

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Relevant Officer:	Tony Doyle, Head of ICT Services, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	29 June 2023

BLACKPOOL INNOVATION CATALYST- THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHICALLY POWERED DATA

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update the Economic Prosperity Board on the work undertaken by the Connected Places Catapult on the Strategic Outline Business Case for the development of sustainable data centres.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To note the presentation to be given remotely by Bob Burgoyne from the Connected Places Catapult

3.0 Background information

3.1 Last September, after a successful symposium was held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on the opportunity to develop Ethically Powered Green Data Centres and a wider high-tech/climate tech ecosystem, Blackpool Council engaged the services of the Connected Places Catapult to develop the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) and roadmap. This work was concluded in late April 2023.

3.2 Bob Burgoyne from the Catapult will be joining the meeting remotely to present the findings of the SOBC. The project aims to capitalise on the Transatlantic fibre connectivity, future renewable energy sources such as offshore Wind, Solar and energy storage at the Blackpool Airport Enterprise as well as feed heat recovered from the data centres into a heat network for wider community benefit. The project also creates opportunities to grow high value future jobs and bring cutting edge research in collaboration with Lancaster University into the area.