

**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 (Environmental Services and Highways),
- Councillor Mark Smith (Regeneration, Enterprise and Economic Development) and
- Councillor Mrs Christine Wright (Housing).

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**

### **Quality Corridors**

Growth and Blackpool Local Transport Plan funding of £7.4m has been allocated to improve key roads within the town centre network over the next four years. The first phase of work, which is Church Street between Cookson Street up to St John's Square, is now complete.

Cookson and Caunce Street are the next phase of Quality Corridor works and due to start in September 2017, followed by Dickson Road, which will start in February 2018.

### **Transport Hub**

The Transport Hub on Market Street is now complete, with the Highways Division having worked extremely closely with Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators Association and Blackpool's Highway Forum in relation to the scheme.

### **Plymouth Road Bridge**

Plymouth Road Bridge is now nearing completion, with an excellent working partnership having been formed with Network Rail, who contributed circa £1m to the overall cost of £6.1m. Based on a proportional approach on the total bridge funding, the total cost for Plymouth Road Bridge of £6,532,735.93 is as follows; Network rail - £1,696,830, Department for Transport - £2,369,593, Local Transport Plan Funding - £918,821 and LEP - £1,547,489. The works, are ahead of schedule and within budget.

### **Blue Flag Award**

Blackpool South Beach has received an international quality mark for the second time. The stretch of beach at Blackpool South has been once again named in the prestigious global list of Blue Flag beaches that includes the Mediterranean Sea and the Pacific coastline. The award

recognises coastal destinations that boast the highest quality of water, facilities, safety, environmental education and management.

The beach, which is located opposite Blackpool Pleasure Beach, originally became eligible for Blue Flag status in 2015 after being classed as having ‘excellent’ seawater quality by the Environment Agency. It went on to achieve the accolade for the first time last year.

Three other areas of beach in Blackpool have also been granted Seaside Awards for the fourth successive year, giving the resort an entire coastline of award winning beaches.

### **Contracts and Procurement**

Contracts awarded since the last meeting are as follows:

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>PROVIDER (Locations)</b>	<b>TERM (years - including extensions)</b>	<b>CONTRACT VALUE</b>	<b>NO. OF INITIAL BIDS</b>	<b>NO. OF BLACKPOOL BIDS</b>
Architect for further RIBA stages – Winter Gardens Conference Development	Bisset Adams (London)	1 year (no option to extend)	£1,200,000	1	0
Highways Operatives – Flexible Labour Force – Church Street and Bus Hub	George Cox and Sons (Bolton) Bethells (Manchester)	7 months (no option to extend)	£250,000	2	0
Recycling of Wood Waste	SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Ltd (Maidenhead)	2 + (1+1)	£200,000	5	2

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Highways Operatives 2017/ 2018 – Any Highways Work Arising	W H Tarmacadam (Blackpool) George Cox and Sons (Bolton) Bethells (Manchester)	1 year (no option to extend)	£150,000	3	1
Enterprise Zone – Consultancy and Works	Mott MacDonald (Liverpool)	3 months or until satisfactory completion of work	£120,000	3	0
Winter Gardens Conference Centre – Pre-Construction Phase (PCP) Upon successful completion of the PCP a contract will be awarded for the full construction of the Conference Centre	McLaughlin and Harvey (Ireland)	4 months or until satisfactory completion of the work	£105,950	7	1
Quality Corridors and Congestion Relief Highways and Public Realm Detailed Design	Wilde Consultants (Stockport)	9 months (no option to extend)	£55,745	4	0

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Surface Treatment of Algae	Water Saving Techniques Ltd (Renfrewshire)	2 + (1+1)	£40,000	5	0
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy	The Environment Partnership (Warrington)	6 months or until satisfactory completion of work	£24,950	2	0
Staff Uniforms	MWUK Ltd t/a Alexandra (Bristol)	2 + (1+1)	£20,000	5	0
Consultant – Blackpool Football Facilities Investment Strategy	LK2 Sport and Leisure Ltd (Lincolnshire)	6 months or until satisfactory completion of work	£15,250	9	0
Vehicle Removal	JD Macadam and Son Ltd (Keighley)	2 + (1+1)	Income	2	2 Although both bidders' registered offices are outside of the FY postcode areas, both companies have offices based in an FY postcode and the service is delivered from an FY postcode

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Talbot Gateway**

The first phase of Talbot Gateway Central Business District, completed in 2014, saw £80m of investment with over 1,000 employees brought into the town centre based in Grade A1 office accommodation with accompanying retail units. This transformative scheme is supporting the town centre by providing top quality accommodation and facilities, including a Sainsbury's flagship store surrounded by much improved public spaces and traffic management. The planning application has now been submitted for Phase 2, which is set to commence in 2018 with site clearance and construction of a new four-star hotel, tramway extension, transport interchange (connecting the tram to the rail system) and wider developments.

### **Central Leisure Quarter**

The Central Leisure Quarter site sits in the heart of Blackpool and this 7.15-hectare site presents a fantastic opportunity to expand Blackpool's tourism and leisure offer. Plans are now being developed subject to the exclusivity deal arranged at IAPPA in Orlando last year to provide innovative, high-quality attractions and accommodation that provide year-round reasons to visit and broaden the resort's overall appeal. (The Council is now working closely with a developer to explore and ultimately bring to life the many exciting opportunities that exist, the proposal has at its heart a tourist attraction and facilities that would support that). These are subject to commercial confidentiality. Work on site assembly is also continuing with a grant having been received from the Government's One Public Estate scheme to explore options for the relocation of the Magistrates Courts.

### **Winter Gardens Conference and Exhibition Centre**

McLaughlin and Harvey has been selected as the main construction contractor preferred bidder following a rigorous tender exercise, they have already worked on the development of a conference centre in Belfast attached to a listed building. Work has begun in organising and tendering individual works packages that will be offered to local sub-contractors, which in turn will form the overall project activity programme. It is anticipated work on site will commence in the autumn of this year however, options for an enabling works package, to begin prior to the main construction period, are also being evaluated.

Technical design is now nearing completion allowing the submission of a revised planning application in June to address project changes as the scheme has developed. Formal Coastal Communities grant funding award of £2,900,000 has now been received. The £15,000,000 Growth Deal Three grant funding application evaluation process is now at an advanced stage. It is anticipated that formal notification of award will be received before August this year.

## **Policy Issues**

### **Tower Street - Wilkinsons**

We are still awaiting drawings from the architects for this scheme so it is not yet clear when it will be scheduled to go to the Planning Committee. We have set out a number of design criteria, which the building will need to meet and highlighted the fact that Historic England will need to be consulted on design as the scheme is both within the Town Centre Conservation Area and will affect the setting of a Grade II listed building (Winter Gardens). That said, the approach and dialogue so far has been positive.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Performance in dealing with planning and other applications**

As part of the Development Management commitment to improving the speed and quality of decision-making, the service is now reporting statistical performance to the Planning Committee through the published Committee report. This makes performance a matter of public record. Performance for the quarter ending March 2016 is as follows:

Major development decisions (target 60%) - January to March Quarter 100%.

Minor development decisions (target 70%) – January to March Quarter 86 %.

The last reported month (April) sees an improvement in Minor Decisions, which have been confirmed at 100% within time for that month.