

**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 (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

Action in Response to the Appalling Disruption to Rail Services to and from Blackpool

Members will no doubt be aware of the unprecedented failure of Northern Rail services in our region following the introduction of the new timetable in May. This failure has had a very significant impact on Blackpool for residents and visitors. I have listened to countless accounts of residents' inability to get to where they had planned to go and the frustrations of visitors unable to get here or uncertain whether they can get home. The situation, until very recently, has been nothing short of dire. It is very early days, but there is evidence of some stabilisation of services following Northern's introduction of an Emergency Timetable at the start of June, however we are extremely unhappy about the withdrawal of a number of services from Blackpool South as part of this emergency measure.

I want to be clear those events since the May timetable change are totally unacceptable. Both I, the Leader of the Council and other Executive Members have and continue, to make every effort to hold rail bosses to account. This is not an easy exercise. The Leader of the Council has taken part in direct, frank discussions with the Minister for Transport, alongside the Mayors of Greater Manchester and Liverpool. I have held face-to-face meetings with the Regional Directors of Northern Rail and Network Rail, impressing upon them the extent of misery that the disruption has caused and seeking assurance about measures to improve the situation. My most recent meeting with rail bosses took place on 11 June. At this meeting, Northern committed to working closely with us on marketing for the resort so that we may hope to recover confidence in coming to Blackpool by train through the summer. Additionally, Northern committed to making the reinstatement of withdrawn services from Blackpool South a priority in July.

.....but there is some Good News on the Railway....

Despite the appalling disruption to Northern's services, it is wonderful to see Pendolino trains coming into Blackpool North from London! This has been made possible by the £250m electrification programme between Preston and Blackpool. The first Virgin train arrived from London on the morning of Monday 21 May to signal the return of direct services to and from the capital. The new services will strengthen connections between Blackpool and the capital six days a week, providing eight direct services each weekday and five services on a Saturday. Travel time is reduced to just three hours. Virgin Trains is also set to operate a direct service from Birmingham on Saturdays, offering the West Midlands a direct service to Blackpool for the first time in 15 years. The boost in services will generate an additional 16,900 seats a week. Virgin marked the historic return to Blackpool by christening one of its Pendolino trains "Blackpool Belle", named after an excursion train that ran from East Lancashire to Blackpool in the 1930's every Saturday night.

Bridge Replacement Programme

I have kept Members closely informed about Blackpool Council's £11.365m programme to replace and improve ten bridges across the borough. The programme has successfully delivered the below projects on time and within budget:

Princess Street Bridge	November 2015 – April 2016
Gas Works Sub	November 2015 – March 2016
Plymouth Road Bridge	Nov 2016 – July 2017
Waterloo Road Bridge	July 2017 – August 2017
Squires Gate Lane	November 2017 – December 2018
Harrowside	November 2017 – February 2018

The four-year bridge programme is now in its final year and Devonshire Road Bridge refurbishment scheme commenced on site on Monday 4 June 2018 and is progressing well. As part of the refurbishment scheme, the abutment walls will be cladded to improve the appearance of the structure, an improved drainage system will be installed in the footpaths, street lighting levels will be increased underneath the bridge, repainting of the structure and general footway and carriageway improvement works will be undertaken. The remaining projects in the bridge delivery programme are very minor in comparison to the bridge replacement projects, but have been programmed to be undertaken outside the tourist season and around other planned works/events to minimise disruption to both residents and visitors due to their sensitive locations. We expect the minor repair work on Rigby Road Bridge, Chapel Street Bridge and Watson Road Bridge to be undertaken after the illuminations season in November 2018 and completed before early 2019.

Quality Corridors Property Improvement Fund

We have received an overwhelmingly positive response from businesses and property owners since the launch of the Fund in February 2018. The Council has received over 100 enquiries leading to 68 written expressions of interest (EOI), with over half now proceeding to full application stage. Our priority is to assist applicants to collate sufficient detail to progress to a grant offer with many requiring design, procurement and planning advice. We have

undertaken a procurement exercise to engage an external architect to help fast track designs for applicants who require our assistance. I am pleased that two projects have now received formal approval and have progressed to the construction phase.

Intelligent Traffic Management

Members may have noticed that 21 new electronic signs have now been installed across the borough. These new signs are purely for car park guidance, traffic management matters, incident management, event information and road safety. LEP Growth Deal Funding has funded this project to the tune of £1,51m, with Local Transport Plan providing £650,000 match. These signs will already positively assisting residents and visitors in accessing the town and its car parks.

Procurement

Blackpool Council has become the first local authority to be granted a self-supply licence to manage and monitor its own water usage following an application to Ofwat. The licence will enable Blackpool Council to buy water supply and wastewater services directly from United Utilities for its buildings and associated premises, but it will manage its own retail services for over 120 sites across the borough. It is estimated that the innovative move will achieve cost savings of up to £194,000 over three years. In the first year alone, anticipated savings are in the region of £50,000, with the potential for further savings through additional cost and consumption efficiency projects

Contracts awarded since the last meeting are as follows:

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE
Colour Printer for Print Unit (1 Machine)	Konica Minolta (Basildon)	Ad-hoc (one off purchase)	£40,000	2	0
Blackpool Promenade Trading Opportunity – Children’s Trampoline	Chris Cash (Blackpool)	2 + (1+1)	£24,000	1	1
Equipment Services – Web Based Ordering System	CSS – Creative Software Solution (Lichfield)	5 + (0)	£59,070	Direct Award	0
Electricity Supply	EDF Energy (London)	3 + (2)	£15,000,000	3	0
Extra Care Housing	iCare (Blackpool)	1 + (1+1+1)	£1,075,000	7	1
Toy Vending Machines	Perform 365 (Staffordshire)	2 + (1+1+1)	Income	1	1
Lettering/Inscriptions on Granite Wall Tablets	Brent Stevenson Memorials (Blackburn)	2 + (1+1+1)	£20,000	3	0
Temporary Support – Highway Operatives	W H Tarmacadam (Blackpool) Bethell (Manchester)	1 + (1)	£200,000	2	1
Carleton Crematorium – Temporary Cremators	Facultatieve Technologies (Leeds)	Ad-hoc (lease until permanent cremators are purchased)	£90,000	Direct Award	0

CONTRACT	PROVIDER (Locations)	TERM (including extensions)	CONTRACT VALUE	NO. OF INITIAL BIDS	NO. OF BIDDERS WITH FY POSTCODE
Business Plan and Market Assessment – Airport Enterprise Zone	York Aviation (Macclesfield)	Ad-hoc (4 months)	£85,000	3	0
Opportunity Area Community Wide Assessment – Community Engagement	Premier Advisory Group (Manchester)	Ad-hoc (3 months)	£30,000	9	0
Educational Management System – Capita One	Capita (Bedford)	5 + (0)	£552,066	Direct Award	0
Removal & Recycling of Scrap Metal	Recycling Lives (Preston)	1 + (1+1)	£150,000	2	1
Provision of Washroom Services	Rentokil Initial (Preston)	1 + (1)	£10,000	Direct Award	0
Headstart - Collaborative Research Partnership	University of Brighton (Brighton)	4 + (0)	£172,500	3	0
Domestic Abuse Young People Programme	Empowerment (Blackpool)	2 + (0)	£68,000	2	2
Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim	Deloitte LLP (Manchester)	2 + (1+1)	£92,000	1	0
Feasibility Study Refresh - Relocation of Courts	AHR (London)	3 months	£20,000	3	0
Event Support and Management for the Blackpool Firework Championship	Titanium Fireworks (Northamptonshire)	1 + (1+1)	£176,805	5	0
Network, Security & Telecoms Partner & Consultant	The Networking People (North West) (Lancaster)	5 + (1+1)	£5,000,000	6	0
Appointment of External Auditors for Council Wholly Owned Companies	Smith Craven (Doncaster)	1 + (1)	£50,000	2	0
Road Markings & Surface Treatment	A1 Streamline Road Markings (Blackpool)	2 + (1+1)	£20,000	1	1
Maintenance and Periodic Inspection of Air Conditioning and Air Handling Units	Allcool NW (Blackpool)	2 + (1+1)	£680,000	18	2

As Members are aware I am committed to doing what we can to ensure that local people and firms benefit from the construction projects underway in the town. I am very pleased about the number of local people and firms benefiting from the contract to extend the tramway, connecting our magnificent tramway on the Promenade with the heavy rail station at Blackpool North. Indeed, I can confirm that the contractor is using 14 local firms and 75% of their current workforce is local.

Strategic Issues

Launch of ICON, Pleasure Beach

Blackpool Pleasure Beach's brand new rollercoaster has been officially launched after five years of planning. ICON was unveiled to the world's media on 23 May ahead of its official opening to the public two days later. The £16m ride, billed as the first double-launch coaster, can reach speeds of up to 85km per hour with the same level of acceleration as a Formula 1 driver. The ride has been designed to twist and turn at high speeds across the park, interacting with other existing rides including The Big One. I can confirm that it is a wonderful, exhilarating ride!

Previewing our Fantastic Summer Events Programme

I am very excited about the huge programme of fantastic events that have been lined up by VisitBlackpool and others for the 2018 season, starting with Armed Forces Week in June and culminating in a Lightpool Festival at the end of October. This terrific events programme includes some of the world's most successful artists coming to the resort for the first time, underlining the growing confidence in Blackpool as a destination. Highlights include:

Armed Forces Week – 25 June to 1 July: Blackpool's major events season gets underway with one of the most ambitious Armed Forces Week programmes ever staged. Prior to the start of the week long programme, Blackpool's Tower Ballroom will host Dance For Victory, a gala dance in aid of Help For Heroes on Saturday 23 June. On June 25, the official Armed Forces Week flag will be raised at Blackpool Town Hall to signal the official start of festivities ahead of an evening of entertainment entitled "Music for Heroes" at the Opera House headlined by Band of the Kings Division and featuring the Irish Guard Singers. Armed Forces Day itself takes place on 30 June, with extensive activities across the town centre and Blackpool Promenade. The week ends with the Sunday morning Cenotaph service and parade followed by the Blackpool Taxi Pull, an annual event in aid of Armed Forces charities. For more details about individual events, news and tickets, go to www.visitblackpool.com/armedforces

Blackpool, City Of Circus: Blackpool is celebrating its role as one of six cities of circus in the UK with a season-long programme of special events including spectacular live entertainment, events and exhibitions. The celebrations, which mark the 250 anniversary of circus in the UK, will be heavily focused on the Blackpool Tower Circus. The main highlight will be "The Blackpool Tower Week Of Circus" taking place in early July and featuring a circus parade along the Golden Mile, a Circus250 talent competition to find a star of the future and a special charity performance of the current Blackpool Tower Circus show. This will be followed by a summer-long circus-themed exhibition in the Grundy Art Gallery and a series of specially commissioned features within the Blackpool Illuminations between September and early November.

The Blackpool Festival - 6-8 July: Formerly known as Back To The Old Pool, the festival gets a new name for 2018 and is expanded to three days. The line-up includes internationally renowned music acts including Example, Roger Sanchez, Faithless, Danny Howard, Erick Morillo and Paul Oakenfold over the first two days, followed by a new family-oriented Party On The

Prom on the Sunday. For full programme details including ticket sales go to www.blackpoolfestival.co.uk

Blackpool Air Show – 11 and 12 August: The events programme continues in August with the staging of our hugely popular Blackpool Air Show. This year's line-up already includes performances by the Typhoon and Battle Of Britain Memorial Flight, with the Red Arrows bringing the show to a breathtaking finale on the second day.

Livewire Festival – 23 to 26 August: The Livewire Festival returns for a second year with Mariah Carey, the biggest selling female artist of all time, headlining the three-day event over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The pop superstar, who has sold more than 200 million albums to date, will headline the festival on Friday 24 August.

Ride The Lights – 28 August: Ride The Lights returns to the Promenade for a unique family event, which sees the entire promenade closed to vehicles to allow cyclists to get a sneak preview of the Illumination. This year's event will be delivered in association with new sponsors, British Cycling.

Illuminations Switch-On – Friday 31 August: The annual Illuminations Switch-On party will once again be staged in association with MTV. Details of the music talent and the switch-on celebrity will be announced in the coming weeks. The event is free to access with 20,000 wristbands available through a ballot that is now open for applications. To date, there have been more than 80,000 requests for wristbands.

Britney Spears – Saturday 1 September: Britney Spears will bring her European tour to a dazzling finale in front of our Tower. The "Britney: Piece of Me" show is a celebration of one of the most illustrious careers in pop history. The tour follows a record-breaking four-year residency at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Britney will be supported by the Grammy Award-winning artist, Pitbull.

Blackpool Illuminations – 31 August to 4 November: A range of new features are in production in readiness for the 2018 Illuminations season. The specially-commissioned features will pay particularly reference to Blackpool's designation as one of six cities of circus for 2018. Full details will be revealed at the annual Illuminations launch event at the start of August.

World Fireworks – 7, 14, 21 and 28 September: The World Fireworks Championship will light up the skies above Blackpool once again over four consecutive Fridays in September. The event will once again be based around the Tower Festival Headland and North Pier.

Lightpool Festival – 25-28 October: Arts Council funding has been secured for the staging of a three-day Lightpool Festival in the October half term. This year's event will be a mixture of live performance, art installations, community engagement and a repeat of last year's hugely successful Illuminated tram parade.

In addition to the events on the Tower Festival Headland, The Winter Gardens will also host the third **International Soul Festival** from 15 – 17 June and the annual **Rebellion Punk Festival** from 2 – 5 August.

Finally, Nickelodeon, in association with VisitBlackpool, will once again stage the UK's only **SLIMEFEST** events. The six concerts, which are described as a mixture of music, mayhem and slime, are to be held at Pleasure Beach Arena from 20 – 22 October and will again feature Diversity and America's You Tube phenomenon, Jo Jo Siwa. Tickets sold out within weeks of going on sale.

Destination Marketing

We clearly have plenty to market! A new TV advertisement has been produced for the 2018 Blackpool Has It All destination marketing campaign. The ad, which is designed to show the huge range of visitor attractions across the resort, will air in Scotland from mid-June and across the north of England in July and August. The campaign is a collaboration between various partners including VisitBlackpool, Merlin Entertainments, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Winter Gardens, Sandcastle Waterpark and Blackpool Transport.

New Quality Visitor Accommodation: Hampton by Hilton and new Pleasure Beach Hotel

The new Hampton by Hilton hotel at South Beach has opened for business. Developed by Blackpool-based Create Construction, the 130-bedroom hotel occupies the site of formerly derelict hotel stock and is the first of the "next generation" hotels to open in the resort. Work is already underway on a new £12m hotel on the site of the former Star Pub at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and on the development of Blackpool's first five-star hotel at Sands Venue on the Golden Mile.

Transforming Services

Street Cleansing and 'Keep Blackpool Tidy'

Street Cleansing Operations continue to drive the 'Keep Blackpool Tidy' initiative with the introduction of wind sails on the promenade, successfully trialed on the last bank holiday at the end of May. They will be displayed at weekends and daily through the summer holidays. Similar initiatives will be rolled out within secondary shopping areas, where businesses will proactively display and gate keep wind sails to encourage a wider borough message and not just on the promenade and seafront. In addition, vehicles fitted with address systems playing a Blackpool jingle with messages from local school children about keeping the beach and promenade clean is in operation. On top of this, 180 willing residents have received litter-picking kits with approximately 20 new volunteers since April.

Working with Partners

World Monuments Fund and Blackpool's Piers

On 15 May, senior officers attended a meeting at Westminster with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Minister Michael Ellis MP to discuss the future of Blackpool's three piers and how central government proposes to support owners through the challenges they face from climate change and the challenges to economic sustainability. The Council were supported at the meeting by Dr Anya Chapman of Bournemouth University's School of Tourism Business Management and both Paul Maynard MP and Gordon Marsden MP.

The meeting was successful in two key areas. Firstly, the Minister accepted that Piers were becoming increasingly vulnerable and that the government did not have as much information as they would like on the overall condition of what everyone agreed were assets that are important to the identity of those seaside towns that still have them. Secondly, the Minister recognised the need for better support for owners in maintaining financial sustainability in the face of increased maintenance charges. The result was that the Minister asked the DCMS and Historic England representatives to look at forming an inquiry into the condition and challenges for seaside piers and for a piece of work, that examines how all owners might be better supported into economic sustainability. It was agreed that there would be a follow up meeting to include the CEO of World Monuments fund Britain to look at specifics and establish timescales for the work.

I would like to thank both our MP's and the vital advocacy offered by the World Monuments Fund for making this meeting possible with the Minister. I am delighted to announce that the World Monuments Fund Britain have agreed to fund an international conference in Blackpool next year on Seaside Heritage and Climate Change.

Public Conveniences

I can confirm that contract renegotiations in relation to public conveniences has now concluded and as part of the process the contractor, Danfo UK, has agreed to a significant investment programme, which will see a number of new facilities being developed in high footfall key locations. A reconfiguration of some existing units will also take place, which will see some units with low patronage being removed or relocated to more suitable locations. The existing Central Car Park units will be encased with a secure perimeter in order to address anti-social behaviour issues, while a new-build unit will be located on south promenade at Flagstaff Gardens. Further work is under way assessing the suitability of further promenade and town centre locations.

Claremont Week of Action

A hugely successful 'week of action' was carried out in the Claremont area between 23 and 27 April 2018. Council and Police joined forces in response to community, police and council intelligence in relation to anti-social behavior (ASB), drug dealing and general criminality at a number of premises within the area. Access was gained to 21 properties (62 flats) with action ranging from Community Protection Warning to Community Protection Notices to closures on

ASB grounds to Prohibition Orders. The police and council rounded off the week with a community engagement event at Westminster Academy, involving 250 children. We are actively considering carrying out similar joint activity in other areas of the town.