New Tramway Extension
North Pier to North Station

Blackpool Council
Introduction

Following on from the recent successful upgrade of the Blackpool to Fleetwood tramway, Blackpool Council is now proposing to extend the existing tramway from North Pier to Blackpool North railway station. The proposals will re-establish the link to North Station, which ceased operation in 1936 and will provide direct services from North Station to the north and south of the town.
Benefits of the Proposed Scheme

The proposed extension to North Station will:

• Improve public transport in the Blackpool area

• Provide connectivity and integration between the existing tramway and the national rail services at North Station

• Provide benefits to commuters and visitors travelling to and from the town

• Support regeneration and economic growth by improving accessibility to jobs and services and improving the connectivity between the economically important seafront and the redeveloping town centre

• Complement and support the continued development and regeneration of the Talbot Gateway area

• Facilitate urban realm enhancements in the town centre and provide improvements to the Talbot Road area

• Provide on street parking and servicing along Talbot Road
Proposed Route
New Tramway Extension – North Pier to North Station

Talbot Square

The proposed tramway extension will leave the existing route at North Pier, via a two way double track junction. The route would cross the Promenade highway and enter Talbot Square, which would be remodelled to provide segregation of trams and highway traffic. The existing pedestrian signals on the Promenade would be replaced by a signalled intersection. A new eastbound tramstop would be located in Talbot Square, to allow interchanges with the existing North Pier tramstops.

Talbot Road

Beyond Talbot Square, a double track alignment continues eastwards in the centre of the highway. Along this section of the route eastbound highway traffic will be diverted along Clifton Street. The signalled intersection with Abingdon Street will remain and the highway movements will not change.

The proposed route continues along Talbot Road to a new signalled intersection with Topping Street. This section of the route will be shared with highway traffic and on street parking, loading and taxi bays will be provided.

Tramway Terminus (Wilko)

The proposed tramway terminus is planned to form part of the redevelopment of the current Wilko store site. The terminus is planned to be located in the centre of the development, close to and at the same level as the existing underpass to Blackpool North Station.
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**Timescales**

It is proposed to make an application for an order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 for powers to construct, operate and maintain the extension in summer 2016. A decision authorising the scheme would then be expected from the Secretary of State within around 12 months.

The proposed scheme is also subject to final funding approval by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. It is anticipated that final funding approval would be sought at the end of 2017.

It is hoped that construction would commence at the beginning of 2018. It is anticipated that the proposed tramway extension will take up to sixteen months to construct, with services to North Station commencing by April 2019.

The work would be sequenced to minimise disruption and would ensure that access was maintained to businesses and properties along the route during the period of the works.

**Further consultation**

As the scheme develops, further and more detailed information will be made available. This will include a forthcoming exhibition outlining the proposals and updates on progress to be held in Blackpool’s Central Library early in June 2016. We would like to hear the views of local business owners, residents, community groups and anyone who visits Blackpool for work or leisure.

There will also be an opportunity for formal representations to be made to the Secretary of State once the application for the Transport and Works Act Order is submitted.

Please let us know your thoughts. You can contact us via:

- Email: TramwayExtension@blackpool.gov.uk
- Visit: www.blackpool.gov.uk/TramwayExtension
- Write: Transport Policy Team PO Box 17 Corporation Street Blackpool FY1 1LZ

*Please note the images used in this brochure are artists impressions* and may be subject to change.