula (Prague)	£35,000
Leisure Products for Sports Centres	Zoggs (Surrey)	£14,025
Vending Products for Vending Machines in Leisure Centres	Jack Turner Refreshments (Blackpool)	£34,495
Webcasting	CLC Media (Blackpool)	£23,000

Strategic Issues

Blue Flag Award

All four sea water quality testing areas (South/Central/North/Bispham) passed the stringent European Directive water quality tests carried out by the Environment Agency during the bathing season in 2015.

The results for Blackpool South were excellent, which was the catalyst for applying for Blue Flag status for that stretch of beach. The award was achieved and announced publicly on 19 May, with Blackpool achieving the North West's first Blue Flag.

Blackpool receiving the award achieved national attention and recognition is a huge boost to the town.

A great deal of hard work has been invested in beach management and water quality over the last four years with public, private and community sectors coming together to all play a part in contributing to improving our coastline. Having a Blue Flag and three seaside awards at Central, North and Bispham is truly something we can all be proud of.

Our progress in this area has been further demonstrated by sightings of dolphins enjoying our newly Blue Flag acclaimed waters off the Blackpool coast.

Keep Blackpool Tidy Litter Strategy

A 'Keep Blackpool Tidy' Litter Strategy 2016-2020, prepared in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy has been agreed, which has six strategic objectives that have been identified because of consultation with the public, businesses, officers and members.

The objectives are as follows:

Objective One – Monitoring

A total of 90% of Blackpool's public spaces will meet a Local Environmental Quality standard of B+ and be predominantly free of any litter.

Objective Two – Communication

At any time, 90% of people living, working and visiting Blackpool are aware of the 'Keep Blackpool Tidy' campaign.

Objective Three – Design

Litter traps have been identified and remodeled where possible. Good quality, consistent styled bins are gradually rolled out, prioritising high footfall areas. There are no reports of overflowing bins.

Objective Four - Education

Every child in Blackpool has the opportunity to learn about the impacts of litter and to take part in at least one litter pick per year.

Objective Five – Engagement

Individuals, communities and businesses across Blackpool take up voluntary measures to keep their areas clear of litter and loose waste.

Objective Six – Enforcement

Proportionate, regular enforcement supports a growing perception with residents of Blackpool that action is being taken on persistent litterers.

In addition, and as part of the strategy, it has been agreed to enter into a one-year pilot with 3GS Environmental Enforcement Solutions to take a more robust approach in litter and dog fouling enforcement.

The service will work in conjunction with the Public Protection division and will be cost neutral. 3GS Environmental Enforcement Solutions work in conjunction with a number of local authorities including Bournemouth Council, Swansea Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and Leeds City Council.

Homes and Communities Agency Starter Homes Programme

The Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to work with them in delivering new Starter Homes in Blackpool. Starter Homes are homes for sale to first time buyers under the age of 40, which are sold at a 20% discount. The help available from the HCA is yet to be agreed, but could include them buying sites and providing expertise to work up plans and find developer partners. We expect to hear whether the HCA will work with Blackpool Council on this programme within the next couple of months, and would then start to develop detailed plans.

Additional Licensing

The new Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Additional Licensing scheme will go live in the Central area of Blackpool in July, following approval by Executive in April. The scheme will mean that around 700 HMOs will require a license for homes to be privately rented, with landlords signing up to license conditions that set out minimum standards of property management. An inspection programme will ensure that all affected properties are identified and that conditions are being met. The Transience Programme will also start to operate in the area, identifying tenants who need support and helping them to access public and community services.

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone

The Blackpool Enterprise Zone became operational on 1 April 2016, and will run for a period of 25 years. It covers a total area of 144 hectares straddling the boundary between Blackpool and Fylde. The Enterprise Zone is able to offer two financial incentives with set areas, business rates relief of up to £55,000 for five years or enhanced capital allowances, which allows companies to offset 100% of fixed capital investment against tax in a single year.

The Enterprise Zone has the capacity to host an additional 3000 jobs and 180 new businesses as well as potentially generating some £63m of new business rates across Blackpool and Fylde. Government is clear that retained business rate growth must be prioritised to support investment into the development and promotion of the Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone will be primarily targeting companies in the energy, food and drink manufacture, aviation and

digital and creative sectors and will be crucial in ensuring the long-term sustainable future for Blackpool Airport.

Subject to approval of governance proposals, a Memorandum of Understanding will be entered into in July between Blackpool and Fylde Councils and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) setting out the basic development proposals for the Enterprise Zone. This will be followed in March 2017 by a more detailed delivery agreement, which will be negotiated with key stakeholders and be subject to full Council approval. As the Enterprise Zone straddles two authorities, a protocol is under development to set out criteria for the award of business rates relief to ensure a common approach across both authorities and in respect of the Hillhouse site in Wyre, thereby ensuring that there is no unhealthy internal competition for investment. The rates relief protocol will be brought forward for consideration in July.

To date initial marketing of the Enterprise Zone has seen encouraging results with some 78 live enquiries across the two zones. Eight new businesses have already located within Blackpool Airport EZ, creating 110 net brand new jobs in the area (circa 300 gross total).

Blackpool Enterprise Week

The Council's Business Support Team held the first Blackpool Enterprise Week on 18 to 22 April. The week comprised of nine events, covering key business topics at venues across the resort, aiming to enthuse and inspire business start-ups and established companies to invest and grow. The highlight of the week was a Google Digital Garage held in partnership with Blackpool and Fylde College where the global giant presented to over 90 delegates. Several workshops were provided free by local businesses, funding providers (banks, crowd cube) and other enterprise specialists available at a Lancashire level. Overall, 244 workshop places were filled with 150 unique attendees. The event built on the previous Global Entrepreneurship Week event held in November last year and will be repeated in 2017.

Talbot Multi Storey Car Park

A schedule of the landlord works is being agreed with The Gym. We have received competitive quotes for this work and have agreed with The Gym to pay the value of the work on proof of the work being carried out rather than the Council doing the work prior to The Gym occupying the site.

Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's are trading well and they have taken on additional staff and are proposing to start the online shopping delivery service for the Fylde in June (at present this is managed from Preston).

Speculative Offices, Retail Units and Sale of Assets

A number of both public and private sector organisations viewed the first floor of Bickerstaffe House and are very interested. The two most recent were Hewlett Packard and CBRE with the client they are representing. It is understood that they are both for Government contracts and once a decision is made, they would wish to proceed very quickly.

The Tower Coffee Company opened their café in unit 2A of No. 1 Bickerstaffe Square on Monday 11 April.

Demolition

The demolitions of 23 High Street, 58, 60 and 62 Springfield Road are progressing well. The only work remaining is the reconstruction of the gable to 25 High Street, the surfacing of the cleared area and the fence round the site.

The demolitions of 25 - 31 Deansgate and 12 - 14 (the garage) East Topping Street are complete.

Acquisition of the Wilko's Building

The acquisition of the Wilko's building was completed on 15 April.

Coolsilk were granted outline planning permission for the Tower Street development on 8 March and are obligated to relocate the Wilko store to this site by the end of 2017.

The purchase of this site will enable the new tram terminus on Talbot Road/ Dickson Road to be located off the highway and create development opportunities for the future. In the short term once Wilko's has been demolished the surplus land can be a surface level car park, the income from this will support the acquisition cost prior to development taking place.

Tramway

It is now proposed that following the acquisition of the Wilko's building, the tramway terminus will be located in the middle of the Wilko's site. There is now an updated draft programme that coordinates the acquisition, relocation and demolition of Wilko's, the construction of the new Bank Street Car Park entrance and the development of an integrated tram terminus with an improved underpass under High Street to Blackpool North station.

Access to Bank Street Car Park

A meeting between Network Rail, Aviva (formerly Northern Rail), Muse and Blackpool Council took place on 18 April, with a further meeting on 13 June. The outline design for the new entrance to Bank Street Car Park via Springfield Road is now complete and has been submitted to Network Rail and the new operator for them to sign off. There are also a number of both transactional and regulatory processes to go through, which will take approximately 12 months to complete. It is proposed that the Council will trade some land at the bottom of the car park and around the existing entrance for the land required to form the new access and there is a need to construct a new mess building. It is also proposed that the access will become an adopted highway.

Highways Infrastructure

There will be revisions to the infrastructure required to accommodate the tramway link and the new entrance to Bank Street Car Park. The Council's Highways team has outline plans for a

traffic management scheme that will require modifications to Talbot Road, Cookson Street, Topping Street and Deansgate to accommodate the disruption to the network and provide resilience. Their proposals provide a tram/ taxi/ bus interchange and were completely dependent on the acquisition of the Wilkinson's building and the tram terminus being located within this area.

Further consultations will need to take place with both the Highways and Planning teams to determine how the tramway link affects the highway network both within and beyond the Talbot Gateway area.

There is also a Growth Corridor Project planned for the town centre area.

Policy Issues

Review of the Holiday Accommodation Supplementary Planning Document

Following the Examination of the Core Strategy last year, the Planning Inspector in his report urged the Council to complete a review of the Holiday Accommodation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as early as possible. The original SPD was adopted in March 2011, identifies the detailed boundaries of the holiday accommodation areas in Blackpool, and provides detailed guidance on changes in use of properties in the holiday accommodation areas.

To assist in the review of the SPD, Envision Consultancy has recently been commissioned to undertake the work. It is anticipated that the review will take approximately six/ nine months and will include stakeholder engagement and public consultation.

Any recommendation to retain or revise the existing Holiday Accommodation Areas and detailed guidance will be subject to further formal public consultation and Council approval.

It is important to note that this review only relates to the detailed guidance in the SPD and is not a review of the overarching policy CS23 – Managing Holiday Bed Spaces in the Core Strategy. The content of the latter will remain unchanged.

Transforming Services

Blackpool Community Heritage Programme – Developing a new Business Model

The Blackpool Community Heritage Programme is delivered in partnership with the Volunteer Centre. It covers a range of community-based, heritage-related activities including Heritage Open Days, the Heritage Newsletter, The Blackpool Heritage Guides and heritage volunteers. It generates some income through the heritage tours and has been successful in securing external project-based grant awards. However, if the programme is to continue in the long term it needs to operate more like a business and become more self-sustaining. The Head of Heritage is working with the Community Heritage Steering Group to research and create a new business

model in which a range of heritage-based paid for services are developed to offset the core costs of the programme. This work is being supported by Council colleagues from Economic Development's Business Support.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Bid

Blackpool Library Service, working with colleagues from Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire, has been successful with a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £49,000.

"Lancashire Not Forgotten" is a project of empowerment, as it will give those living with dementia the opportunity to share their memories of local places. Via a programme of "light touch" social events, held at heritage sites and using heritage collections, they will contribute to the development of a dementia-friendly, digital record of life in twentieth century Lancashire.

This will be a tool for others to use. The three strands of the project how we used to live, work and play will each be developed by one of the three partner authorities and then drawn together as one resource. Collaboration underpins this initiative sharing good practice, delivering complementary programmes and producing a legacy relevant to all. It builds on the dementia-focused work, which has gone before and will create a heritage-based model, which others may copy.

The project will be delivered from September 2016 to November 2017 and can give each authority more outputs and evidence to show how they positively contribute to the health and well-being agenda in libraries.

New Prestigious Award for Grundy to Collect Light Art Works

The Grundy Art Gallery has been awarded £80,000 by the Art Fund to buy new artworks around the theme of light. The Award is part of the Art Fund's £400,000 'New Collecting Awards' programme, which this year saw six awards given to museums around the British isles including National Army Museum and the British Museum in London. The £80,000 award to Grundy Curator Richard Parry was the joint highest sum, with the same amount going to curators at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton and at the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The award is a significant boost for the gallery, which has seen a doubling of audiences through the light strand of its programming and follows a further award from the John Ellerman Foundation, supporting new work with the collection, which has enabled important behind-the-scenes improvements including the employment of a new Collections Manager.

Working with Partners

Lloyds

In January 2016, Halifax Bank and the Society of Chief Librarians launched a digital skills partnership to provide 2,000 Halifax Digital Champions in libraries to support existing IT taster sessions. As part of the Universal Digital Offer, this partnership extends across England, Wales

and Northern Ireland and is intended to complement existing IT skills sessions run by library staff.

The Blackpool launch took place at Layton Library on 6 May. The event was attended by senior officers from the Northern Lloyds Banking Group (and Halifax), and very useful links were formed, not only to extend our volunteer led sessions, but to further support the work jointly address digital exclusion in Blackpool. Plans are currently in place for some partnership work to support Get On Line Week in October 2016.

Nickelodeon SLIMEFEST

SLIMEFEST will feature two live shows, games, characters and plenty of slime, tickets are now available from Ticketmaster. The live-ticketed shows will take place on Saturday 3 September at the Empress Ballroom in the Winter Gardens. The UK edition of SLIMEFEST will be an immersive music and entertainment festival focusing on kids aged four to 15. Featuring costume character appearances, hands-on activities, games and music, SLIMEFEST will run across 3 and 4 September.

Central Library Café

The Central Library welcomed the Camerados' Living Room pop up café to operate between 19 May and 18 June. It breathed new life into the library cafe and created a place to regroup for anyone who already saw the library as a walk-in lifeline of learning, culture and inspiration.

Award-winning chef and social entrepreneur Simon Boyle, founder of Brigade restaurant in London, has been working with local volunteers to prepare a down-to-earth and incredibly tasty comfort food menu including Lancashire hotpot as well as vegan and gluten free options.

Camerados is a new national movement of people who want to provide a solution to tough times, it is not a service and are simply people helping each other find the two essentials in life Friends and Purpose.

Positive feedback has been received from staff and library users. To quote a member of the library team "I think the atmosphere was great the week that the café opened and such heart-warming feeling.

Quotes from customers include "Opening your doors to Camerados... Well done for taking the risk! That was a great thing to do for Blackpool" and "I am very impressed by the community café, everything is wonderful, and the atmosphere is terrific. It is a joy to see such enthusiasm."

Turner Prize Winner, Mark Leckey's new exhibition at the Grundy

The exhibition now open at the Grundy and running until the 13 August centers on the work of Mark Leckey, a Turner Prize Winning artist and his long-standing interest in the iconic cartoon character Felix the Cat. The exhibition is one of the most significant exhibitions yet to be staged

at the gallery and includes a range of images of the black and white feline in artworks including Inflatable Felix (2013) a giant blow-up version.

Re-New/ Shabby2Chic Waste Partnership

The Re-New waste partnership with Calico is increasing its output of both training numbers and items for sale, with now included in the partnership with Shabby2Chic at the newly completed furniture restoration workshop located at Bristol Avenue. The project not only refurbishes items diverted away from landfill, but also undertakes 'commissioned' work via auction houses and antique dealers, providing volunteers and placements with practical woodworking skills amongst other life-skills training.

In conjunction with Calico the new re-use shop in Caunce Street, Furniture Matters, has also been up and running for a number of weeks. Stocking items re-furbished and reused by Re-New/ Shabby2Chic, it has had a successful reception achieving its short-term financial targets. Although it is a re-use shop, it has a high-end, unique feel, which is proving popular with local residents.

The official opening of the new shop and the Re-New/Shabby2Chic partnership is being planned for week commencing 4 July and being coordinated between our Communications Department and Calico.