

**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**

Contracts, with a value of over £250,000 that have been awarded since the June 2017 are detailed below. Details of other, lower value, contracts awarded during the same period are available from the Director of Resources.

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (years - including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE
Provision of Portable and Fixed Appliance Testing	M (UK) Ltd (Ashton)	2 + (2)	£300,000	4	0
Provision of Stationery (Lot 1)  Provision of Paper (Lot 2)	Kingswood Office Supplies Ltd (Blackpool) H Jenkinson & Co Ltd (Liverpool)	2 + (1+1)	£320,000	15	1
Winter Gardens – Spanish Hall Roof	Conlon Construction Ltd (Preston)	Ad-hoc – 12 months (or until satisfactory sign-off)	£2million	2	1

## **Highways and Traffic Management Division**

The Highways and Traffic Management division are currently working with utilities partners on a number of crucial schemes, in particular the 50 miles of replacement of gas pipes and the 9,000m of new piping in the South Shore area, separating foul water from surface water.

The Blackpool Bridges investment programme continues on time and budget, with Princess Street, Plymouth Road and Waterloo Bridges completed. The division is carefully planning works and communications in relation to the circa £3m investment in Harrowside and Squires Gate Bridges, as well as Talbot Road tramway scheme and Quality Corridor works.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Key Development Sites**

#### **Talbot Gateway**

The planning application for Phase 2 was approved on 4 July this year. The main development for the construction of a new four-star hotel, tramway extension and transport interchange (connecting the tram to the rail system) is set to commence in 2018. In addition to this, providing we obtain the necessary agreements with Network Rail, the Council will start work on the construction of the new access ramp to Blackpool North Station from High Street in January 2018, with the new underpass being completed as part of the new Hotel development later.

#### **Blackpool Central Leisure Quarter**

The Central Leisure Quarter project at Blackpool's Central Station continues to represent the largest single opportunity and investment to revitalise the visitor economy of the resort. Earlier this year the Council entered into an 'exclusivity agreement' with an international developer. The agreement will run for a period of 18 months (ending October 2018), by the end of which, the developer will provide a full masterplan for the site, including outline design proposals, a phased programme and some initial financial modelling. The main remaining constraint on the site is the Magistrates and County Courts. Funding has been made available via the One Public Estate programme to undertake a feasibility exercise for their relocation and a number of recent meetings have been held with HMCTS, with a variety of alternative sites being put forward for their consideration. Discussions are also being held with Lancashire Constabulary regarding the handover of the divisional headquarters building on Bonny Street, in preparation for the police vacating the site mid/ end 2018.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Supporting Residents into Work**

A new back-to-work scheme in Blackpool will help more than 400 of the town's residents find employment. 'More Positive Together' is a Lancashire-wide project which will help 2,250 residents of the county's most deprived neighbourhoods to improve their skills and employment prospects. Here, Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH) will be the main provider of the

programme and will work with residents, not only in social housing, but those living in privately owned or rented accommodation. As part of the scheme's launch, BCH held a recruitment open day to promote the new project, as well as advertise the first 13 jobs available within the project.

A new work and health hub designed and funded by Blackpool Council has also officially opened its doors. The HealthWorks on Clifton Street, Blackpool, brings together a range of employment, health and lifestyle advice for local residents to help them gain and sustain jobs, as well as improve their overall health and wellbeing. HealthWorks is now home to support services including employment and self-employment advice; careers advice; online job search; work placements; benefits checks; debt and money advice; talking therapy and access to health coaches. The early activity at Healthworks also includes a £2m Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer, one of only three in the country, trialing the impact of combining specialist employment advice with talking therapies for out of work residents with unmet mental health needs such as depression and anxiety.

## **Working with Partners**

### **2017 Events Programme**

2017 has witnessed the successful delivery of both familiar and new events in Blackpool, bringing regular and brand new visitors into the town in their thousands.

### **Air Show**

In excess of 100,000 visitors turned out to watch the two-day Blackpool Air Show, making it one of the most successful on record. An action-packed programme featuring the likes of the RAF Typhoon, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the Breitling Wingwalkers and the world-famous Red Arrows attracted visitors from all over the country. It was the first time that the Red Arrows had performed on both days of a Blackpool Air Show and their incredible finale received a rapturous reception from people lining the full stretch of the Promenade.

### **Livewire Festival**

The brand new three day Livewire event over the August Bank Holiday weekend culminated in 20,000 people watching Hollywood legend Will Smith perform in one of only two concerts globally. The Jacksons and The Hit Factory also performed to thousands of revelers, making for an excellent weekend for music fans and local businesses. The success of the weekend means that the Livewire promoters are already planning a similar series of concerts in 2018.

### **Illuminations Switch-on**

Laser beams and pyrotechnics lit up Blackpool Promenade as the resort celebrated the start of the 2017 Blackpool Illuminations season with an out-of-this-world Switch-On event. The Friday night event started with a "Blackpool Introduces" showcase featuring the best of talent from the local area.

The crowd was wowed by live performances from Conor Maynard, Sigala, R3wire and Varski, and the MTV Base Garage Anthems show. Diversity then again played a starring role in the event with a dazzling performance, leading up to the Switch-On moment when the dance group's creative director, Ashley Banjo, sent out a distress signal to help power up Blackpool's famous Illuminations in front of a huge audience on the Tower Festival Headland. It was then that Gabriel Lorca (actor Jason Isaacs), the captain of the brand new Star Trek: Discovery TV series, was beamed on to a giant screen to come to the rescue, enabling Diversity to trigger an explosion of lights, fireworks and confetti and kick-start 66 nights of Illuminations on Blackpool seafront.

This first "intergalactic" Switch-On was part of a unique collaboration with Netflix and CBS, to celebrate the much-anticipated release of the next chapter in the iconic Star Trek franchise later this month and it received very positive and wide-ranging media coverage. Once the Switch-On ceremony was over, Example and DJ Wire headlined an hour-long party under the Lights.

### **Winter Gardens**

The Winter Gardens has had a very successful season so far, with a wide variety of shows, events and festivals. This has included Dirty Dancing, Footloose, Rebellion, World Darts, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, as well as one of the biggest dance festivals in the world. In May, the Winter Gardens had one of its biggest month's ever, with gross revenue over £1m for the first time.

The Winter Gardens are also preparing for the future, with a new £25m conference extension and refurbishment due to open in 2019. It is fantastic that one of Britain's biggest union conferences has already confirmed its return to Blackpool on the back of the new conference offer. The GMB will stage its annual congress in the brand new state-of-the-art conference centre in June 2020, bringing more than 1,000 delegates over five days. The GMB, which supports more than 600,000 members from across the UK and Europe, has also revealed that it plans to use the proposed new hotel at The Sands Venue on Central Promenade as its conference base. The hotel is due to open for business in autumn 2018.

Local companies were invited to find out more about the conference centre construction at a special event held at the Winter Gardens earlier in the summer. The meet-and-greet event gave businesses the chance to meet with the main contractor, McLaughlin and Harvey, to talk about potential opportunities for local suppliers and subcontractors.

The world's largest magic convention has signed a deal to remain at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool for the next five years. The event, which is staged by the Blackpool Magicians' Club each February, attracts more than 3,500 delegates from as far afield as America and China. The deal means that the convention, which delivers an economic benefit to the resort of more than £1m a year, will remain in Blackpool until at least 2022. The club celebrates its 75 birthday this year and it has grown to be one of the most respected magic clubs in the industry. The annual

gathering holds a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's biggest and best attended magic convention.

The Blackpool Dance Festival will be extended by two days from next year following the success of this year's event at the Winter Gardens which saw representation from 62 countries. Indeed, following the launch of the Blackpool Dance Festival China last year, the Blackpool event saw a 24% increase in Chinese competitors in this year's Winter Gardens event. The 2018 festival in Blackpool will start on Sunday 20 May and will run for 13 days, making it the longest dance festival in the world.