

LEP - Growth Deal Management Board

Wednesday 21 March 2018 in Committee Room 'C' (The Duke of Lancaster Room) - County Hall, Preston, at 1.30pm

Agenda

Part I (Items Publicly Available)

- 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 06 December 2017 (Pages 1 - 6)**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Growth Deal Communication Update (Pages 7 - 86)**

Part II (Private and Confidential)

- 6. Northlight - Residential Accommodation and Business Units Mini Business Case (Pages 87 - 120)**
- 7. North West Burnley Growth Corridor - Project Update (Pages 121 - 144)**
- 8. Programme and Project Update (Pages 145 - 162)**
- 9. Growth Deal Finance Report March 2018 (Pages 163 - 168)**
- 10. Projects requesting additional funding**
Oral report

Part I (items publicly available)

- 11. Reporting to Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board**
- 12. Any Other Business**
- 13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018 in Committee Room D, County Hall, Preston

LEP - Growth Deal Management Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 1.30pm at the Committee Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Present

Graham Cowley (Chairman)

Michael Ahern
Brian Bailey
Alan Cavill

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones
Sue Procter
Julie Whittaker

In Attendance

Joanne Ainsworth, Financial Management, Lancashire County Council
John Holden-Ross, Solicitor, Lancashire County Council
Kathryn Molloy, Head of Service LEP Coordination, Lancashire County Council
Anne-Marie Parkinson, Programme Manager, Lancashire County Council
Holly Tween, Company Services, Lancashire County Council

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed all in attendance.

Apologies had been received from Gareth Smith, Katherine O'Connor and Paul Evans.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received as below:

- Brian Bailey – Blackburn Town Centre Improvements
- Alan Cavill- 21st Century Conference Centre, Blackpool Heritage Based Visitor Attraction
- Sue Procter – LCC led projects

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2016

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not addressed in the main agenda.

5. Amendments to Core Grant Funding Agreement

John Holden-Ross presented the report, and recommended a small number of changes to the core Grant Funding Agreement template, having tested it on a live project.

The main revisions were around confidentiality, Freedom of Information and Data Protection and the status of the parties.

Resolved: that the recommended revisions are adopted

6. North West Burnley Growth Corridor Appraisal Report

Graeme Collinge, Genecon, presented the appraisal of the North West Burnley Growth Corridor scheme.

It was noted that this scheme had been brought before the Board at an earlier stage than most due to the timescales involved in the requested change in land use for two sites which form a key part of the scheme and the need to link them into the emerging local plan.

It was noted that the HCA appraisal had been requested on the former Baxi Site, and that clarification on timescales for the Townscape Heritage Funding was needed.

Resolved: That approval for a maximum of £7m Growth Deal funding to the North West Burnley Growth Corridor scheme be recommended to the next meeting of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board subject to the conditions as set out on page 35 of the circulated Appraisal Report, and additionally:

1. That a timeline be produced showing clearly the interdependencies of the two sites, the flood defences and the road infrastructure
2. That the HCA's development appraisal be provided to establish if the HCA could contribute to fund the flood defence works. An update to be provided to the June meeting of the Growth Deal Management Board.
3. That an update on progress in meeting all of the conditions be brought to the June meeting of the Growth Deal Management Board.

7. Local Grant Funding Agreement - Blackpool 21st Century Conference Centre

Alan Cavill reported that site clearance was underway, the scheduled completion date was April 2019 and that major conference organisers had already shown interest.

Anne-Marie presented the circulated report and LGFA and confirmed that the conditions the Committee had requested previously had been incorporated into the agreement.

Resolved: that the Local Grant Funding Agreement for the Blackpool 21st Century Conference Centre be approved.

8. AMRC Update

Kathryn Molloy informed the Committee that two meetings had been held since the last GDMB meeting, focussing on the two conditions placed on the funding agreement around financial sustainability and activity focus based on Lancashire existing industrial strengths/business base and emerging opportunities. It was noted that positive progress had been made.

The funding strategy would build on the circulated positioning paper and recruiting for two senior posts within the AMRC NW had begun locally. A local engagement strategy would also be developed, as well as a national engagement plan which would focus on engaging Government.

Resolved: that the update be noted

9. Blackpool Heritage Visitor Attraction Project Update

Alan Cavill presented the report updating the Committee on this project, which had now been given the name 'the Amuseum'.

A paper was circulated showing an artist's impression of the new planned structure and layout inside, and it was noted that the majority of the funding decisions were expected to be made by March.

The business case would be brought to the Committee in March.

Resolved: that the update be noted, and the business case be submitted to the Growth Deal Management Board in March.

10. Preston Western Distributor project - update

Sue Procter updated the Committee on the Preston Western Distributor project.

A report had been presented to the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board on 29 November, asking for support for the project funding in full to allow the outline business case (OBC) to progress. This had been agreed; the OBC would be taken to the Transport for Lancashire Board in January and to the LEP Board at the end of January, with the intention of placing the Compulsory Purchase and Side Roads Order notice on the February LCC Cabinet Agenda.

Resolved: that the update be noted

11. Programme and Projects Update

Anne-Marie Parkinson presented the update report.

It was highlighted that 99.3% of the funding had now been allocated, and no queries had been raised in relation to the last claim submitted to Government in October.

It was noted that the Blackpool Tramway project had been recommended for approval by Transport for Lancashire on 20 November, and the TRO had been approved.

Further information had been received from Chorley Council for the Shady Lane project, officers were working through the scope of the scheme, and a further update would be presented to the next meet of the Growth Deal Management Board.

Lancaster University had confirmed that the level of ESIF funding contribution to be provided by DCLG for the Lancaster Health Innovation Campus had been agreed. A further comprehensive update would be provided to the next meeting.

The Committee considered and agreed the proposed approach to unallocated funding as set out in Appendix C whereby:

1. First call would be given to those schemes within the current programme that had requested additional resource;
2. If no schemes were identified via that process, a second call would focus on priority 1 Growth Deal 3 schemes that had failed to secure an allocation;
3. If no schemes were identified via that process, a review of priority 2 and 3 Growth Deal 3 schemes would be undertaken to determine if any schemes were still a priority
4. After exhausting the existing pipeline, LEP Board approval would be sought for an open call for new scheme proposals

It was noted that the decision process should be communicated in a clear and transparent way.

Resolved:

1. That the programme update be noted
2. That an update on Shady Lane be received at the next meeting
3. That the approach to unallocated funding as set out in Appendix C be agreed
4. That in accordance with the approach as detailed at Appendix C, it is

recommended to the next meeting of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board a further £2.2m Growth Deal funding be approved to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre NW project

12. Growth Deal Finance Summary

Joanne Ainsworth presented the financial update report, showing the fund's position as at the end of November, which was considered positive.

It was noted that the Blackpool Tramway information had been received after the report had been compiled, so this would be included in the next report.

Resolved: that the update be noted.

13. Reporting to Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board

Resolved: that the following would be reported to the LEP Board:

1. The process to deal with unallocated funds
2. The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre project to seek approval for a further £2.2m Growth Deal funding from within the Growth Deal programme
3. The North West Burnley Growth Corridor and Darwen East Distributor projects be presented for Growth Deal funding approval

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 21 March 2018 in Committee Room C – the Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Growth Deal Management Board

Private and Confidential: No

Wednesday, 21 March 2018

Growth Deal Communication Update

Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer

Report Author: Anne-Marie Parkinson, anne-marie.parkinson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

GDMB is asked to receive the Communications Report, covering the period July 2017 – Mar 2018, found at Appendices A and B to this report.

The report has been prepared by SKV Communications, who are responsible for delivering the LEP's strategic communications activity under the guidance of the Chief Executive of Marketing Lancashire and also managing the communication of the LEP's Growth Deal programme.

Appendix A - Communications & PR Activity
Appendix B - Media Coverage

Recommendation

The Growth Deal Management Board is asked to consider the contents of this report.

Appendix A

Growth Deal External Communications & PR July 2017 - March 2018

Context

Since July 2017, the LEP's retained agency SKV has been formally managing and co-ordinating PR activity around Growth Deal projects including liaising with local partners and project sponsors.

As part of this process all partners received a new, official Growth Deal communication protocols document and Growth Deal branding.

The new protocols incorporated new key messages from BEIS which link to how the Northern Powerhouse brand is presented and described in all external collateral and communications. A new Lancashire Growth Deal 'boiler plate' was also included.

The new protocol and branding was sent both communications staff and project managers with a responsibility for Growth Deal projects before Christmas.

In addition, SKV has continued to work on Growth Deal communications which have a county-wide, North West or potentially national significance – either in partnership with a local sponsor (e.g. Lancashire Energy HQ's official opening with B&FC) or as a LEP-led campaign (e.g. the skills investment piece based around several vocational milestones which were close together in the calendar last autumn).

Overview of Growth Deal Communications Activity

Despite not having access to a paid-for media monitoring service which provides cuttings or links to Growth Deal stories in the press, SKV has collated over 60 pieces of relevant media coverage since July 2017 (see PDF attached).

A majority of these have explicit references to Growth Deal funding, while some others credit the LEP's support more generically.

In nearly all cases the references to funding and support is articulated as an enabler, which is our primary key message in all communications.

This 'enabler' message is also frequently used in the quotes drafted on behalf of a LEP spokesperson (e.g. Edwin Booth, Graham Cowley, Dr Michele Lawty-Jones) which are included in partner press releases.

In a majority of cases the quote, or part of it, have been carried in subsequent media coverage.

Specific Communications Activity

Skills

Growth Deal investments in skills infrastructure have continued to provide a number of PR platforms for the LEP to talk about the importance of vocational training and how it links to the wider economic fortunes of Lancashire.

These included the opening of the Sentamu Teaching Block at University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus, the new £7.5m Food and Farming Innovation & Technology Centre (FFIT) at Myerscough, and the relocation of Lancashire's adult learning service to the Northlight development in Pendle.

For all of these projects SKV liaised closely with local partners to ensure not only that the LEP's role in each was highlighted, but also to emphasise that the Growth Deal fund had been the enabling source of investment.

Working with local partners, and supporting them in terms of advice and strategy, resulted in extensive local and regional coverage for each separate story:

Myerscough College

Myerscough College have reported that their own PR activity around the opening secured coverage in local press, plus Farmers' Guardian, Farmers Weekly, Farming UK, National Farmer, NFU magazine and Business Lancashire magazine, among others.

It was also featured twice on BBC Radio Lancashire including a three hour show broadcast live from site to showcase facility.

Cumbria University

Cumbria University's Sentamu Building official opening at Lancaster secured extensive coverage on BBC Radio Lancashire, with a four-hour programme being broadcast from the building.

The opening, attended by Edwin Booth, also enjoyed coverage in the Lancashire Post, Lancaster Guardian, Westmorland Gazette and News and Star together with The Bay, Lakeland Radio and In Cumbria.

Runshaw College

Runshaw College undertook local PR activity in this period in relation to its Engineering offer, which included the Growth Deal funded Science Engineering Innovation Centre (SEIC). This included the college sponsoring one of 13 trucks as part of the South Ribble Truck Trail where they sponsored one of the 13 trucks to help promote engineering in the area to young people.

Lancaster University

In November, Lancaster's investment in cutting-edge 3-D technologies, supported by Growth Deal funding, was the subject of a press story produced by the university.

Featuring a quote from Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, the piece centred around academic research, skills training and potentially for collaborative research and product development for regional businesses.

Lancaster is not aware of any external press coverage, but the story was uploaded to the University's news area of their website.

Overarching Skills PR

SKV combined many of these separate elements, and the proposed official opening of the Energy HQ in Blackpool as originally scheduled for September, to create an overarching skills investment piece which highlighted the strategic significance of the LEP's skills strategy, the role of the Skills Hub, and the impact of the Growth Deal programme.

The release also featured quotes from Edwin Booth, Dr Michele Lawty-Jones and Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry.

Subsequently the wider skills piece ran as a full colour feature page in the Lancashire Post print edition, and the addition of the Jake Berry quote (plus references to Brierfield Mill/Northlight) saw the Lancashire Telegraph run a rare 'countywide' positive LEP story in both print and online.

Further, national education trade title FE news also ran the overarching skills investment story, as did Business Quarter magazine (BQ).

Infrastructure and Transport

Partners continue to use major milestones linked to infrastructure to highlight the levels of investment going into their respective location, and Growth Deal funding is widely credited in subsequent press coverage.

In addition, Graham Cowley and/or Edwin Booth are regularly invited to attend partner photo-calls and events linked to Growth Deal funded infrastructure projects (e.g. ground breakings, road openings).

A quote from the LEP and, on occasion, the NPH Minister is also often requested.

Blackburn To Manchester Train Services

In November Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council organised a photo-shoot to highlight the launch of a new, more frequent Blackburn to Manchester train service.

Graham Cowley was invited to the event and was quoted in the accompanying press release talking about the Growth Deal as an enabler for better transport and economic growth.

The story was featured in the Lancashire Telegraph, and was promoted widely on BwD's own channels.

East Darwen Link Road

BwD also recently invited Graham Cowley to another photo-shoot to mark the start of work on Ellison Fold Way, the new, which will make it easier for residents and businesses to access the M65.

Graham was photographed and filmed, and references to GD funding were included in the press release. At the time of drafting this report any media coverage was still TBC.

Blackpool Quality Corridors

In November 2017 Blackpool Council undertook a major PR and public engagement campaign to raise awareness of the Quality Corridors programme as part of the wider *Making Blackpool Better* initiative.

It also marked the launch of the *Property Improvement Fund* (PIF) scheme launch.

The wide scale engagement and media campaign involved regular newsletters (print and online), partner briefings, resident leaflet drops, advertising, signage/hoardings, drop-in events, direct mail shots and an extensive social media campaign.

Social media output includes regular posts, generating on average five likes, 15 comments each time; highest number of shares is 86.

Press coverage included front page of Blackpool Gazette, and further update stories online. The PIF was also featured in Insider and on The Business Desk. Much of this coverage credited the role of the Growth Deal investment as an enabler for the improvement works.

Blackpool Trams

Extension of Blackpool's existing tramway network from The Promenade to Blackpool North Station was announced in November as part of the *Making Blackpool Better* launch.

Press coverage with references to the Growth Deal and the trams was secured with the Blackpool Gazette, That's Lancashire, Rail Technology Magazine and Radio Wave news bulletins.

Blackpool Intelligent Transport System (ITS)

In February 2018, Blackpool Council promoted the start on site for the installation of 21 new electronic signs around Blackpool to provide information on traffic, car parking and roadworks, in order to reduce congestion and delays.

A social media post generated 1,709 likes, 40 comments and four shares while the Blackpool Gazette carried the story (print and online) with Growth Deal References.

Preston City Centre

LCC recently undertook PR activity in relation to Preston City Centre improvement work which aims to create a more welcoming and attractive city centre.

Based around work starting on site, LCC undertook a press and social media campaign which resulted in Facebook and Twitter interactions and articles in the Lancashire Post.

Radio coverage on Radio Lancashire and Rock FM, and on local news website Blog Preston was also secured.

References to Growth Deal support as an enabler were included in all external media relations.

Preston Western Distributor

A Transport for Lancashire meeting in January, where the costs of the Preston Western Distributor were discussed, was picked up on by The Lancashire Post.

Despite the piece leading with a headline about escalating costs and a funding 'bombshell', the Post's reporting also highlighted many key positive messages about the project and referenced the support of the LEP and the Growth Deal.

Jobs, Innovation and Enterprise

A number of major Growth Deal funded projects, designed to drive innovation and stimulate enterprise in Lancashire, have been coming forward in this period. These have included some major flagship projects linked to education such as the HIC, EIC and Energy HQ.

Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus

Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC) was another major part of the PR activity SKV undertook in support of the MIPIM UK Lancashire trade mission in October 2017, as part of a wider focus on Lancaster as an investment hotspot.

Subsequently the University has undertaken its own PR around the start of works for the HIC, and the press release included a three-paragraph quote from Graham

Cowley about the significance of the HIC for Lancaster and the county as a whole. Graham's quote also highlighted the LEP's support for the 3,500 home Garden Village development.

SKV did approach the NPH office, via Paul Evans at BEIS, with regards to a potential Minister's quote.

However, the quote supplied arrived too late for inclusion in Lancaster's release.

The HIC ground-breaking generated substantial media coverage locally and regionally including coverage on BBC Radio Lancashire, Lancashire Business View, Insider, Lancashire Evening Post and Place North West.

Much of this coverage included quotes from Graham about the GD investment.

University of Central Lancashire's Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC)

January 2018 saw a burst of PR activity linked to the completion of the EIC's steelwork.

This included a press release, UCLan web story, UCLan newsletter story and social media activity.

Media coverage, including references to Growth Deal, was secured with Lancashire Evening Post Place, North West Business Desk and Bdaily.

Lancashire Energy HQ

At the time of drafting this report the official opening of the Lancashire Energy HQ was imminent.

SKV had been liaising closely with Blackpool & Fylde College on the shape and content of the launch activity, while also working with Paul Evans at BEIS regarding the Minister's involvement.

It was agreed with regards to media that B&FC would manage local and regional press, plus B2B and education media. SKV was asked to pitch the event to regional broadcast and national news media.

As part of this process SKV asked to get sight of any approved press release to share with the Minister's office with a view to getting a quote, and also asked if the college could share any approved language/messaging around shale in order to brief Graham who is due to attend the event on behalf of the LEP.

Updates and outcomes of the above activity TBC.

Burnley Vision Park

Burnley Council has been actively undertaking PR to promote Vision Park to end users to attract tenants. Recent activities have included first spade on site, a partner photoshoot and an official launch event in January 2018 which was attended by Graham Cowley.

All PR has included references to Growth Deal support. Coverage has been secured in Insider, Lancashire Telegraph, LBV, Property Week

Lomeshaye

In November 2017 news that Pendle Borough Council had agreed to inject £1.9m to extend the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate in Brierfield, in conjunction with Lancashire County Council agreeing to give £1.5m towards the scheme, put the project back in the local spotlight.

Pendle Today ran an article on the investment boost, which also referred to the support the scheme had enjoyed from the Growth Deal fund.

Northlight/Brierfield Mill

In September 2017 the £32m Northlight complex as the new home for the Lancashire Adult Learning created a PR milestone for Pendle Council and the PEARL partnership (Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration Ltd).

A launch event and press release was prepared, and Graham Cowley was invited to the event and quoted extensively in the release.

The story was covered extensively in the local Leader/Times newspaper series.

Local press coverage highlighted the LEP's contribution of £750,000 of Growth Deal Skills Capital and the overall £4.2million of Growth Deal funding to the scheme.

In December 2017 Pendle also announced how planning permission had been granted for 52 apartments, cafes and restaurants and offices for the Northlight complex.

A news story was issued with architects' impressions which included a credit for Growth Deal funding.

Coverage for the story was secured in local press and on local radio.

The profile of Northlight was also raised within Pendle's business community during PEARL's Focus on Your Business Week which included a spotlight on the redevelopment of the Brierfield Mill site.

Other Media Coverage & Growth Deal References

The Lancashire Growth Deal continues to be referenced in more generic Lancashire inward investment stories which often also refer to City Deal and other programmes and initiatives.

MIPIM UK

The Lancashire MIPIM delegation enjoyed extensive local and regional media coverage both pre and post-event. References to the Growth Deal as a major facilitator of Lancashire's economic growth were included in all press releases, and these were included in a majority of the subsequent coverage.

BAE, Alstom & Job Creation

The Growth Deal as a facilitator of growth also highlighted in an in-depth feature in the Lancashire Post prior to Christmas which asked local MPs and other influencers what Lancashire was doing to help create jobs in the wake of BAE and Alstom announcements of redundancies.

Blackpool Conference & Exhibition Centre

Visit Blackpool and the Winter Gardens recently undertook a B2B campaign highlighting their presence at the Confex trade show in London. Confex is dedicated to the conference, meeting and exhibition industry.

An update on the £25m Conference & Exhibition Centre was included in the story, and a new CGI of the project was issued to trade media.

The Winter Gardens update enjoyed substantial coverage in a number of exhibition and conference press and the story was later picked up by Lancashire Business View and Blackpool Gazette.

NB the trade press omitted details of the conference centre funding, but references to GD funding and LEP support did appear in local coverage.

Other stories and projects where the Growth Deal was cited in this period include the Lancashire Skills & Employment Hub's Social Value Toolkit, Aerospace Lancashire's presence at Paris International Airshow, M55 Heyhouses Link Road, LCC's appointment of Stephen Young as Director of Growth, and Blackburn with Darwen's new construction framework.

Learnings and Recommendations

A vast majority of partners who manage and promote Growth Deal funded projects now explicitly reference the LEP's GD support in all external communication.

Some also regularly approach SKV to request a supportive quote from the LEP and/or NPH, and often invite the LEP to attend events and milestone photo-calls.

This, combined with the consistent 'enabling' message which SKV embeds into all GD communications activity, means the Growth Deal is widely referenced and recognised as a facilitating fund which is helping projects– both big and small – across Lancashire to drive growth and regeneration.

SKV believes there is an opportunity to build on this momentum, and recommends the following approach to increase GD PR visibility going forward:

- Proactively contact all communications partners and offer the option of an LEP quote on every GD project they are looking to publicise, with the proviso we need at least three days' notice to respond.
- As sometimes the Growth Deal gets written out of wider Lancashire inward investment pieces by the media, we recommend that 'Growth Deal' is explicitly referenced somewhere in any LEP spokesperson's quote, even if the story is not directly linked to GD funding. This will improve the chances of getting it referenced in any subsequent coverage.
- We propose the six-monthly coverage book (as attached) is circulated to all partners and project sponsors - both within communications and operations teams – to demonstrate how individual, local projects fit into the wider, positive inward investment narrative for Lancashire - with Growth Deal support as the common factor.
- Due to the fact many partners have struggled to give us indications of potential PR milestones on the horizon, we recommend we work more closely with LEP/LCC colleagues to anticipate potential PR opportunities based on schedules outlined on the main Growth Deal project planner.

Forthcoming PR Opportunities (as highlighted by partners)

- Lancashire Energy HQ Opening, March 8th
- Lancashire at MIPIM International (March 13-16)
- AMRC (TBC)
- Preston Western Distributor milestones (TBC)
- Preston city centre improvement works (TBC)
- Further HIC milestones (TBC)
- Young Farmers Leadership Academy at Myerscough 1st Anniversary (September 2018)
- Progress on new arts garage for In-Situ arts at Northlight
- Progress on new facilities for Burnley Football Club in the community at Northlight
- Official launch of PEARL website at Northlight (March 2018)
- Burnley Vision Park new tenant announcements

- Burnley Vision Park media & partner tours

Richard Bond
Director of Strategy
SKV Communications
5th March 2018



Growth Deal Media Coverage July 2017-March 2018



Northern Transport Summit | Summary, slides + photos

29 Jun 2017, 11:56 ■ Comments (2)

Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham told the Northern Transport Summit the region faces a critical six months if it is to make its case to Government for more investment in infrastructure.

See below for highlights video, slides + gallery

Burnham issued a rallying cry to more than 230 delegates urging business leaders to work "side-by-side" with politicians to challenge assumptions about investment in the North and improve the way it lobbied Government ahead of the next budget.

He spoke at a day-long conference in central Manchester, hosted by Transport for the North and *Place North West*, sponsored by Remarkable Group, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, TEM Planning and Broadway Malyan.

The Mayor said Northern Powerhouse Rail, which would link the cities of the north, would be a "game changer" and called on Government to integrate the plans with proposals to bring HS2 to the region.

He added that Government had been "half-hearted" in its commitment to Northern Powerhouse Rail, and it would be a "national scandal" if it decided to fund London's Crossrail 2 but failed to invest in northern rail infrastructure.

Burnham said transport in the North was at capacity following years of under-investment, and transport infrastructure projects would be the catalyst for bringing the Northern Powerhouse "back to life".



Rail, multimodal and public-private partnerships

The day included a series of panel discussions covering local government, the region's rail infrastructure, investment in multimodal transport and the role of the private sector in helping deliver transport schemes.

Local government panel discussion:

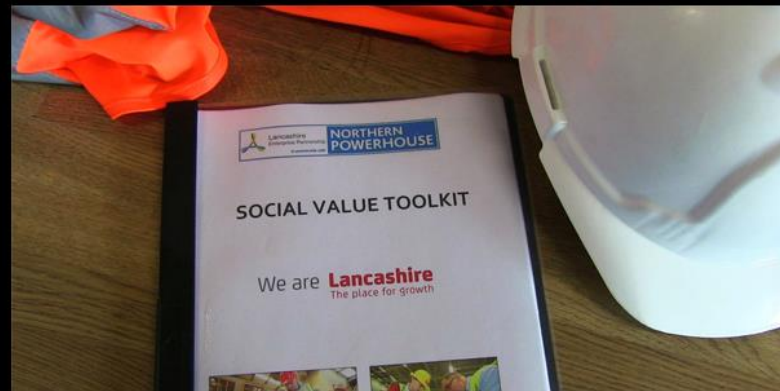
- Geoff Driver, leader of Lancashire County Council, and chair of Transport for Lancashire, said the £300m Growth Deal and £400m City Deal was improving transport infrastructure in Lancashire, with the priority to improve rail links with the East of England
- Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, said over the next five years Greater Manchester could expect a fully integrated transport system which could be compared with London's
- Mark Lynam from the Sheffield City Region Executive Team, stressed that a multimodal transport system was critical and a priority was to improve connectivity between the region's towns
- Liverpool City Council's transport lead Liam Robinson told delegates the city's ports and logistics industry was its USP and would be supported with a better road network
- Frank Jordan, acting deputy chief executive at Cheshire East Council, said preparation was underway for the arrival of HS2 in Crewe to ensure the region maximised the opportunities it presented and attract more people to live and work in the area
- Cumbria County Council assistant director of economy and environment, Angela Jones, told delegates better transport links would be needed up unlock the potential of the county's industries such as energy, nuclear and advanced manufacturing

Private sector panel discussion:

- Henry Brooks from TEM Planning said transport plans for the North had come a long way in a short period of time and the private sector should now be "unleashed" and be the main delivery body to support public sector objectives
- Collaboration between public and private sector would be key in turning the vision for the North into a reality according to Deborah McLaughlin at GL Hearn, who reminded delegates that long-term plans shouldn't mean delays in providing transport investment to support thousands of homes currently being built
- Kevin Whitmore from Remarkable Group told the conference that business leaders could not simply rely on politicians to make the case for investment and needed to provide "as much ammunition as possible" to make the strongest argument
- Christian Spence from the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce said its members were supportive of transport plans, but would benefit from seeing more delivery on the ground, and a consideration of the full door-to-door journey
- The skills gap will be a huge challenge when it comes to building major infrastructure projects according to Michael Odling at Mace, adding businesses would need to know what kind of skills they would need to develop as the economy changed

27.07.17

NEW GUIDE TO HELP EMPLOYERS GIVE MORE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY LAUNCHED BY LANCASHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP



The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has published a new guide to help suppliers deliver more social value and generate increased local benefits into publicly funded-construction projects in order to help improve the county's economy.

Under the terms of the Social Value Act, introduced in 2013, anyone who commissions public services, such as the LEP, are required to consider how they can secure a substantial social, economic and environmental return on investment for local communities from any public money being spent.

In Lancashire this includes major capital investment programmes, such as the £430m City Deal and £320m Growth Deal, and other housing and infrastructure projects throughout the county.

The 18-page document, entitled the 'Social Value Toolkit', is available to download for free from the LEP's website. It clearly outlines what the principles of social value are, why it is significant to Lancashire, and explains how firms can embed social value benefits into their day-to-day operational practices.

The Toolkit also contains case studies demonstrating how local companies working on construction projects are already delivering substantial added-value to local communities, and to the wider Lancashire economy, through specific employment, training and procurement policies.

For example, the report highlights how developer Lovell has committed to delivering over 1,000 hours of training for local apprentices as part of the £22m redevelopment programme of Blackpool's Queens Park housing estate.

Another case study highlights how Balfour Beatty created and delivered a comprehensive local community engagement strategy linked to its recent work at Runshaw College. This resulted in numerous work placements for college students, new apprenticeships for local people and regular projects with local schools, scout groups and community groups.

Balfour Beatty's work at Runshaw is also cited as an exemplar of local supply chain best practice with regards to over 80% all of staff, sub-contractors and suppliers coming from within 30 miles of the site.

In addition, details of how the LEP and its partners assess and monitor the social value elements of any LEP funded programme are covered. This includes how social value is embedded as a guiding principle in the project from its earliest inception to its completion, how both the supplier and the LEP intend to benchmark and monitor the social value outcomes from any scheme, and what the social value legacy will be for the local community once the development is finished. The Toolkit also contains a directory of contacts and support services which can help advise companies tendering for any public sector work in Lancashire on how to build a stronger social value element into any contract bids.

Edwin Booth, Chair of the Lancashire LEP, said: *"This Toolkit has been created to help companies delivering publicly funded LEP schemes in Lancashire to not only meet the objectives outlined in the Social Value Act, but also to add as much value as possible to the Lancashire economy through creating new training and employment opportunities at a local level."*

"This is to ensure that schemes delivered through programs like the £320m Growth Deal and £430m City Deal result in far more than just new roads and houses, and highlight that for every property development there is potential for all suppliers to build in social value initiatives which will have a productive, positive and lasting impact on the local community."

"I'd also encourage any employer in Lancashire to download it and see how they can support the LEP's drive to create new jobs, address the skills gaps, and tackle issues like long-term unemployment across the county, by contributing whatever they can at a local level in accordance with the principles of social value."

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Business leaders celebrate opening of £9m university building



Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 3:42PM

Businesses have descended on the University of Cumbria's newest state of the art building.

A business breakfast networking event has been held, in partnership with the Lancaster & District Chamber of Commerce, on the Lancaster campus.

The Sentamu building, which has now been officially opened, cost £9m.

The event provided the opportunity for attendees to explore the market place where a range of businesses were showcasing and networking.

Business owners were also given the opportunity to promote themselves through quick-fire, 60 second pitch.

Steve Wood, business development manager at the university said: "The event was a celebration of two things. One was to invite business leaders to look at the new building, and the other was to provide them with an opportunity to network.

"We also wanted to demonstrate that the University of Cumbria is part of the business community, and we want to help and support businesses to grow."

Mr Wood added: "We are very pleased with the level of support from the business community at the event. We want to work closely with the businesses of South Cumbria and north Lancashire."

Bespoke Partnerships representative, Diane Chambers, said: "This has been a great opportunity to meet other local businesses. It has been great to introduce and network our business with others.

"The facilities here for conferencing and networking are amazing. This has been a masterstroke in showcasing the building, and everyone here has been extremely impressed."

The building has been named in honour of the university's chancellor, the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu.

It was opened by Edwin Booth, an honorary fellow of the University of Cumbria and chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which contributed £2.5m towards the project.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, which is part of the LEP, said: "This state of the art teaching building offers first class accommodation with modern teaching and learning facilities.

"It will play a key role in improving the skills of the county's health and social care workforce, helping to transform the sector for years to come.

"This partnership with the University of Cumbria is a fantastic example of how the LEP uses its investment funds, as part of our ambitious strategic growth plan, to help realise the kind of projects that bring huge benefits to the county's economy.

"I am delighted that we are now just a few weeks away from this fantastic new teaching block opening its doors to students."

The new facility will train an additional 580 students, helping to meet the demand for health and social care services in Lancashire.

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Launches Employer Community Guide

July 31, 2017



The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has published a new guide to help suppliers deliver more social value and generate increased local benefits into publicly funded-construction projects in order to help improve the county's economy.

Under the terms of the Social Value Act, introduced in 2013, anyone who commissions public services, such as the LEP, are required to consider how they can secure a substantial social, economic and environmental return on investment for local communities from any public money being spent.

In Lancashire this includes major capital investment programmes, such as the £430m City Deal and £320m Growth Deal, and other housing and infrastructure projects throughout the county.

The 18-page document, entitled the 'Social Value Toolkit', is available to download for free from the LEP's website. It clearly outlines what the principles of social value are, why it is significant to Lancashire, and explains how firms can embed social value benefits into their day-to-day operational practices.

The Toolkit also contains case studies demonstrating how local companies working on construction projects are already delivering substantial added-value to local communities, and to the wider Lancashire economy, through specific employment, training and procurement policies.

For example, the report highlights how developer Lovell has committed to delivering over 1,000 hours of training for local apprentices as part of the £22m redevelopment programme of Blackpool's Queens Park housing estate.

Another case study highlights how Balfour Beatty created and delivered a comprehensive local community engagement strategy linked to its recent work at Runshaw College. This resulted in numerous work placements for college students, new apprenticeships for local people and regular projects with local schools, scout groups and community groups.

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"This is to ensure that schemes delivered through programs like the £320m Growth Deal and £430m City Deal result in far more than just new roads and houses, and highlight that for every property development there is potential for all suppliers to build in social value initiatives which will have a productive, positive and lasting impact on the local community.

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BQ

31.07.17



Andy Walker from Aerospace Lancashire

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS LANCASHIRE'S POSITION WITHIN UK AEROSPACE SECTOR

Lancashire reinforced its position as the UK's biggest region for aerospace activity at last month's Paris Airshow, as a new report confirms the county employs more people within the sector than any other in the UK.

The international expo, which ran from June 19-25, was attended by representatives of Aerospace Lancashire, the joint initiative between the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Lancashire County Council (LCC) which launched at the Farnborough International Airshow last year.

Part of the North West Aerospace Alliance (NWAA) delegation, Aerospace Lancashire had its own exhibition stand which showcased the county's world-class aerospace businesses, assets and infrastructure dedicated to aerospace R&D, manufacturing and servicing.

This included the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone site, part of the new Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Enterprise Zone cluster, which has been designated a dedicated aerospace hub. Samlesbury is also the location of the BAE's UK manufacturing base which includes its hi-tech aerospace training facility, the Academy for Skills & Knowledge.

Another key part of Aerospace Lancashire's trade mission was sharing the findings of a new report, produced by the NWAA, into the size, diversity and growth potential of Lancashire's aerospace economy.

Lancashire: Number One For Aerospace Jobs is a 28-page report that analysed local, regional, national and global aerospace markets and assessed Lancashire's current and future growth opportunities within the sector.

It found that not only was Lancashire still the UK's number one region for Aerospace employment, with around 17,000 directly employed in the sector, it is the only place in the UK to have the skills, resources and capacity for the end-to-end manufacturing and servicing of a complete aircraft for its entire life-cycle.

The research also highlighted that Lancashire has enjoyed substantial private sector investment, totalling around £300m, into aerospace and related facilities in recent years.

This level of investment, combined with the multi-million pounds of public money secured by the LEP through three rounds of Growth Deal funding to support aerospace activities, means Lancashire has the resources and infrastructure to sustain growth within the aerospace and AEM sectors for many years to come.

It has been calculated that around 500 firms in Lancashire directly supply the county's aerospace sector, with many of these working within specialist manufacturing areas such as precision components, advanced surface treatments, and the assembly of engine sub-systems.

Andy Walker, from the Aerospace Lancashire delegation, said: "As this report has highlighted, Lancashire remains the UK's biggest aerospace employer and supports tens of thousands of high skilled jobs both directly and through its supply chain."

David Bailey, chief executive of the NWAA, said: "Our new report suggests that the global economic outlook for the aerospace sector remains very positive, with Lancashire in a great position to build upon its status as the UK's leading region for aerospace jobs. The fact that Lancashire has a complete end-to-end capability to design, build and maintain an entire fixed-wing aircraft provides for a fantastic range of business and employment opportunities."

Funding plan for key motorway link

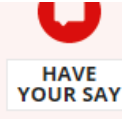


Traffic on North Houses Lane, where Lancashire County Council want to build the M55 link road.

By
SHELAGH PARKINSON

Published: 12:22

Lancashire County Council's cabinet is being asked to put the money towards [construction](#) of the M55 Heyhouses link road which would take pressure off Queensway.



The proposed road would connect the existing roundabout at Whitehills Road to the north with Heyhouses Lane near the Cyprus Point [development](#) site to the south.

It would improve access between Lytham, St Annes and the M55, as well as supporting other developments include plans by Kensington Developments for 1,150 new homes.

County Coun Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Access from Lytham and St Annes to the M55 is presently via a circuitous and busy route leading to unreliable journey times.

"The situation has worsened since the most direct [route](#) on Wild Lane was closed in 2013 but there is also a need to satisfy expected increased traffic demands.

"There are still a number of hurdles to overcome and we are working closely with partners to clear them, but securing the funding contributions we need is critical to taking the scheme forward to completion."

The scheme is currently estimated to cost £21.7m, with contributions also planned from Fylde Council, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, Highways England, the Department for Transport and Kensington Developments.

If project milestones are met, and funding is in place, a contract for the road's construction could be awarded next April, with the road potentially completed in Spring 2021.

insider
August
2017



We are Lancashire The place for growth

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, working with its local, regional and national partners has secured a £1 billion growth plan and brought forward over 50 major growth initiatives since its inception in 2011.

These include:

- The £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, which is recognised as one of the country's leading City Deals and which aims to create 20,000 new jobs and 17,000 new homes.
- £320m in Growth Deal allocations, the largest secured outside the core city regions, which is on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes and £1.2 billion in new private sector investment by 2021.
- Boost, Lancashire's high performing business growth hub, which has worked with over 3,000 local SMEs and created over 1,300 new jobs in its first three years.
- The Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster programme, based on three Zones across four sites, which is potentially capable of supporting 10,000 new jobs in the advanced manufacturing, aerospace, energy and chemical sectors.
- A major innovation programme anchored by Lancashire's three leading universities – Lancaster, UCLan and Edge Hill – delivering new centres of excellence to exploit new growth opportunities and lift supply chain productivity levels in priority sectors.
- The £20m Growing Places Investment Fund in eight commercial investments across Lancashire which is helping to create almost 3,500 new jobs, 200 new housing units and almost 500,000 square ft of new commercial floor-space.

To find out more about Lancashire's achievements, and its vision for the future at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, download our five-year report at:
www.lancashirelep.co.uk/about-us/about-the-lep

We are **Lancashire**
The place for growth



LANCASHIRE

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THE RED ROSE BLOOMS

Lancashire is one of the largest economies in the Northern Powerhouse with nearly 50,000 businesses generating nearly £28bn per year.

The county is number one in the UK for advanced manufacturing and aerospace production, with 500 companies in the aerospace supply chain. Lancashire also has

potential to become a global leader in small modular nuclear reactors. In addition, the area is also home to some of the country's leading universities and colleges producing the UK's largest source of STEM graduates.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has a hugely successful track record in securing substantial private and public sector

investment to drive growth, create jobs and improve infrastructure. In just five years it has delivered economic programmes worth more than £1bn and has kick-started more than 50 major growth initiatives.

Insider's Business of Lancashire conference was attended by some of the county's most successful business leaders and influencers.



PANEL ONE

AT THE HEART OF THE NORTH

Ruth Connor chief executive, Marketing Lancashire
Khalid Saifullah managing director, Star Tissue

Adam Turner sales director, Chorley Group

Warren Marshall group planning director, Peel Ports
Bev Robinson principal and chief executive, Blackpool & Fylde College

Joel Arber pro vice chancellor, UCLAN

What are the key industries and how are we investing?

Ruth Connor There's momentum and businesses want to be a part of it. Our role is to showcase the strength of businesses here. We want more business to be driven into this diverse. Key sectors are advanced manufacturing and aerospace, as well as food and drink (Lancashire is the only self-sustaining county) and the

visitor economy. Lancashire is second to none on education too, then we also have creative and digital. We try to look at core strengths and emerging sectors such as energy and health. We have all the ingredients to leverage for investment opportunities.

Are imports and logistics a growth sector?

Warren Marshall Peel ports, not only Heysham but also Liverpool, is part of the Lancashire supply chain. Eighty per cent of Lancashire is agricultural and most of the animal feed in the winter months comes through Liverpool. We're also involved in the energy sector, and there's opportunities to tap into offshore wind. Lancashire is a springboard to Ireland and the Isle of Man. A lot of work we do help makes local businesses more cost competitive. Lots of

imported goods come into the South East and end up travelling 300 miles, which increases congestion, carbon and costs, so we're trying to partner with businesses in the North West. These include Home Fabrics in Burnley, Eric Wright Construction and Seatruck Ferries in Heysham. We're keen to work with Lancashire businesses to make them more competitive. The road link at Heysham was the missing piece that is now in place.

What investments are you making on the Fylde Coast?

Bev Robinson Over the past four years we've spent £48m on investments aligned with the LEP priorities. For example, the Advanced Technology Centre looking at robotics and advanced manufacturing and the marine engineering centre. We have plans for another

£42m of investments by 2020. The nub of it is to make sure that educators work in partnership with industry and give businesses the skilled workers they need. Young people can get carried away with wanting to be a pseudo celebrity, I'd love to see headline news that "aerospace engineers are the thing to be".

Do you think the skills gap is an issue?

Joel Arber Absolutely. To stay relevant and attractive to students and businesses, we need to transform our offer. We are investing heavily in the university sites. It is not gloss, it is to accommodate different provision. Lancashire's ability to recruit and retain health workers is a big challenge. So our investments involve working with NHS Trusts and developing undergraduate medical

University gets new £9m teaching block



The new teaching block at the University of Cumbria.

The major development of a £9m teaching block on the Lancaster campus of the University of Cumbria is just weeks away from opening.

Featuring a 222 seat state of the art lecture theatre, class rooms and quiet study space the [building](#) is now ready to welcome new students in September.

The facility will be called the Sentamu Teaching Block in honour of the university's chancellor, the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu.

It will be officially opened on September 5 by Edwin Booth, an honorary fellow of the University of Cumbria and chairman of the Lancashire [Enterprise](#) Partnership (LEP) which contributed £2.5m towards the project.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, which is part of the LEP, said: "This state of the art teaching building offers first-class accommodation with modern teaching and learning facilities.

"It will play a key role in improving the skills of the county's health and social care workforce, helping to transform the sector for years to come.

"This partnership with the University of Cumbria is a fantastic example of how the LEP uses its investment funds, as part of our ambitious strategic growth plan, to help realise the kind of projects that bring huge benefits to the county's economy."

The new facility will train an additional 580 students, helping to meet the demand for health and social care services in Lancashire, which is increasing all the time due to an ageing population.

During construction students and staff were consulted about the colour scheme, furniture and carpets and the development is already receiving praise as a sympathetic addition to the hill-top campus which has buildings dating back to 1880.

"The building looks amazing from outside, inside the colours we've used are very striking and I wanted it to be a focal point for students to really draw people in," says project manager Nigel Beeden.

With numerous charging points for essential electrical devices, a chill-out area and a balcony overlooking playing fields with views towards Williamson Park and the Trough of Bowland, the development has been welcomed by students.

"The university has consulted with us throughout the project and we've been asked about the kind of furniture that should be used as well as the development of a break room for students," Bethany Cutter, welfare officer for University of Cumbria Students Union said.

Academics too are eager to make use of the building which, together with the neighbouring annexe, will transform their ability to make the most of important class time for students.

"To be able to make use of a flexible teaching space where we can make full use of all our resources will make a major difference and ensure students get the most from each lecture," principal lecturer Jan Ashbridge said.

The official opening will also coincide with the creation of an exhibition of artefacts drawn together to mark the tenth anniversary of the formation of the University of Cumbria which will be housed in the new teaching block.

New Guide To Help Employers Give More Back To The Community Launched By Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

By Andrew Mann · July 28, 2017

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Downloadable Social Value Toolkit to help Lancashire firms generate more sustainable community benefits and increased local prosperity now available

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£9m teaching block opened



Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Edwin Booth with University of Cumbria Vice Chancellor Prof Julie Mennell at the official opening of the £9m Semantu Building

Published: 08:46

Thursday 07 September 2017

Share this article



A new multi-million pound teaching block which will help train hundreds of health and social care students has been officially opened.

The £9m Semantu [Building](#) at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus has been named after the university's chancellor the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu.

Although, unable to attend the ceremony, he will be visiting in the academic year to bless the facility.

"It has been a privilege to sit as Chancellor during this period of growth and I am deeply honoured to have my name attached to a building in a place of learning and human flourishing."

The project received £2.5m of Growth Deal Skills funding from the Lancashire [Enterprise](#) Partnership whose chairman Edwin Booth cut a ceremonial ribbon which followed an inaugural speech by Professor Ian Cumming OBE, chief executive of Health Education England.

Edwin Booth said: "We aim to create a pipeline of skilled talent which will help transform Lancashire's health and social care sector, meeting the challenges of an ageing population and rising life expectancy and to support the creation of more than 700 new health and social care jobs in the region by 2024."

University vice-chancellor Prof Julie Mennell added: "The learning that will go on in the building will affect lives, both the hundreds of students who will pass through and the many more people who will benefit from their expertise in the future."

New Multi-Million Food and Farming Innovation & Technology Centre Opens at Myerscough

September 8, 2017 Ann Turner, Craig Thompson, Edwin Booth, Food farming innovation & technology centre, James Oddie, John Wherry, Myerscough

A host of special guests have gathered for the official opening of **Myerscough College's** state-of-the-art, multi-million **Food and Farming Innovation & Technology Centre**.

Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, Edwin Booth, and The Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE, were the Guests of Honour at the ceremony to mark the opening of the complex, which is set to be a sector leading centre of excellence for industry training and research in beef production.

The FFIT (Food and Farming Innovation & Technology) Centre, on the site of Myerscough's Lodge Farm, is a major flagship build for agriculture and associated courses at Myerscough. The main FFIT Centre comprises of a red brick, two-storey building to house the research and teaching facilities that link with the various technologies in the nearby Livestock Innovation Centre and farm. The FFIT Centre also boasts facilities to support food research and development with the aim of creating a resource that both local businesses and students can use to investigate opportunities to process and add value to on-farm produce.

This includes specialist teaching, demonstration and research facilities including a teaching laboratory, soil laboratory, instrumentation room, production development kitchen, as well as a conference room, general teaching rooms, offices, a dining area and changing facilities.

Ann Turner welcomed invited guests to the official opening of the centre, saying: "The FFIT Centre showcases the latest technologies and innovations, sourced from around the world, for precision UK agriculture.

"They have been purpose built to provide the ideal environment to demonstrate cutting-edge development in the food and farming industries, whilst providing an ideal setting to train and educate the next generation for a highly skilled agriculture industry."

The complex is also home to a Livestock Innovation Centre, which provides new livestock production facilities with embedded technology to promote precision farming practices. The LIC can accommodate up to 180 cattle at a time, but it is the technology within the building that sets it apart from other buildings typically found on farms.

The £7.5 million project, which has been facilitated with generous support of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, has been more than three years in the making, beginning with a successful 'expression of interest' bid to the LEP in March 2014. As a result, the plan was further developed with the brief being to establish a centre of excellence at Myerscough College which showcases the use of innovation and technology in farming and the production of food, focusing especially on grazing livestock and grassland management.

The project was finally approved by the LEP in June 2015. Planning permission and contractors were secured in January 2016 and construction commenced in February 2016. Now the build is complete, staff and students will actively engage with the technology from the outset and are eagerly anticipating the research trials that can be carried out on various aspects of livestock management.

Craig Thompson is Head of Agriculture & Countryside and outlines the benefits the FFIT Centre will bring: "The FFIT project is a bold and ambitious project which offers numerous significant benefits to the food and farming sector within the North West. Not only will the College be training farmers for the future, it will also give existing farmers and rural businesses the opportunity to see how innovation and technology can be used on their farms.

"It will also reaffirm Myerscough College's place amongst some of the leading land-based Colleges within the UK. Our learners will leave Myerscough already experienced in the very latest technology the agriculture has to offer, putting them in pole position for leading positions within the industry."

John Wherry, Deputy Principal Resources at Myerscough College, said: "The centre enables the College to make a significant contribution towards the realisation of Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships Strategic Economic Plan.

"Myerscough already has a significant network of local businesses including more than 6,000 farmers, 80 small food producers who are members of college managed Made in Lancashire and around 1,200 employers who the College interacts and delivers training to in any given year.

"The project will ultimately result in the creation of a centre of excellence to lead the development and adoption of precision farming techniques within the livestock and grassland sectors. The facility will also provide resources to support the development of local food products. As the project is being delivered on the College's existing Lodge Farm site it will therefore be integrated into existing farming activities and directly support curriculum delivery on the farm."



Edwin Booth, Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), said: "The new centre at Myerscough College is the first of its kind nationally and will be a hub of excellence and innovation to lead the development of precision farming within livestock and grassland sectors.

"It will encourage the roll out of research and innovation to help transform Lancashire's agricultural sector, as well as supporting the development of local food production. The LEP has invested in the new FFIT centre through its Growth Deal Skills Capital Fund in order to help address significant skills shortages in Lancashire's agricultural sector and attract new entrants to the industry.

This is part of a major investment programme by the LEP which is creating a network of new training facilities to develop the specific skills and capabilities in the county's workforce required by employers in key economic sectors.

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12.09.17



LANCASHIRE BOOSTS SKILLS WITH NEW WAVE OF INVESTMENT

Lancashire will soon see £13m of investment to create over 4000 new training and apprenticeship opportunities in range of different sectors across the county.

Over the next two months, four new education facilities will open as part of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) wider £27m technical and vocational skills Growth Deal funding programme.

The new facilities will include the Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, a training centre for the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors; the Food and Farming Innovation and Technology (FFIT) Centre at Myerscough College in Preston; and the Sentamu Teaching Block at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus, which will specialise in training health and social care students.

In addition, Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) - the county's adult learning service - will move from Chorley to premises at Brierfield Mill in Pendle as part of the £32m Northlight regeneration scheme. The new LAL centre will support 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 community venues.

These new colleges, learning amenities, and the relocation of the LAL service, have been kick-started by the LEP funding, which has already helped transform the county's vocational training provision over the last three years.

The LEP has also supported the Science Engineering Innovation Centre (SEIC) at Runshaw College at Chorley, and the Marine Engineering College at Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

Edwin Booth, Chair of the LEP, said: "We know we will need more skilled employees across a wide range of industry and sectors if Lancashire is to fulfil its potential at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, which is why technical training is one of the LEP's key priorities.

"These new four facilities, which are all set to officially open over the next two months, are clear examples of how our investments continue to generate new opportunities within further, higher and adult learning which are an integral part of our wider £27m Growth Deal Skills Capital skills funding programme which we have been implementing since 2014."

Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry MP, who also represents Lancashire's Rossendale and Darwen constituency, said: "Job creation and economic growth are at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse and training the next generation to become the highly skilled workforce of the future will be vital to its success. As a proud Lancastrian I am delighted that my home county is establishing itself as a hub of training excellence with £27m of government funding creating nearly 4,000 new vocational training places and over 500 apprenticeships up to 2021. This benefits not just Lancashire's economy but the long term economic success of the whole UK."

Four new further, higher and adult education centres set to open across county in next two months as a result of £13.25m Growth Deal funding

Over 4,000 new training and apprenticeship places to be created across a range of hi-tech and high-demand employment sectors

Lancashire is soon set to benefit from over £13m of new skills investment which will create over 4,000 new training places across the county in range of different sectors. Over the next two months four brand new education facilities will open as part of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) wider £27m technical and vocational skills Growth Deal funding programme.

The new facilities include the Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, the first of its kind in the UK, which is set to be the country's leading training centre for the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors; the Food and Farming Innovation and Technology (FFIT) Centre at Myerscough College in Preston, which will be the most advanced agricultural training centre in the UK; and the Sentamu Teaching Block at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus, which will specialise in training health and social care students.

In addition, Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL), the county's adult learning service is due to relocate from Chorley to the newly refurbished premises at Brierfield Mill in Pendle as part of the £32m Northlight regeneration scheme. The new LAL centre will support 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 community venues.

All of these new colleges, learning amenities, and the relocation of the LAL service, have been kick-started by funding from the Lancashire LEP through the £27m Growth Deal Skills Capital programme which has already helped transform the county's vocational training provision over the last three years.

Projects which have already benefitted from Growth Deal investments include two advanced manufacturing and aerospace training facilities; a joint project between Lancaster University and BAE in Lancaster and BAE's Academy for Skills & Knowledge (ASK) at the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone. In addition, the LEP has invested in centres of digital and technology excellence at Accrington and Rossendale College, and at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk.

The LEP has also supported the Science Engineering Innovation Centre (SEIC) at Runshaw College at Chorley, and the Marine Engineering College at Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

Other world-class, flagship projects backed by the LEP include UCLan's £30m state-of-the-art Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) in the heart of the Preston, and the Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University, both of which are due to open in 2019.

Officially opening two of the four new centres at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus and the Myerscough College FFIT last week,



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"We also have in place a Skills and Employment Strategic Framework, being delivered by the Lancashire Skills Hub, which lays out the county's plan for delivering the skills we need for growth over the next five years. This framework is fully aligned to the LEP's overarching Strategic Economic Plan for the county to ensure we train people in the areas where we anticipate growth, and where employer demand will come from."

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Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said:

"We continue to work closely with employers, education providers and government to ensure Lancashire has a pipeline of highly skilled and highly employable workers within many different sectors. This involves not only providing opportunities for young people and graduates, but for older people as well. We are also beginning to see the positive impacts that the LEP's earlier Growth Deal investments are having across key sectors like aerospace, digital technology, advanced engineering and manufacturing, which is all part of our long-term skills strategy for the county."

Combined the four new centres will create 3,890 places for learners and 531 apprenticeships from now until March 2021. They are:

- The £7.3m Food and Farming Innovation and Technology (FFIT) Centre at Myerscough College, Preston, opened on September 7. The FFIT will lead the development of precision farming within livestock and grassland sectors and encourage the roll out of research and innovation to help transform Lancashire's agricultural sector, as well as supporting the development of local food production. The FFIT Centre showcases the latest technologies and innovations including equipment which is being installed in the UK for the first time. The FFIT Centre dovetails with the nearby Livestock Innovation Centre and farm to cater for 385 learners and 218 apprentices.
- The £10.3m Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, opening on October 6. Set to be the UK's leading college for training workers in the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors, the purpose-built facility is at the heart of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, leveraging its position close to Lancashire's world-class cluster of nuclear, oil, gas and renewables companies. Operated by Blackpool and the Fylde College, equipment includes the sector's largest nuclear and renewables simulator and a full-sized wind turbine. It will cater for 3,003 learners and 205 apprentices.
- The £8.6m Sentamu Teaching Block at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus, opened on September 5. It will train an additional 443 health and social care students to meet the challenges of an ageing population and rising life expectancy, and the expected creation of over 700 new health and social care jobs in the Lancaster region by 2024.
- Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL), the county's adult learning service is transferring its main base to Brierfield Mill in Pendle in September. Part of the £32m Northlight community and leisure regeneration scheme, the new LAL head-quarters will feature a range of new classrooms, teaching zones and conference facilities in addition to being the hub for all of Lancashire's adult learning provision.

These four projects are the latest in a programme of investment worth £27m in Growth Deal Skills Capital funds, which is supporting the creation of a network of new training centres across Lancashire.

12.09.17

Skills seeds to be planted in new centres across Lancashire including Northlight

Bill Jacobs [@BillJacobsLT](#)
Local Government Reporter



Jake Berry MP at the BAE Academy for Skills and Knowledge with its boss Nigel Davies.



2 comments

A MAJOR £13.25million skills boost for Lancashire covering sectors from farming to adult learning was announced today.

It will create 4,421 new **training** and apprenticeship places and establish four new further education centres across county by the end of November.

Lancashire Adult Learning will relocate from Chorley to newly-refurbished premises at the £32m Northlight scheme at Brierfield Mill in Pendle supporting 22,000 mature students. It will be run by Nelson and Colne College

A new Food and Farming Innovation and Technology (FFIT) Centre at Myerscough College will be the most advanced agricultural training centre in the UK.

The cash boost from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership will also pay for the Sentamu Teaching Block at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus specialising in health and social care training and Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, the country's leading skills centre for the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors.

The investment had been welcomed by Pendle Council's Labour leader Mohammed Iqbal, Northern Powerhouse Minister and Rossendale and Darwen MP Jake Berry and his Ribble Valley Tory MP colleague Nigel Evans,

They are part of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's £27m technical and vocational skills Growth Deal which has already supported BAE System's Academy for Skills and Knowledge at Samlesbury and a centre of digital and technology excellence at Accrington and Rossendale College.

Mr Evans said: "This is great news and the Myerscough College investment will provide key new skills to attract young people into farming which is vital to the Ribble Vally and East Lancashire a whole.

"It all builds on the high-tech investment we have already seen at Samlesbury."

Cllr Iqbal said: "Northlight will create a new living, working, learning, leisure and cultural destination creating a host of opportunities for people from Pendle and East Lancashire.

"LAL will deliver community learning across the county and provide a centre in East Lancashire."

Mr Berry said: "Job creation and economic growth are at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse and training the next generation to become the highly skilled workforce of the future will be vital to its success.

"As a proud Lancastrian I am delighted that my home county is establishing itself as a hub of training excellence."

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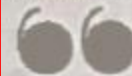
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By Bill Jacobs
bill.jacobs@nqnw.co.uk

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Job creation is at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse

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"As a proud Lancastrian I am delighted that my home county is establishing itself as a hub of training excellence."

A vision of the future for Burnley business



Evolve at Vision Park

By
DOMINIC COLLIS
Email

Published: 14:57
Friday 15 September 2017

Share this article



Burnley's flagship new business park will soon be welcoming tenants.

Evolve, a premium [business](#) space complex on Vision Park will be ready for occupation within weeks.

Based next to the Burnley College and UCLan Campus, within Burnley's Knowledge Quarter, Evolve tenants will have access to a range of programmes in the education campus to support their [growing](#) business.

Burnley Council leader Coun. Mark Townsend said: "Vision Park and the new Evolve business space has been described as one of the most exciting [commercial](#) developments in the Lancashire region.

"We are delighted the first phase is almost ready for occupation after the site was initially announced by Trebor Developments LLP in 2014.

"This visionary new advanced business park in Burnley's Knowledge Quarter will create new hi-skilled jobs for Burnley in the coming months and years.

"Burnley is already a regionally significant centre for advanced manufacturing, with a growing digi-tech sector. We are creating modern business environments to attract growing business in these sectors."

Trebor Developments, working with Burnley Council, appointed Barnfield Construction to deliver the first phase of industrial development at the prestigious Vision Park site earlier in the year.

The development will provide starter industrial units from 800sqft. to rent and larger industrial units from 2,000sqft. to rent or purchase.

For more information or to book a viewing of Evolve and Vision Park contact Martyn Hardacre in Burnley Council's business support team on 477213 or Michael Cavannagh, Trevor Dawson Commercial Property Consultants, on 458007.

A nod to the past and a leap to the future for iconic mill



The future is looking bright for a beautiful building with a proud past.

Brierfield Mill, which has laid empty for a number of years, has opened its historic [doors](#) to its first full-time tenants following a multi-million pound redevelopment.

The £32m. Northlight complex has now welcomed Lancashire Adult Learning as the first centre to open at the former mill.

Representatives from Pendle Borough Council, developers Barnfield Construction and backers Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Economic Partnership gathered to see inside the first phase of the project.

Lancashire Adult Learning principal Amanda Melton said: "I think it's perfect. We've recently moved our head office from Chorley to here in Brierfield.

"Our service provides support for adults across the county. Our aim is to help adults into to work so that they can support their families.

"This is a real opportunity for us to reach out to those communities who need a bit of help their families' health and well-being.

"We are perfectly situated here now, next to the railway and close to the motorway, in the heart of East Lancashire and those communities that want to up-skill, develop and find new opportunities."

The new LAL Centre will support a staggering 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 venues in the county. An official launch event will be held in October.

Lancashire County Council and the LEP provided £1.4m. to support the relocation of Lancashire Adult Learning from Chorley to Northlight thanks to LEP's £750,000 of Growth Deal Skills Capital and £650,000 from the county council.

The LEP has also invested £4.2m. of Growth Deal funding into the overall Northlight scheme.

And the county council is providing £2.15m. for Northlight, including [improved](#) access from the M65 and re-developing part of the canalside for leisure.

Leader of Pendle Council, Coun. Mohammed Iqbal, who also chairs Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration (PEARL), said: "I'm delighted this fantastic facility has found a new home in Pendle in the beautiful Victorian office buildings of our iconic mill.

"Over the last two years Pendle Council has been at the forefront of redeveloping this mill. We've taken the lead in bringing together this partnership which has now come to fruition.

"I'm now looking forward to more tenants moving in in the future."

Tim Webber, managing director of developers Barnfield and a PEARL board member, said his team had worked intensely and with great care to sensitively restore and refurbish this piece of Pendle heritage for a new purpose.

He also announced the next new developments for Northlight at the preview as work continues on the rest of the site to transform the whole complex.

These include a residential planning submission for 52 apartments.

He said: "As Pendle developers with our HQ within sight of Northlight, it's been a labour of love for us and we're immensely proud of what we've achieved so far.

"It's full speed ahead with Burnley FC in the Community which opens fantastic facilities here in the spring and In-Situ opening their innovative garage site as an arts and culture hub.

"When the whole development is complete in four years time this iconic building will be a gateway to Pendle."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP Growth Deal Management Board, said the investment reflects how the LEP supports projects which add real value to the county's economy at both a local and regional level.

"Brierfield Mill is gradually being transformed into a thriving hub of [education](#), leisure and residential services, which will benefit the whole of the local community, while the new LAL office will be able to deliver vital adult learning provision more effectively and efficiently across all of Lancashire.

"It's a great example of how the Lancashire Growth Deal can help unlock investment and drive regeneration."



Behind the scenes tour of Pendle's new £32m complex

Ciaran Duggan [@CiaranDugganLT](#)

Reporter



0 comments

THE former **Brierfield Mills** site has welcomed Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) as its first centre since it began its £32million conversion into Northlight.

Business leaders who have helped to finance the new £1.75million centre were given a behind the scenes tour yesterday before its official opening in October.

The new LAL Centre will support 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 venues in the county.

County Hall is providing a total of £2.15million for Northlight, including improved access from the M65 and re-developing part of the canalside for leisure.

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal, leader of Pendle Council and also chairs Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration (PEARL), said: "I'm delighted this fantastic facility has found a new home in Pendle in the beautiful Victorian office buildings of our iconic mill.

"It's fantastic to see Northlight taking shape to create a new learning, living, working, leisure and cultural destination for the North West."

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CGI Energy HQ

New vocational skills and technical training in Lancashire

Our new further, higher, and adult education centres set to open across the county as a result of £13.25m Growth Deal funding

Posted by Charley Rogers | September 20, 2017 | Bricks & mortar

#TECHNICAL-TRAINING #LANCASHIRE #LANCASHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP #SKILLS-INVESTMENT



Lancashire is soon set to benefit from over £13m of new skills investment which will create over 4,000 new training places across the county in range of different sectors. Over the next two months four brand new education facilities will open as part of the [Lancashire Enterprise Partnership](#) (LEP) wider £27m technical and vocational skills Growth Deal funding programme.

The new facilities include the [Lancashire Energy HQ](#) in Blackpool, the first of its kind in the UK, which is set to be the country's leading training centre for the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors; the Food and Farming Innovation and Technology (FFIT) Centre at [Myerscough College](#) in Preston, which will be the most advanced agricultural training centre in the UK; and the Sentamu Teaching Block at the [University of Cumbria's](#) Lancaster

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All of these new colleges, learning amenities, and the relocation of the LAL service, have been kick-started by funding from the Lancashire LEP through the £27m Growth Deal Skills Capital programme which has already helped transform the county's vocational training provision over the last three years.

Projects which have already benefitted from Growth Deal investments include two advanced manufacturing and aerospace training facilities; a joint project between [Lancaster University](#) and BAE in Lancaster and BAE's Academy for Skills & Knowledge (ASK) at the [Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone](#). In addition, the LEP has invested in centres of digital and technology excellence at [Accrington and Rossendale College](#), and at [Edge Hill University](#) in Ormskirk.

The LEP has also supported the Science Engineering Innovation Centre (SEIC) at [Runshaw College](#) at Chorley, and the Marine Engineering College at [Fleetwood Nautical Campus](#).



We continue to work closely with employers, education providers and government to ensure Lancashire has a pipeline of highly skilled and highly employable workers within many different sectors. - Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director, Lancashire Skills Hub

Other world-class, flagship projects backed by the LEP include UCLan's £30m state-of-the-art Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) in the heart of the Preston, and the Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University, both of which are due to open in 2019.

Edwin Booth, Chair of the LEP, who last week officially opened two of the four new centres at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus and the Myerscough College FFIT said: "We know we will need more skilled employees across a wide range of industry and sectors if Lancashire is to fulfil its potential at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, which is why technical training is one of the LEP's key priorities.

"These new four facilities, which are all set to officially open over the next two months, are clear examples of how our investments continue to generate new opportunities within further, higher and adult learning which are an integral part of our wider £27m Growth Deal Skills Capital skills funding programme which we have been implementing since 2014."

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FFIT research

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- The £10.3m Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, opening on October 6th.
- The £8.6m Sentamu Teaching Block at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus, opened on September 5th.
- Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL), the county's adult learning service, transferring its main base to Brierfield Mill in Pendle in September.

County's new term with £12m skills investment

Four key skills and training facilities open their doors this Autumn to give a 4,000 place boost to the county's economic future. Cash has come from the Growth Deal via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to help provide the workforce of tomorrow.

It's the start of the academic year and Lancashire has more than usual to celebrate when it comes to training and skills this autumn.

For the county is soon set to benefit from over £12m of new skills investment which will create over 4,000 new training places across the county in range of different sectors.

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An artist's impression of Blackpool and The Fylde College's energy HQ



Edwin Booth with Myerscough College principal Ann Turner

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Minister's joy

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27.09.17

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"When the whole development is complete in four years time this iconic building will be a gateway to Pendle."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP Growth Deal Management Board, said the investment reflects how the LEP supports projects which add real value to the county's economy at both a local and regional level.

"Brierfield Mill is gradually being transformed into a thriving hub of education, leisure and residential services, which will benefit the whole of the local community, while the new LAL office will be able to deliver vital adult learning provision more effectively and efficiently across all of Lancashire.

"It's a great example of how the Lancashire Growth Deal can help unlock investment and drive regeneration."



Representatives of the partnerships at the Northlight complex



Northlight Mill

Behind the scenes tour of Pendle's new £32m complex

Ciaran Duggan [@CiaranDugganLT](#)
Reporter

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THE former **Brierfield Mills** site has welcomed Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) as its first centre since it began its £32million conversion into Northlight.

Business leaders who have helped to finance the new £1.75million centre were given a behind the scenes tour yesterday before its official opening in October.

The new LAL Centre will support 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 venues in the county.

County Hall is providing a total of £2.15million for Northlight, including improved access from the M65 and re-developing part of the canalside for leisure.

CLLr Mohammed Iqbal, leader of Pendle Council and also chairs Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration (PEARL), said: "I'm delighted this fantastic facility has found a new home in Pendle in the beautiful Victorian office buildings of our iconic mill.

"It's fantastic to see Northlight taking shape to create a new learning, living, working, leisure and cultural destination for the North West."

Tim Webber, managing director of developer Barnfield and a PEARL board member, announced the next new developments for Northlight at the preview as work continues on the rest of the site to transform the whole complex.

This will include a residential planning submission for 52 apartments.

He said: "As Pendle developers with our HQ within sight of Northlight, it's been a labour of love for us and we're immensely proud of what we've achieved so far.

"It's full speed ahead with Burnley FC in the Community which opens fantastic facilities here in the spring and In-Situ opening their innovative garage site as an arts and culture hub."

Graham Cowley, Chair of the LEP Growth Deal Management Board said: "Brierfield Mill is gradually being transformed into a thriving hub of education, leisure and residential services, which will benefit the whole of the local community.

"It's a great example of how the Lancashire Growth Deal can help unlock investment and drive regeneration."

He said: "We've working intensely and with great care to sensitively restore and refurbish this elegant complex of mill buildings for new purposes.

"As Pendle developers with our headquarters within sight of Northlight, it's been a labour of love for us and we're immensely proud of what we've achieved so far."

Natalie Sarabia-Johnson, head of architecture for Liberata, which is working on Northlight for PEARL, said: "It's an amazing space and the buildings are very robust which gives us a fantastic canvas to work on.

"PEARL has been a very forward thinking organisation to work for and the new plans, if approved, include residential apartments, a bar and a restaurant and business units.

"These will add variety to the complex and enhance what Northlight will offer."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) growth deal management board which has financially contributed to the project, said: "The £5m growth deal investment in the Northlight scheme reflects how the LEP supports projects which add real value to the county's economy at both a local and regional level."

Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson welcomed the submission of the plans as 'really positive' news for Brierfield and the wider area, while Brierfield councillor Naeem Hussain Ashraf said it was 'fantastic news'.

The new Northlight venture officially begun in October last year and includes a new Burnley FC in the Community leisure centre and Lancashire Adult Learning's new county base.



28.09.17

£32m Northlight welcomes adult learning specialist



L-R Amanda Melton LAL, CC Graham Gooch Lancs County, Tim Webber, Barnfield, Graham Cowley LEP, Cllr Iqbal Pendle Council and Dean Langton strategic director Pendle Council

Property
September 28 2017
Nick Jackson



Write a comment



The £32m Northlight complex is welcoming Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) as the first centre to open at the former Brierfield Mill in the East Lancashire town of Nelson this autumn.

Funding organisations and partners who have made the new £1.75m centre possible saw behind the scenes yesterday (Wednesday, September) before the official opening in October.

Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) provided a total of £1.4m to support the relocation of Lancashire Adult Learning's (LAL) from Chorley to Northlight thanks to LEP's £750,000 of Growth Deal Skills Capital and £650,000 from Lancashire County Council.

The LEP has also invested £4.2m of Growth Deal funding into the overall Northlight scheme.

And Lancashire County Council is providing a total of £2.15m for Northlight including improved access from the M65 and re-developing part of the canalside for leisure.

Leader of Pendle Council, Cllr Mohammed Iqbal said: "Thanks to the massive support we've had it's been full speed ahead since October, 2016.

"I'm delighted this fantastic facility has found a new home in Pendle in the beautiful Victorian office buildings of our iconic mill. What a location."

Cllr Iqbal, who chairs Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration (PEARL), added: "The pace of development on our ambitious project proves it has a great future."

PEARL is the joint venture company of Pendle Council and Barnfield Investment Properties which owns Northlight and more details on this and other transformational projects are on www.pearlpendle.co.uk

"It's fantastic to see Northlight taking shape to create a new learning, living, working, leisure and cultural destination for the North West," Cllr Iqbal said.

The new LAL Centre will support a staggering 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 venues in the county. An official VIP launch event will be held soon.

Amanda Melton, principal of both Lancashire Adult Learning and Nelson and Colne College, said: "The facilities at Northlight are of the highest standard and I am extremely impressed with the transformation that has taken place here over recent months.

"Our base will now be at Brierfield, but our provision will remain the same – providing adults across the county with an opportunity to re-discover a love for learning in one of our many community venues across Lancashire.

"We have an extensive and exciting programme of courses designed to meet the needs of the local community."

County Cllr Graham Gooch, cabinet member for adult services and Lancashire County Council, said: "We are delighted to be able to support the investment into the redevelopment of Northlight and improved access from the M65 will make it a prime site for the area.

"I am equally pleased that Lancashire Adult Learning will be the first centre to open as part of the complex, offering a wide range of courses and learning opportunities for the local community.

"As Lancashire Adult Learning is one of the UK's largest adult education providers it is great for the people of Pendle to have this centre on their doorstep," he said.

Tim Webber, Managing Director of Barnfield and a PEARL board member said: "We've worked intensely and with great care to sensitively restore and refurbish this elegant building for a new purpose."

Webber said: "As Pendle developers with our HQ within sight of Northlight, it's been a labour of love for us and we're immensely proud of what we've achieved so far.

"It's full speed ahead with Burnley FC in the Community which opens fantastic facilities here in the spring and In-Situ opening their innovative garage site as an arts and culture hub," he said.

Graham Cowley, chair of the LEP Growth Deal Management Board, said: "The £5m Growth Deal investment in the Northlight scheme reflects how the LEP supports projects which add real value to the county's economy at both a local and regional level.

"Brierfield Mill is gradually being transformed into a thriving hub of education, leisure and residential services, which will benefit the whole of the local community, while the new LAL office will be able to deliver vital adult learning provision more effectively and efficiently across all of Lancashire.

"It's a great example of how the Lancashire Growth Deal can help unlock investment and drive regeneration," he said.

David Graham, site manager at Northlight for Barnfield described how his team has created the new modern and accessible LAL Centre whilst protecting some elegant period features.

"Luckily for us the Victorians built it very robustly so there were no challenges to overcome," he said.

"We've restored the curved oak staircase and the main feature window with its stunning view over the northlights of the weaving shed to the historic clock tower," he said.

"We've kept parts of the vaulted ceiling intact, reconstructed curved windows and plaster work," he explained.

"It's been wonderful to see how delighted Amanda Melton and her team have been with their new centre."

Behind the scenes tour of Pendle's new £32m complex

Ciaran Duggan [@CiaranDugganLT](#)
Reporter

[f](#) [t](#) [G+](#) [e](#) [0 comments](#)

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"It's a great example of how the Lancashire Growth Deal can help unlock investment and drive regeneration."

EDWIN BOOTH, Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, with Myerscough College Principal and Chief Executive, ANN TURNER, and Chairman of the Myerscough Corporation, STUART HEYS.



AGRICULTURE AT MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE IS FFIT FOR THE FUTURE

A host of special guests have gathered for the official opening of Myerscough College's state-of-the-art, multi-million Food and Farming Innovation & Technology Centre.

Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, Edwin Booth, and The Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE, were the Guests of Honour at the ceremony to mark the opening of the complex, which is set to be a sector leading centre of excellence for industry training and research in beef production.

The FFIT (Food and Farming Innovation &

Technology) Centre, on the site of Myerscough's Lodge Farm, is a major flagship build for agriculture and associated courses at Myerscough. The main FFIT Centre comprises of a red brick, two-storey building to house the research and teaching facilities that link with the various technologies in the nearby Livestock Innovation Centre and farm. The FFIT Centre also boasts facilities to support

food research and development with the aim of creating a resource that both local businesses and students can use to investigate opportunities to process and add value to on-farm produce.

This includes specialist teaching, demonstration and research facilities including a teaching laboratory, soil laboratory, instrumentation room, production development kitchen, as well as a conference room, general teaching rooms, offices, a dining area and changing facilities.

Ann Turner welcomed invited guests to the official opening of the centre, saying: "The FFIT Centre showcases the latest technologies and innovations, sourced from around the world, for precision UK agriculture.

"They have been purpose built to provide the ideal environment to demonstrate cutting-edge developments in the food and farming industries, whilst providing an ideal setting to train and educate the next generation for a highly skilled agriculture industry."

The complex is also home to a Livestock Innovation Centre, which provides new livestock production facilities with embedded technology to promote precision farming practices. The LIC can accommodate up to 180 cattle at a time, but it is the technology within the building that sets it apart from other buildings typically found on farms.

The £7.5 million project, which has been facilitated with generous support of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, has been more than three years in the making, beginning with a successful 'expression of interest' bid to the LEP in March 2014. As a result, the plan was further developed with the brief being to establish a centre of excellence at Myerscough College which

showcases the use of innovation and technology in farming and the production of food, focusing especially on grazing livestock and grassland management.

The project was finally approved by the LEP in June 2015. Planning permission and contractors were secured in January 2016 and construction commenced in February 2016. Now the build is complete, staff and students will actively engage with the technology from the outset and are eagerly anticipating the research trials that can be carried out on various aspects of livestock management.

In summary, the centre comprises of the following technology:

- First commercial UK installation of AfiFarm 5.2 herd management solution - an innovative in-line system that has been developed over the last decade in Israel. It works by recording data on milk produced from each individual cow in a herd.
- State-of-the-art analysis & teaching facilities, to support food production, research and development
- First UK installation of Hanskamp out-of-parlour walkthrough feeders
- Accurate Diet Formulation system utilising Keenan Pace Technology
- Livestock nutritional research & behaviour monitoring with GrowSafe technology - one of the first colleges in the UK to be fitted with this technology from Canada which automatically monitors diet intake and associated data.
- Conference facilities with break-out areas, research labs, IT-suite and meeting rooms
- Practical and innovative technology for efficient grassland and crop production
- State-of-the-art handling and weighing systems with bluetooth technology

Craig Thompson is Head of Agriculture & Countryside and outlines the benefits the FFIT Centre will bring: "The FFIT

project is a bold and ambitious project which offers numerous significant benefits to the food and farming sector within the North West. Not only will the College be training farmers for the future, it will also give existing farmers and rural businesses the opportunity to see how innovation and technology can be used on their farms.

"It will also reaffirm Myerscough College's place amongst some of the leading land-based Colleges within the UK. Our learners will leave Myerscough already experienced in the very latest technology the agriculture has to offer, putting them in pole position for leading positions within the industry."

John Wherry, Deputy Principal Resources at Myerscough College, said: "The centre enables the College to make a significant contribution towards the realisation of Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships Strategic Economic Plan.

"Myerscough already has a significant network of local businesses including more than 6,000 farmers, 80 small food producers who are members of college managed Made in Lancashire and around 1,200 employers who the College interacts and delivers training to in any given year.

"The project will ultimately result in the creation of a centre of excellence to lead the development and adoption of precision farming techniques within the livestock and grassland sectors. The facility will also provide resources to support the development of local food products. As the project is being delivered on the College's existing Lodge Farm site it will therefore be integrated into existing farming activities and directly support curriculum delivery on the farm."

Edwin Booth, Chairman of the Lancashire

Enterprise Partnership (LEP), said:

"The new centre at Myerscough College is the first of its kind nationally and will be a hub of excellence and innovation to lead the development of precision farming within livestock and grassland sectors.

"It will encourage the roll out of research and innovation to help transform Lancashire's agricultural sector, as well as supporting the development of local food production. The LEP has invested in the new FFIT centre through its Growth Deal Skills Capital Fund in order to help address significant skills shortages in Lancashire's agricultural sector and attract new entrants to the industry.

This is part of a major investment programme by the LEP which is creating a network of new training facilities to develop the specific skills and capabilities in the county's workforce required by employers in key economic sectors."

The AfiFarm system, which feeds directly into the FFIT Centre, is the first installation of its kind in the UK. The system instantly analyses cow's milk at source, enabling the farm to quickly identify and act on any potential feeding or health issues, improving milk production, milk quality and the longevity of the herd.

James Oddie is Myerscough College's Director of Farming Innovations and Operations, and explains more: "Afimilk are world leaders in this technology. It's a significant investment to the farm here at Myerscough and it will move us forward leaps and bounds in our ability to manage our herd. The potential for research and data we can get is phenomenal.

"Milk gets analysed from each individual cow to check if it has mastitis or other illness, while a pedometer leg tag monitoring system monitors potential distress levels, as well as



identifying digestive problems, fertility issues, and lots more. All the information can then be accessed via PC software, with alerts being sent directly to a smartphone so immediate action can be taken.

"The key is the fact that we will be able to make quick management decisions on individual cows.

"The decision to install a full Afimilk Herd Management System moves Myerscough forward significantly on the dairy side, complimenting the beef production side of our operations."

Although the installation is predominantly for the College's commercial operations, learners on agriculture study programmes will have access to some of the data generated by the

system. This will give students a much more rounded experience of dairy farming with instant access to information.

Craig Thompson, Head of Agriculture at Myerscough College, adds: "The new installations are an invaluable addition to the farm resources and will really enhance the learning experience of our students. The demonstration of cutting edge technology combined with research

opportunities will service the needs of both our students and the wider agriculture sector.

The main photograph shows Edwin Booth, Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, with Myerscough College Principal and Chief Executive, Ann Turner, and Chairman of the Myerscough Corporation, Stuart Heys. The other photographs show the VIPs on a tour of the facility.



17.10.17

Private and public sector partners in Lancashire have united to promote the county to the global investment community at a special event in London.

Under the "We Are Lancashire - The Place for Growth" banner, The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has strengthened its presence at this year's MIPIM UK property expo with a larger consortium of public and private sector partners than ever before.

Lancashire was showcased at the MIPIM UK show at the Olympia on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The LEP was joined by local authority representatives from Lancashire County Council, the Eric Wright Group, Lancaster University and Lancaster City Council, who were all involved in Business Showcases across both days to highlight development and investor opportunities.

Representatives from the University of Central Lancashire, Heysham Port, Seatruck, Colliers International, NPL Estates, Cushman and Wakefield and Mott MacDonald were also in attendance.

One of the key developments highlighted was Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus.

The £41m development - which has been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, is set to be based at the University's Bailrigg campus and will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare.

It will create new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have a wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies.

The collaborations with SMEs have already begun, and the first phase of the building is due to open in 2019.

The city of Lancaster itself was also showcased as a dynamic investment destination.

Lancaster City Council highlighted a number of its growing industrial sectors including energy and digital health. In addition, it promoted new schemes such as Canal Corridor North, the emerging Bay Gateway development and a new 3,500 home Garden Village situated south of the city, one of the first of its kind in the UK.

The city's connectivity, high quality education provision, its unique urban, rural and coastal setting, and its outstanding cultural and lifestyle offer, was also highlighted.

On the Thursday, Place North West's editor Paul Unger hosted a Q&A focusing on the major role that Lancaster University can play in driving local economic growth through world class innovation, attracting graduate talent to the region, and by working closely with local businesses.

The event also explored how Lancaster City Council is developing new sites as part of their strategic masterplan for the city.

Lancashire's MIPIM UK delegation was led by David Taylor, Chair of UCLan and Vice Chair of the Lancashire LEP.



David said: "Once again Lancashire is taking a unified message to MIPIM UK bringing together more public and private sector partners than ever before reinforcing the confidence and ambition to compete on a national and a global scale to secure interest and investment.

"Collectively the Lancashire delegation is showcasing the development opportunities to investors, employers and policy makers across a wide range of commercial and industrial sectors.

"The 'We Are Lancashire' delegation will also be highlighting the Lancashire LEP's £1 billion transformational economic programme which has kick-started over 50 major growth initiatives in the last few years.

"These projects are helping to support over 50,000 Lancashire businesses which generate over £29 billion per year, confirming our position as one of the most significant economies within the Northern Powerhouse.

"The county is also benefiting from £320m of Growth Deal funding, the largest allocation secured outside the core city regions with Growth Deal investments on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes and £1.2 Billion in new private sector investment by 2021."

Karen Hirst, from the Eric Wright Group, said: "MIPIM UK gives us the chance to not only highlight the potential of transformational projects such as these, but also demonstrate that the private and public sector in Lancashire are committed to generating opportunities through a strategic, partnership approach which is aligned to delivering clear, commercial objectives."

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, said: "One of my key roles at the University is to connect what we're doing on campus with private and public sector partners to help boost both the Lancaster and Lancashire economies, so being part of the 'We Are Lancashire' delegation is a great example of this collaborative approach in action.

"The HIC is clearly an exciting scheme which will put the city and the county on the global map with regards health innovation, and it's one of several projects we have in development which will drive regeneration and create jobs.

"It's also good to be sharing a platform with colleagues from Lancaster City Council at the Business Showcase event as the city is currently enjoying heightened interest in commercial and cultural investment which will directly benefit the University, the city, and the whole of Lancashire."

LEP ORGANISES BIGGEST EVER MIPIM DELEGATION

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BY **TIM**

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Page 4/8

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership is returning to the MIPIM international property expo with its largest ever consortium of private and public sector representatives.

MIPIM UK, taking in place in London on October 18 and 19, is the largest property event for professionals in the real estate industry.

Working under the banner 'We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth', the LEP will showcase the county's investment opportunities, including the £450m City Deal and Lancaster University's £41m Health Innovation Campus.

In attendance will be local authority representatives from Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre councils and Blackburn, Burnley, West Lancashire and Chorley Councils.

They will be joined by a delegation led by the Eric Wright Group, Lancaster University and Lancaster City Council, and including Cushman and Wakefield, the University of Central Lancashire, Heysham Port, Seatrucks, Colliers International, NPL Estates and Mott MacDonald.

One of the key developments to be highlighted will be Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC). The £41m development, which has been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, is set to be based at the University's Bailrigg campus and will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare.

Another major scheme at the centre of Lancashire's pitch to investors at MIPIM UK will be the mixed-use Cuerden development.

Given the green light by South Ribble Borough Council at the end of September, the 65-hectare strategic site next to the M65 motorway will bring around £241m per year to the central Lancashire economy, creating thousands of permanent jobs in addition to hundreds of jobs during construction.

Delegates at MIPIM will be able to learn more about these opportunities at events hosted by the LEP.

Downtown In Business chief executive Frank McKenna will chair a panel entitled A transformational City Deal for Central Lancashire, and Place North West's editor Paul Unger will host a Q&A focussing on the role of Lancaster University in driving local economic growth.

Lancashire's MIPIM UK delegation will be led by David Taylor, chair of UCLan and vice chair of the Lancashire LEP.

David, who also headed Lancashire's first presence at MIPIM International in Cannes earlier this year, said: "Once again Lancashire is taking a unified message to MIPIM UK bringing together more public and private sector partners than ever before reinforcing the confidence and ambition to compete on a national and a global scale to secure interest and investment.

"Collectively the Lancashire delegation is showcasing the development opportunities to investors, employers and policy makers across a wide range of commercial and industrial sectors.

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"These projects are helping to support over 50,000 Lancashire businesses which generate over £29bn per year, confirming our position as one of the most significant economies within the Northern Powerhouse."



The Lancashire stand at MIPIM UK 2016

MIPIM UK | Lancashire makes its case

18 Oct 2017, 10:05



The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has set out stall for MIPIM UK with its strongest presence for the event yet.

Under the brand 'We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth', the LEP will be joined at Olympia by local authority representatives from Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council along with South Ribble, Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Blackburn, Burnley, West

Lancashire and Chorley councils.

The Lancashire delegation also includes the Eric Wright Group, Lancaster University and Lancaster City Council, all of which are involved in business showcases across ... two days.

Representatives from Cushman & Wakefield, the University of Central Lancashire, Heysham Port, Seatrucks, Colliers International, NPL Estates and Mott MacDonald will also be in attendance.

Projects to be highlighted include Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus, a £41m development supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, which will be based at the university's Bailrigg campus. The first phase of the building is due to open in 2019.

Lancaster itself will be promoting schemes such as Canal Corridor North, the Bay Gateway link road development and a new 3,500 home Garden Village at Bailrigg.

Also in the spotlight will be Cuerden, the 160-acre mixed-use scheme approved by South Ribble at the end of September. The site next to the M65 is to house an IKEA store among 2.2 m sq ft of development, which is to include 860,000 sq ft of industrial warehouses, 387,000 sq ft of offices, 757,000 sq ft of retail and leisure space, an 86,000 sq ft hotel, and 120,500 sq ft for a gym, crèche and car showroom. The scheme also includes up to 210 homes.

The development is led by Lancashire County Council, with Eric Wright's development arm Maple Grove and Brookhouse Group.

The first LEP showcase events see Downtown In Business chief executive Frank McKenna chair a panel entitled 'A transformational City Deal for Central Lancashire' today at 12.45.

Then on Thursday 19 October at 10.30am, *Place North West* editor Paul Unger will host a Q&A focusing on the role that Lancaster University can play in driving local economic growth through innovation, attracting graduate talent to the region, and by working closely with local businesses.

In addition, there will be two events hosted on the We are Lancashire stand: Mott MacDonald showcasing the developing Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zones masterplans; and one featuring housing opportunities in the Pennine Lancashire region.

Lancashire's MIPIM UK delegation will be led by David Taylor, chairman of UCLan and vice-chairman of the Lancashire LEP.

Taylor said: "Once again Lancashire is taking a unified message to MIPIM UK bringing together more public and private sector partners than ever before reinforcing the confidence and ambition to compete on a national and a global scale to secure interest and investment.

"Collectively the Lancashire delegation is showcasing the development opportunities to investors, employers and policy makers across a wide range of commercial and industrial sectors."

Lancashire Takes Upbeat Investment Message to MIPIM UK

October 17, 2017

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has strengthened its presence at this year's MIPIM UK Property Expo (Stand G35, MIPIM UK, Olympia, London, October 18-19) with a larger consortium of public and private sector partners than ever before. Under the brand 'We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth', the LEP will be joined at Olympia by local authority representatives from Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre councils and Blackburn, Burnley, West Lancashire and Chorley Councils.

Premium partners at MIPIM UK as part of the Lancashire delegation are led by the **Eric Wright Group, Lancaster University and Lancaster City Council** who are all involved in Business Showcases across the two days to highlight development and investor opportunities. Representatives from **Cushman and Wakefield, the University of Central Lancashire, Heysham Port, Seatrucks, Colliers International, NPL Estates and Mott MacDonald** will also be in attendance over the two-day event.

One of the key developments to be highlighted will be **Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC)**. The £41m development, which has been supported by the **LEP's Growth Deal Fund**, is set to be based at the University's Bailrigg campus and will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare.

The HIC will drive business innovation, specifically creating new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have a wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies. The collaborations with SMEs have already begun, and the first phase of the building is due to open in 2019.

The city of Lancaster itself will also be showcased as a dynamic investment destination at MIPIM UK. Lancaster City Council will be highlighting a number of its growing industrial sectors including energy and digital health. In addition, it will be promoting new schemes such as **Canal Corridor North**, the emerging **Bay Gateway** development and a new 3,500 home Garden Village situated south of the city, one of the first of its kind in the UK.

The city's excellent connectivity, high quality education provision, its unique urban, rural and coastal setting, and its outstanding cultural and lifestyle offer, will also be promoted.

Another major scheme at the centre of Lancashire's pitch to investors at MIPIM UK will be the mixed-use Cuerden development.

Given the green light by **South Ribble Borough Council** at the end of September, the 65-hectare strategic site next to the M65 motorway, will bring around £241 million per year to the central Lancashire economy, creating thousands of permanent jobs in addition to hundreds of jobs during construction.

The development, led by **Lancashire County Council, the Eric Wright Group and Brookhouse Group**, will provide around 200,000 sq m and in turn will deliver significant new employment space, offices and logistics, new IKEA for central Lancashire and five further large format retail units, six small restaurant units alongside new cycle and footways, new homes, a new hotel, and other leisure and hospitality outlets.

The extensive opportunities offered at Cuerden and Lancaster are to set to be put under the spotlight at two special LEP Business Showcase events during MIPIM UK. On Wednesday October 18th, at 12.45pm, **Downton In Business' Chief Executive Frank McKenna** will be chairing a panel entitled A transformational City Deal for Central Lancashire.

This session will focus on the £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal which has been given a massive boost by the Cuerden project

Then on Thursday October 19th, at 10.30am, Place North West's editor Paul Unger will host a Q&A focussing on the major role that Lancaster University, recently named University of the Year by both The Times and Sunday Times, can play in driving local economic growth through world class innovation, attracting graduate talent to the region, and by working closely with local businesses.

The event will also explore how Lancaster City Council is developing new sites as part of their strategic masterplan for the city.

In addition, there will be two events hosted on the We are Lancashire stand which include Mott MacDonald showcasing the developing Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zones masterplans and new housing opportunities in the Pennine Lancashire region. (see notes for details of all Lancashire events).

Lancashire's MIPIM UK delegation will be led by **David Taylor, Chair of UCLan and Vice Chair of the Lancashire LEP**. David, who also headed Lancashire's first presence at MIPIM International in Cannes earlier this year, said:

"Once again Lancashire is taking a unified message to MIPIM UK bringing together more public and private sector partners than ever before reinforcing the confidence and ambition to compete on a national and a global scale to secure interest and investment. Collectively the Lancashire delegation is showcasing the development opportunities to investors, employers and policy makers across a wide range of commercial and industrial sectors.

"This year there is a particular emphasis on the £450 million City Deal programme in Preston and South Ribble including new schemes such as the Cuerden strategic site and the Engineering and Innovation Centre development at the University of Central Lancashire. The emerging masterplans for Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zones as part of the Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster will be presented plus there will be a panel presentation focused on Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus.

"The 'We Are Lancashire' delegation will also be highlighting the Lancashire LEP's £1 billion transformational economic programme which has kick-started over 50 major growth initiatives in the last few years.

"These projects are helping to support over 50,000 Lancashire businesses which generate over £29 billion per year, confirming our position as one of the most significant economies within the Northern Powerhouse.

"The county is also benefitting from £320m of Growth Deal funding, the largest allocation secured outside the core city regions with Growth Deal investments on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes and £1.2 Billion in new private sector investment by 2021."

Karen Hirst, from the Eric Wright Group, said: "Eric Wright Group, working closely with local authority partners and the LEP, continues to help drive Lancashire's economic growth through ambitious schemes such as Cuerden and the wider City Deal programme of which Cuerden is a key part.

"MIPIM UK gives us the chance to not only highlight the potential of transformational projects such as these, but also demonstrate that the private and public sector in Lancashire are committed to generating opportunities through a strategic, partnership approach which is aligned to delivering clear, commercial objectives."

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, said: "One of my key roles at the University is to connect what we're doing on campus with private and public sector partners to help boost both the Lancaster and Lancashire economies, so being part of the 'We Are Lancashire' delegation is a great example of this collaborative approach in action.

"The HIC is clearly an exciting scheme which will put the city and the county on the global map with regards health innovation, and it's one of several projects we have in development which will drive regeneration and create jobs. It's also good to be sharing a platform with colleagues from Lancaster City Council at the Business Showcase event as the city is currently enjoying heightened interest in commercial and cultural investment which will directly benefit the University, the city, and the whole of Lancashire."

Lancashire set to highlight new Lancaster and Cuerden investment



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Private and public sector partners unite under the "We Are Lancashire – The Place for Growth" banner to promote county to global investment community at Stand G35, MIPIM UK, Olympia, London, October 18-19

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has strengthened its presence at this year's MIPIM UK property expo with a larger consortium of public and private sector partners than ever before. Under the brand 'We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth', the LEP will be joined at Olympia by local authority representatives from Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre councils and Blackburn, Burnley, West Lancashire and Chorley Councils.

Premium partners at MIPIM UK as part of the Lancashire delegation are led by the Eric Wright Group, Lancaster University and Lancaster City Council who are all involved in Business Showcases across the two days to highlight development and investor opportunities. Representatives from Cushman and Wakefield, the University of Central Lancashire, Heysham Port, Seatrucks, Colliers International, NPL Estates and Mott MacDonald will also be in attendance over the two-day event.

One of the key developments to be highlighted will be Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC). The £41m development, which has been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, is set to be based at the University's Bailrigg campus and will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare.

The HIC will drive business innovation, specifically creating new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have a wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies. The collaborations with SMEs have already begun, and the first phase of the building is due to open in 2019.

The city of Lancaster itself will also be showcased as a dynamic investment destination at MIPIM UK. Lancaster City Council will be highlighting a number of its growing industrial sectors including energy and digital health. In addition, it will be promoting new schemes such as Canal Corridor North, the emerging Bay Gateway development and a new 3,500 home *Garden Village* situated south of the city, one of the first of its kind in the UK.

The city's excellent connectivity, high quality education provision, its unique urban, rural and coastal setting, and its outstanding cultural and lifestyle offer, will also be promoted.

Another major scheme at the centre of Lancashire's pitch to investors at MIPIM UK will be the mixed-use Cuerden development.

Given the green light by South Ribble Borough Council at the end of September, the 65-hectare strategic site next to the M65 motorway, will bring around £241 million per year to the central Lancashire economy, creating thousands of permanent jobs in addition to hundreds of jobs during construction.

The development, led by Lancashire County Council, the Eric Wright Group and Brookhouse Group, will provide around 200,000 sq m and in turn will deliver significant new employment space, offices and logistics, a new IKEA for central Lancashire and five further large format retail units, six small restaurant units alongside new cycle and footways, new homes, a new hotel, and other leisure and hospitality outlets.

The extensive opportunities offered at Cuerden and Lancaster are to set to be put under the spotlight at two special LEP Business Showcase events during MIPIM UK. On Wednesday October 18th, at 12.45pm, Downtown In Business' Chief Executive Frank McKenna will be chairing a panel entitled *A transformational City Deal for Central Lancashire*.

This session will focus on the £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal which has been given a massive boost by the Cuerden project

Then on Thursday October 19th, at 10.30am, Place North West's editor Paul Unger will host a Q&A focussing on the major role that Lancaster University, recently named *University of the Year* by both The Times and Sunday Times, can play in driving local economic growth through world class innovation, attracting graduate talent to the region, and by working closely with local businesses. The event will also explore how Lancaster City Council is developing new sites as part of their strategic masterplan for the city.

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"Once again Lancashire is taking a unified message to MIPIM UK bringing together more public and private sector partners than ever before reinforcing the confidence and ambition to compete on a national and a global scale to secure interest and investment. Collectively the Lancashire delegation is showcasing the development opportunities to investors, employers and policy makers across a wide range of commercial and industrial sectors."

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"The 'We Are Lancashire' delegation will also be highlighting the Lancashire LEP's £1 billion transformational economic programme which has kick-started over 50 major growth initiatives in the last few years."

"These projects are helping to support over 50,000 Lancashire businesses which generate over £29 billion per year, confirming our position as one of the most significant economies within the Northern Powerhouse."

"The county is also benefitting from £320m of Growth Deal funding, the largest allocation secured outside the core city regions with Growth Deal investments on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes and £1.2 Billion in new private sector investment by 2021."

Karen Hirst, from the Eric Wright Group, said: *"Eric Wright Group, working closely with local authority partners and the LEP, continues to help drive Lancashire's economic growth through ambitious schemes such as Cuerden and the wider City Deal programme of which Cuerden is a key part."*

"MIPIM UK gives us the chance to not only highlight the potential of transformational projects such as these, but also demonstrate that the private and public sector in Lancashire are committed to generating opportunities through a strategic, partnership approach which is aligned to delivering clear, commercial objectives."

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, said: *"One of my key roles at the University is to connect what we're doing on campus with private and public sector partners to help boost both the Lancaster and Lancashire economies, so being part of the 'We Are Lancashire' delegation is a great example of this collaborative approach in action."*

18.10.17

LANCASHIRE SET TO LIGHT UP MIPIM UK WITH £1BN GROWTH MESSAGE

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will be taking an upbeat and confident message to this year's MIPIM UK property expo. MIPIM UK, which runs October 18-19 at London's Olympia, is the largest UK property show and is attended by over 4,000 investors, developers, local authorities, occupiers, corporate end-users, hotel groups, agents and business service providers.

Joining the LEP on the We Are Lancashire stand will be with partners including Lancashire County Council, Eric Wright, the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre councils, the University of Lancaster, Lancaster City Council, Blackburn, Burnley, West Lancs and Chorley Councils.

Collectively they will be promoting to investors, employers and policy makers the incredible opportunities offered by Lancashire across a wide range of commercial and industrial sectors.

These include energy, advanced manufacturing, chemicals and aerospace, all of which are set to benefit from the creation of the Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster

programme. The cluster, which is based on three Enterprise Zones across four sites located across the county, is capable of supporting 10,000 new jobs.

The We Are Lancashire delegation will also be highlighting the LEP's £1 billion transformational economic programme for Lancashire which has kick-started over 50 major growth initiatives in the last few years.

These projects are helping to support the county's 50,000 businesses who generate almost £28 billion per year, confirming Lancashire's position as one of the most significant economies within the Northern Powerhouse.

The key funding streams helping drive Lancashire's growth include the £450M Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, which is recognised as one of the country's leading City Deals and which aims to create 20,000 new jobs and 17,000 new homes in central Lancashire.

The county is also benefitting from £320M of Growth Deal funding, the largest allocation secured outside the core city regions. Growth Deal investments are on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs,



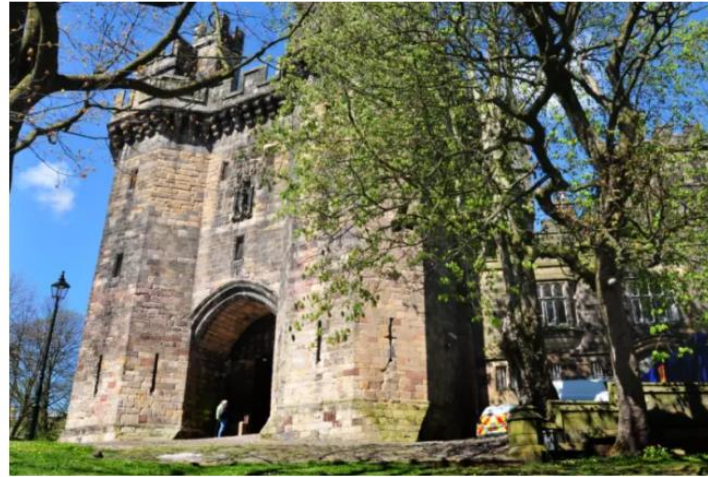
3,900 new homes and £1.2 Billion in new private sector investment by 2021.

A further £20M from the Growing Places Investment Fund has helped create a further eight commercial investments across Lancashire which are set to generate almost 3,500 new jobs, 200 new housing units and almost 500,000 sq.ft of new commercial floor-space.

Other initiatives which will be promoted at Olympia include the 65-hectare mixed-use retail, leisure and housing strategic site at Cuerden, the University of Central Lancashire's £200m Masterplan for its Preston campus, and the first £41m phase of Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus.

19.10.17

Lancaster tells world we're a 'dynamic investment destination'



The city of Lancaster is being showcased as a "dynamic investment destination" at a major property event in London.

Delegates from Lancaster City Council, Lancaster University, the Eric Wright Group and Heysham Port have joined the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) at this year's MIPIM UK property expo under the [brand](#) 'We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth'. The event is attended by investors from across the globe.

One of the key developments to be highlighted will be Lancaster University's Health [Innovation](#) Campus.

The £41m development, which has been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, is set to be based at the uni's Bailrigg campus and will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare.



Lancaster City Council will also be highlighting a number of its growing industrial sectors including energy and digital health.



LANCASTER and MORECAMBE 31-10-16 General view of Bay Gateway sign. Celebrations at the opening of the Bay Gateway, the new M6 link road, Heysham, developed by Costain. Local delegates were invited onto the road before it opened to traffic.

It will promote new schemes such as the Canal Corridor North development, the emerging Bay Gateway development potential and the new 3,500 [home](#) Garden Village proposal to the south of the city.

The city's connectivity, education provision, its unique urban, rural and coastal setting, and outstanding cultural and lifestyle offer, will also be promoted.

Mark Swindlehurst, director of facilities at Lancaster University, said: "One of my key roles at the University is to connect what we're doing on campus with private and public sector partners to help boost both the Lancaster and Lancashire economies, so being part of the 'We Are Lancashire' delegation is a great example of this collaborative approach in action."

Mr Swindlehurst added: "The HIC is clearly an exciting scheme which will put the city and the county on the global map with regards health innovation, and it's one of several projects we have in development which will drive regeneration and create jobs.

"It's also good to be sharing a platform with colleagues from Lancaster City Council at the Business Showcase event as the city is currently enjoying heightened interest in commercial and cultural investment which will directly benefit the University, the city, and the whole of Lancashire."

The event took place at The Olympia in London on October 18 and 19.

20.10.17

LANCASHIRE SET TO HIGHLIGHT NEW LANCASTER AND CUERDEN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MIPIM UK



£450 million transformational City Deal and Lancaster University's £41m Health Innovation Campus play key role in Lancashire's trade mission message to MIPIM UK

Private and public sector partners unite under the "We Are Lancashire – The Place for Growth" banner to promote county to global investment community at Stand G35, MIPIM UK, Olympia, London, October 18-19

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has strengthened its presence at this year's MIPIM UK property expo with a larger consortium of public and private sector partners than ever before. Under the brand 'We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth', the LEP will be joined at Olympia by local authority representatives from Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre councils and Blackburn, Burnley, West Lancashire and Chorley Councils.

Premium partners at MIPIM UK as part of the Lancashire delegation are led by the Eric Wright Group, Lancaster University and Lancaster City Council who are all involved in Business Showcases across the two days to highlight development and investor opportunities. Representatives from Cushman and Wakefield, the University of Central Lancashire, Heysham Port, Seatrucks, Colliers International, NPL Estates and Mott MacDonald will also be in attendance over the two-day event.

One of the key developments to be highlighted will be Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC). The £41m development, which has been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, is set to be based at the University's Bailrigg campus and will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare.

The HIC will drive business innovation, specifically creating new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have a wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies. The collaborations with SMEs have already begun, and the first phase of the building is due to open in 2019.

The city of Lancaster itself will also be showcased as a dynamic investment destination at MIPIM UK. Lancaster City Council will be highlighting a number of its growing industrial sectors including energy and digital health. In addition, it will be promoting new schemes such as Canal Corridor North, the emerging Bay Gateway development and a new 3,500 home Garden Village situated south of the city, one of the first of its kind in the UK.

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The extensive opportunities offered at Cuerden and Lancaster are to set to be put under the spotlight at two special LEP Business Showcase events during MIPIM UK. On Wednesday October 18th, at 12.45pm, 'Downtown In Business' Chief Executive Frank McKenna will be chairing a panel entitled A transformational City Deal for Central Lancashire.

This session will focus on the £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal which has been given a massive boost by the Cuerden project

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"These projects are helping to support over 50,000 Lancashire businesses which generate over £29 billion per year, confirming our position as one of the most significant economies within the Northern Powerhouse

"The county is also benefitting from £320m of Growth Deal funding, the largest allocation secured outside the core city regions with Growth Deal investments on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes and £1.2 Billion in new private sector investment by 2021."

Karen Hirst, from the Eric Wright Group, said: "Eric Wright Group, working closely with local authority partners and the LEP, continues to help drive Lancashire's economic growth through ambitious schemes such as Cuerden and the wider City Deal programme of which Cuerden is a key part.

"MIPIM UK gives us the chance to not only highlight the potential of transformational projects such as these but also demonstrate that the private and public sector in Lancashire is committed to generating opportunities through a strategic, partnership approach which is aligned to delivering clear commercial objectives."

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, said: "One of my key roles at the University is to connect what we're doing on campus with private and public sector partners to help boost both the Lancaster and Lancashire economies, so being part of the 'We Are Lancashire' delegation is a great example of this collaborative approach in action.

"The HIC is clearly an exciting scheme which will put the city and the county on the global map with regards health innovation, and it's one of the several projects we have in development which will drive regeneration and create jobs. It's also good to be sharing a platform with colleagues from Lancaster City Council at the Business Showcase event as the city is currently enjoying a heightened interest in commercial and cultural investment which will directly benefit the University, the city, and the whole of Lancashire."

Existing Lancashire assets, which have been primed for investment and rapid growth, will also be key elements in Lancashire's property portfolio to be presented at MIPIM UK. They will include the Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster programme which is based on three Enterprise Zones on four sites located in the county. The Cluster could support 10,000 new jobs within hi-tech industries including aerospace, engineering, chemicals, advanced manufacturing and automotive.

Blackpool College's Energy HQ, a national centre for energy research and training, UCLan's £200m regeneration masterplan, Preston's £50m Market Quarter scheme, Burnley's Vision Park and the £32m Northlight project at Brierfield Mill in Pendle will also all be part of the We Are Lancashire proposition at MIPIM UK.

We Are Lancashire, The Place for Growth are exhibiting at Stand G35, MIPIM UK, Olympia, London, October 18-19. For more details of Lancashire at MIPIM events visit www.lancshireatmipim.com

BERRY HAILS LANCASHIRE'S SHOWING AT MIPIM UK



The We Are Lancashire stand at MIPIM UK

Northern Powerhouse minister Jake Berry has hailed Lancashire's appearance at property conference MIPIM UK.

Berry made the comments while visiting the Lancashire stand at MIPIM UK in London where more than 20 Lancashire private and public-sector partners joined together to promote the county as a thriving investment destination.

In addition to his ministerial role, the politician is also MP for Rossendale and Darwen.

He said: "Here at MIPIM I've been talking about the huge contribution that Lancashire can make to the Northern Powerhouse, and about the huge amount of international investment we can bring into the North of England.

"As a proud Lancastrian, and a proud Lancashire MP, I'm delighted that our great county is represented here at MIPIM. We are putting the wonderful things we have to offer in Lancashire into the shop window, for international investors to come and buy."



MIPIM UK

The two-day MIPIM event, which is the largest of its kind in the UK, attracted 3,000 delegates from 45 countries including investors, developers, local authorities, agents, occupiers, architects, planners and government agencies.

Besides having a visible presence in the exhibition area, the We Are Lancashire delegation led by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and managed by Marketing Lancashire also hosted a series of special business showcase events and presentations. These focused on a range of developments and initiatives across the county that offer investment opportunities and promise to generate thousands of jobs, driving significant economic growth.

Lancashire's MIPIM UK delegation was led by David Taylor, chairman of the University of Central Lancashire and vice chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. Taylor also headed Lancashire's first presence at MIPIM in Cannes earlier this year.

He said: "Our collaborative and pragmatic message about how the private and public sector are working together in Lancashire to deliver developments of quality and scale resonated well with investors, developers and policy-makers at MIPIM UK. We are increasingly being known as a region where we collaborate and make things happen and where investments such as the City Deal and Growth Deal produce tangible benefits and positive outcomes for our economy.

"The Northern Powerhouse minister also recognised how, by coming together under one unified banner, we have the opportunity to showcase Lancashire's incredible assets."



24.10.17

Northern Powerhouse Minister Backs 'We Are Lancashire' Investment Drive

The Northern Powerhouse Minister has praised Lancashire's unified 'We Are Lancashire – the Place for Growth' investment campaign and the key role the county can play in driving the northern economy.

Jake Berry made the comments whilst visiting the Lancashire stand at the MIPIM UK property expo at London's Olympia last week, where more than 20 Lancashire private and public sector partners had joined together to promote the county as a thriving investment destination.

Mr Berry said: "Here at MIPIM I've been talking about the huge contribution that Lancashire can make to the Northern Powerhouse, and about the huge amount of international investment we can bring into the North of England.

"As a proud Lancastrian, and a proud Lancashire MP, I'm delighted that our great county is represented here at MIPIM. We are putting the wonderful things we have to offer in Lancashire into the shop window, for international investors to come and buy."

The two-day event - which is the largest of its kind in the UK, attracted 3,000 delegates from 45 countries including investors, developers, local authorities, agents, occupiers, architects, planners and government agencies.

In addition to having a very visible presence in the exhibition area, the We Are Lancashire delegation, led by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and managed by Marketing Lancashire, hosted a series of special business showcase events and presentations, which focused on a range of developments and initiatives across the county which offer massive investment opportunities, and are set to generate thousands of jobs, driving significant economic growth.



L-R: Susan Parsonage, Lancaster City Council, Jake Berry, Northern Powerhouse Minister, Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, Alistair Eagles, Chief Executive Seatruck Ltd



One of the showcase events concentrated on the **city of Lancaster**, which is currently enjoying a boom in infrastructure, property and business investment.

The panel, which included Lancaster University's Director of Facilities Mark Swindlehurst, Susan Parsonage, Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council, Alistair Eagles, Chief Executive of Seatruck Ltd, and Jonathan Bull-Diamond, Senior Director from GVA Investment Partnerships, was chaired by Place North West's editor Paul Unger.

The panel discussed how Lancaster University, the city council, and many private sector partners were all working together to unlock the city's growth potential and to deliver a range of new projects. These included Canal Corridor North, the emerging Bay Gateway development, and a new 3,500 home Garden Village set to be created south of the city, one of the first of its kind in the UK.

The Lancaster panel also highlighted how the University's Health Innovation Campus (HIC), a £41m development, which has been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare globally.

Commenting on the opportunities offered by Lancaster, Susan Parsonage, Chief Executive Lancaster City Council, said: "We have a diverse offer with a beautiful city, a great cultural offer and huge economic opportunities.

"Collaboration is the key to changing outcomes, and a council must be a catalyst for growth. We are helping to create something amazing in Lancaster in partnership with the private sector and with Lancaster University."

Mark Swindlehurst Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, said: "We have been busy raising our academic standards and we are now ranked sixth in the UK. We are engaging with both the council and businesses about how we further invest in the city, and we have developed fantastically strong partnerships.

"We're also about to start Phase 1 of our Health Innovation Campus, which will ultimately be part of a £150m investment. We're looking at boosting student numbers by 4,000 which would mean up to an extra 1,000 staff, and we are focussed on improving the city's offer to students, parents, staff and visitors."

Alistair Eagles, Chief Executive Seatruck Ltd, said: "Being based in Lancaster, there is a real buzz and energy, it feels like we're at a tipping point where great things are happening and we are now starting to shout about it.

"For example, Seatrucks invested £300m a few years ago in a fleet specifically built for the port of Heysham, so when the Heysham Gateway was opened recently, it felt like a great collective effort had come good."

Jonathan Bull-Diamond, Senior Director GVA Investment Partnerships, said: "Private sector investment goes where the local partners have a will to make things happen and that's what is attracting the likes of British Land to Lancaster.

"They are engaged with the City Council to invest in the large retail opportunity in Lancaster, not only because the figures stack up, but because of the strength of the local partner's support and collaboration."



POWERHOUSE MINISTER PRAISES LANCASHIRE'S 'SHOP WINDOW'

MP Jake Berry has said Lancashire can make a big contribution to the Northern Powerhouse, praising the county's unified presence at the MIPIM UK property expo.

A delegation of more than 20 public and private sector representatives exhibited and gave talks under the 'We are Lancashire – the Place for Growth' banner.

With 3,000 investors, developers and government agencies from 45 countries in attendance, the two-day event is the largest of its kind in the UK.

And Northern Powerhouse minister Jake Berry spoke about Lancashire's delegation having a huge impact.

He said: "Here at MIPIM I've been talking about the huge contribution that Lancashire can make to the Northern Powerhouse, and about the huge amount of international investment we can bring into the North of England.

"As a proud Lancastrian, and a proud Lancashire MP, I'm delighted that our great county is represented here at MIPIM. We are putting the wonderful things we have to offer in Lancashire into the shop window, for international investors to come and buy."

In addition to having a very visible presence in the exhibition area, the We Are Lancashire delegation, led by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and managed by Marketing Lancashire, hosted a series of special business showcase events and presentations.

These focussed on a range of developments and initiatives across the county which offer massive investment opportunities, and are set to generate thousands of jobs, driving significant economic growth.

Topics under discussion included Lancaster University's contribution to the city's booming infrastructure, property and business investment, and its £41m Health Innovation Campus.

Also under the spotlight was the mixed-use Cuerden development in South Ribble part of the City Deal which was **recently granted planning permission** and hopes to generate £241m per year to the central Lancashire economy.

Lancashire's MIPIM UK delegation was led by David Taylor, chair of UCLan and vice chair of the Lancashire LEP.

David, who also headed Lancashire's first presence at MIPIM International in Cannes earlier this year, said: "Our collaborative and pragmatic message about how the private and public sector are working together in Lancashire to deliver developments of quality and scale resonated well with investors, developers and policy-makers at MIPIM UK.

"We are increasingly being known as a region where we collaborate and make things happen and where investments such as the City Deal and Growth Deal produce tangible benefits and positive outcomes for our economy.

"The Northern Powerhouse Minister also recognised how, by coming together under one unified banner we have the opportunity to showcase Lancashire's incredible assets."

In addition to opportunities set to be generated through a thriving Lancaster and the £450m City Deal, the We Are Lancashire delegation promoted a wide range of other Lancashire assets.

These included the emerging masterplan for Blackpool's Airport and Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zones, which were the focus of a presentation by representatives of Mott MacDonald, while housing and development opportunities in Pennine Lancashire were also discussed at a special session.

Additional key schemes highlighted included the Engineering and Innovation Centre development at the University of Central Lancashire, Blackpool and the Fylde College's Energy HQ, Preston's £50m Market Quarter scheme, Burnley's Vision Park, and the £32m Northlight project at Brierfield Mill.

A shining light for regeneration

The landmark £32m Northlight development continues to be a shining beacon in Pendle's regeneration.

It has now welcomed the first organisation to make its home at the former Brierfield Mill with Lancashire Adult Learning moving into its new £1.75m base.

Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) provided £1.4m to support the organisation's relocation from Chorley.

The LEP has also invested £4.2m of Growth Deal funding into the overall

Northlight scheme. And the county council is providing £2.15m including improved access from the M65 and redeveloping part of the canalside for leisure.

Pendle council leader Mohammed Iqbal says: "Thanks to the massive support we've had it's been full speed ahead since October last year. It's fantastic to see Northlight taking shape."

Amanda Melton, principal of both Lancashire Adult Learning and Nelson and Colne College, says: "The facilities at Northlight are of the highest standard and I am extremely impressed with the

transformation that has taken place here over recent months.

"Our base will now be at Brierfield, but our provision will remain the same – providing adults across the county with an opportunity to re-discover a love for learning in one of our many community venues across Lancashire."

And the next new

developments for Northlight have also been revealed. They include a planning

application for 52 apartments.

Northlight will also be home for Burnley FC in the Community and for an arts and culture hub.

"The fast pace of development on our ambitious project proves it



Amanda Melton

has a great future," adds Coun Iqbal, who also chairs Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration (PEARL), the joint venture company of Pendle Council and Barnfield Investment Properties which owns Northlight.

Graham Cowley, who chairs the LEP Growth Deal Management Board, says:

"Brierfield Mill is gradually being transformed into a thriving hub of education, leisure and residential services, which will benefit the whole of the local community.

"It's a great example of how the Lancashire Growth Deal can help unlock investment and drive regeneration."





Delays warning as Prom shuts for tram work



The junction of the Prom and Talbot Square will be closed for six weeks to enable tram works to take place

The [work](#) is necessary to relocate utility pipes in preparation for the £21m extension of the tram tracks up Talbot Road from North Pier to North Station.

But business operators are upset at the disruption just before Christmas.

It comes at the same time as Harrowside and Squires Gate bridges are closed.

The Talbot Square junction will be closed between November 13 and December 22, while other road closures will take place between November and February.

As well as diversions, measures to ease traffic congestion will include opening St John's Square to traffic and making Church Street two way.

The pipe work is due to be completed by next March.

Dickson Road will be closed for resurfacing work.

Critics warned the work would bring the town centre to a standstill.

Bill Lewtas, secretary of Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators Association, said: "We have had meetings with the council to try to reduce the disruption.

"However we don't support this tramway extension and we believe it would have been possible to plan for the regeneration of Blackpool's town centre without this.

"Many months of disruption are ahead of us."

John Newton, of Blackpool Mobility and Hire on Dickson [Road](#), said: "There has been no consultation whatsoever and businesses on Dickson Road are fuming.

"We have three vehicles operating out of this shop and the council has given us no warning.

"It will affect our business terribly. What about the hotels around here, with Christmas coming up?"

Coun Tony Williams, leader of the Conservatives on Blackpool Council, said: "The timing of this when there is already a lot of disruption due to work by United [Utilities](#) and the closure of the Squires Gate and Harrowside bridges means Blackpool will be a no go area.

"It is going to be chaos, especially for taxi drivers, and what about the impact on all the restaurants and bars in the run up to Christmas?"

But transport chiefs say the investment is key to the regeneration of the town.

Coun Fred Jackson, cabinet member for highways on Blackpool Council, said: "We understand there is going to be some disruption but we are carrying out works in stages to try and reduce any inconvenience for road users.

"We apologise in advance for any delays which may be caused and thank residents and commuters in advance for their patience."

Coun Jackson said the investment was key to the future prosperity of the town.

He added: "The improvement works are vital in helping us create a better town centre, including better roads and transport.

"The work will provide benefits to the Blackpool community and visitors to the town for years to come."



18 Celebrities You Didn't Know Were Really Short

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Trendchaser

Closures over the next three months include: Talbot Road at the junction of Abingdon Street between November 6 and December 22; Talbot Square including the junction with the Promenade, and Talbot Road junction with Dickson Road, both between November 13 and December 22; and Dickson Road from Talbot Road to Lansdowne [Place](#) between November 13 and February 16.

The scheme is being funded through £16.4m from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, and £4.7m from the council.

A new tram terminal linking in with Blackpool North railway station will also be built.

How can county create new jobs?



Alstom and BAE Systems workers have been hit by job cuts announcements, while the Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, is set to be the county's leading training centre for the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors

The last month has been a bleak one for Lancashire's economy, with two companies announcing major job losses.

BAE Systems is shedding 750 roles at its Samlesbury and Warton sites, and engineering firm Alstom is to lose a further 180 roles.

Both these redundancy programmes represent highly-skilled [jobs](#), which are already in short supply in Lancashire.

For those directly affected by the job losses, some solutions are already in place - redundancy packages, re-training opportunities, [support](#) or to change careers.

But these announcements will undoubtedly have knock-on effects, both to the various local subsidiary companies that deal directly with BAE and Alstom, and to the wider economy of the county as a whole.

But while all the county's major players agree that action needs to be taken, opinion varies widely on the best course of action.

Fylde MP Mark Menzies, whose constituency includes the Warton site, is hanging all of his hopes on securing a deal with Saudi Arabia to buy some more planes.

Preston MP Mark Hendrick thinks better rail links are the answer, while Preston Council leader Peter Rankin believes that a Lancashire-wide mayor would be better able to push the case for Lancashire.

Mark Hendrick

Preston MP Mark Hendrick said BAE requires support from ministers to secure new business through a joined up "political and marketing effort", perhaps even widening the current catchment area for defence contracts.

However, the [Labour](#) MP said the double "hammer-blow" at BAE and Alstom showed up the "hype" surrounding the Northern Powerhouse.

"I have always thought that this idea for the Northern Powerhouse was an idea from George Osborne to appeal to northern voters who saw the south as a predominantly Tory area and the north Labour," he said.

"It was an election message to make people think this wasn't the case. There was a great deal of hype about it but if they were serious about it what we would see is big projects like we've seen the government commit to in the south and around London, like Crossrail. If the government was serious about the north we would have had HS3, Liverpool to Hull, that would show serious commitment."

I fear it will stop at Manchester at Leeds and it will not reach places in the North and that gives the impression that it was all hype and talk.

"There are sections of lines across the North West yet to be electrified and that in the 21st century is not acceptable."

He said calls from colleagues for the Government to deliver on the Northern Powerhouse would be futile, he added.

Mark Menzies

Fylde MP Mark Menzies, whose constituency includes the Warton BAE site, told the Lancashire Post efforts to push through a deal with Saudi Arabia should be priority for the Government. He visits the Gulf State next week.

"As far as BAE is concerned, we need to see the deal to supply Qatar with 24 planes given the final sign off in the first instance to keep the production line going," the Conservative MP said. "And we need to push on with the next Saudi deal. Progress on that deal for an order of a further 48 Typhoons slowed during the election given Labour's stance of no sales to the kingdom."

"However, I visited Saudi Arabia three weeks ago and they are very much of the view they will be buying these aircraft. I will meet the Crown Prince again next week and will further press for the deal."

"In the longer term, we also need to see a commitment from the Government on a sixth generation fighter plane for Warton and Samlesbury."

"Winning that Saudi order, and a pledge for a new fighter, would help keep the current Eurofighter Typhoon production line open, and give the firm a commitment about an entirely new product."

Peter Rankin

This week the first meeting of the several metro mayors to have accepted the Government's terms took place. Lancashire is still awaiting feedback from their bid.

Preston City Council leader Peter Rankin recently warned Brexit could scupper any hopes of a devolution deal being pushed through.

He said: "We need to be working together to look at services to share."

"I'm battling for Preston but it is crucial and important that we work together."

He added that faith should be placed in the county's City Deal and Preston Model initiatives in creating new opportunities for those affected.

"Job losses and relocation of businesses outside the area are unfortunate. However, with the growth and commitment of the City Deal and the community wealth-building projects, the impetus is also on new businesses growing and moving into Preston. Jobs and new opportunities are on the horizon and we are doing everything we can to cultivate investment relationships."

Nigel Evans

Ribble Valley MP Nigel Evans, whose constituency includes BAE's Samlesbury site, refused to comment on the issue of bringing more jobs to Lancashire.

Last month, reacting to the BAE Systems announcement, Mr Evans said he would press the government to redouble its efforts to encourage increased sales exports of UK defence technology and ensure the Ministry of Defence procures its equipment in the UK.

He said: "The presence of BAE in the North West is sizable, providing literally thousands of skilled jobs to the region, I want to ensure that BAE has a strong presence in Lancashire for years to come. Not only is the company vital for the livelihoods of a small army of workers, it is crucial for a significant number of small-to-medium sized business that rely on BAE across the country."

Babs Murphy

Babs Murphy, chief executive of the North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, said she was confident that central Lancashire would bounce back from the blow of BAE and Alstom jobs losses.

She said: "Employers are under enormous globalisation pressures which often means centralisation and consolidation is required to move the business forward. Alstom has been a real asset to the local economy for a number of years. It has always been a particularly effective manufacturer with a strong workforce and it is obviously disappointing news but on a positive note the firm is retaining its operation in the North West. As with other recent job loss announcements we are confident that the local economy will be able to present new opportunities for those workers who may lose their jobs."

New investment plans for the county

Lancashire is soon set to benefit from more than £13m of new skills investment which will create over 4,000 new training places across the county in range of different sectors.

Over the next two months four brand new education facilities will open as part of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) wider £27m technical and vocational skills Growth Deal funding programme.

The new facilities include the Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool, the first of its kind in the UK, which is set to be the country's leading training centre for the renewable, oil and gas energy sectors; the Food and Farming Innovation and Technology (FFIT) Centre at Myerscough College in Preston, which will be the most advanced agricultural training centre in the UK; and the Sentamu Teaching Block at the University of Cumbria's Lancaster campus, which will specialise in training health and social care students.

In addition, Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL), the county's adult learning service is due to relocate from Chorley to the newly refurbished premises at Brierfield Mill in Pendle as part of the £32m Northlight regeneration scheme. The new LAL centre will support 22,000 adult learners in Lancashire across 120 community venues.

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Next generation 3D printing investment helps widen access to technology



Engineering students work with the Stratasys J750

8 November 2017 12:38

*Businesses, researchers, students and school children are amongst some of the groups benefiting from enhanced additive manufacturing capabilities at Lancaster University's **Engineering Department**.*

Additive manufacturing describes the process of building parts and assemblies in a layer-by-layer method - often referred to as '3D printing'.

The University's Engineering Department has invested in next-generation additive manufacturing equipment in the form of a 'Stratasys J750 PolyJet' machine. The £250K investment brings the first J750 operational to a UK university and enables the rapid fabrication of components consisting of different materials and colours - vastly opening up new design and innovation potential.

The applications of previous additive manufacturing technologies are typically limited by only being able to 'print' in one material or colour.



This is a game-changing technology and a real coup for Lancaster University to have such capability within our portfolio of facilities.

Dr Allan Rennie



Lancaster Graduate Engineer Samuel Walsh has worked closely with StormMeister using the Stratasys J750 to develop single-piece seals made from several different blended materials, which aims to replace the company's previous designs. This new geometric design with its improved ability to protect against ingress of flood water should also enable easier and cheaper manufacturing and allow StormMeister to install seals in their door frames at their factory as well as on-site - minimising disruption to customers and reducing potential for installation error.

Malcolm Snape from StormMeister said: "I am impressed with the contribution that the Engineering Department is making to the StormMeister Research and Development Programme. At considerable saving in cost the research has enabled us to prototype a new design of flood seal and recent testing has proved that with a little tweaking, we have yet another world class product. I look forward to StormMeister and Lancaster University working together on a whole range of new innovations, patents and products."

Dr Allan Rennie, Senior Lecturer in Manufacturing Engineering and Head of the **Lancaster Product Development Unit** at Lancaster University, said: "The Stratasys J750 is a multi-colour, multi-material additive manufacturing technology that significantly enhances our ability to develop new products with in-built functionality that would have previously been impossible.

"This is a game-changing technology and a real coup for Lancaster University to have such capability within our portfolio of facilities - we encourage businesses and other organisations to work with us to see how we can enhance their existing product development processes."

The Stratasys J750 was part-funded by the Growth Deal Skills Capital Fund through the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), as well as the project partners - Lancaster University and BAE Systems - for the 'Advanced Manufacturing Capital for Skills Development & Employer Engagement' Project (ACaDEmE).

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said: "The LEP's investment in new technology like the Stratasys printer at Lancaster University is a great example of how Growth Deal funding is aligned to our wider growth strategy for the county. Advanced manufacturing is at the heart of Lancashire's economy, and we are continually seeking opportunities where we can add value to both students and local businesses by providing facilities and equipment which drive innovation.

"The fact that StormMeister has been utilising the additive manufacturing resources, and the expertise in engineering, at the University demonstrates this approach in action, and we would encourage all companies in Lancashire to work with local colleges and universities to enhance their products, services and skills."

In addition to the Stratasys equipment at Lancaster, the LEP's Growth Deal fund is supporting the University's Health Innovation Campus which will spearhead advances in technologies and products to improve health and healthcare globally.

Through the Growth Deal fund, the LEP has also invested substantially in other projects and programmes linked to advanced manufacturing and hi-tech engineering. This includes UCLan's Engineering Innovation Centre, Edge Hill University's Innovation Technology Hub, Runshaw College's Engineering and Science centre, Nelson & Colne College's Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing Innovation Centre and Blackpool & Fylde College's Maritime Engineering Facility.

Massive jobs boost after cash injection



Coun. Mohamed Iqbal and County Coun. Azhar Ali at Lomeshaye Industrial Estate

Pendle Borough Council has agreed to inject £1.9m. to extend the Lomeshaye [Industrial](#) Estate in Brierfield while Lancashire County Council Cabinet has agreed £1.5m. towards the scheme.

Phase one of the proposed extension would unlock 3.53 hectares of land, creating more than 500 full-time-equivalent sustainable jobs, mainly in the manufacturing sector.

Leader of Pendle Council, Coun. Mohammed Iqbal, said: "This is great news for phase one of the Lomeshaye extension because it will give Pendle businesses a place to expand.

"By extending this strategic site along the M65 we'll also have the capacity to attract new businesses to our area, creating hundreds of jobs.

"Pendle Council will be providing a cash injection of £1.9m. for this key employment site. Our shared ambitions to expand Lomeshaye are moving forward."

A later phase of the development is expected to generate significantly more new jobs.

Lomeshaye is the largest employment site in Pendle and one of the largest in East Lancashire.

Pendle Borough Council and the county council are working in partnership to create the infrastructure required to prepare the site for future development.

County Coun. Michael Green, Cabinet member for economic development, environment and planning, said: "These plans are an excellent opportunity to make use of the employment potential of Lomeshaye to create new jobs for the surrounding community.

"Pendle is home to the largest concentration of advanced manufacturing employment in the country, and Lomeshaye is located at the heart of the Burnley-Pendle section of the M65 growth corridor.

"Pendle is home to the largest concentration of advanced manufacturing employment in the country, and Lomeshaye is located at the heart of the Burnley-Pendle section of the M65 growth corridor.

"This extension could provide additional space for existing companies to expand, or attract new companies onto this popular industrial estate.

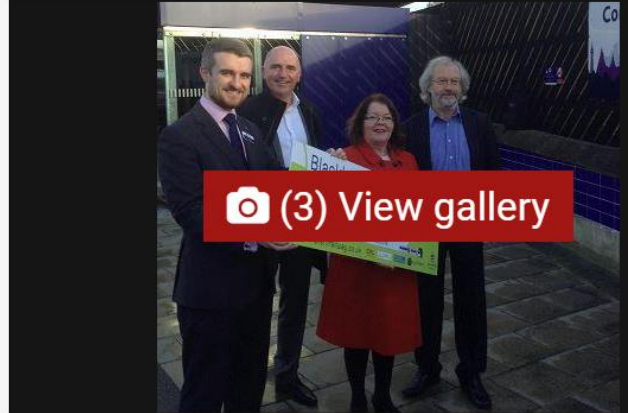
"The county council is always looking to encourage developments of this type, where we can, because they create business growth, bring money into the local economy and create many new job opportunities for local people."

The extension of Lomeshaye complements recent economic growth initiatives made in the area, including the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's £12m. Burnley-Pendle Growth Deal scheme and the £32m redevelopment of Brierfield Mill.

22nd November 2017

MP Kate Hollern joins rail boss to back new half-hourly service

Bill Jacobs [@BillJacobsLT](#)
Local Government Reporter



[f](#) [t](#) [G+](#) [e](#) 37 comments

BLACKBURN MP Kate Hollern was at hand to join Northern Rail boss Li and the official launch of the town's half-hourly service to Manchester.

The new every 30 minute trains will start on December 10 also linking Clitheroe and Bolton.

Mrs Hollern said: "This is fantastic news.

"It will help people in Blackburn commute to Manchester for jobs and

"We now have a fantastic town centre here and it will help people get it more easily."

Mr Sumpter, Norther's regional director, said: "This is a superb day for the company and its passengers.

"They can now see in front of them the first stage of our modernisation project to improve their journeys.

"We are no longer talking about jam tomorrow, our customers are now receiving jam today.

"And there is more to come in terms of new trains and better services."

Graham Cowley, chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "This is a real step forward in connecting up Blackburn and the North of England which is vital to our economic future."

28.11.17

Neil Athey [@AtheyLT](#)
Reporter



[f](#) [t](#) [G+](#) [e](#) 0 comments

THE first phase of a multi-million-pound business park set to bring in hundreds of high-skilled jobs to a town centre has been completed.

And the Lancashire Telegraph can reveal exclusive images from inside the Burnley's newly built Vision Park.

After almost a year of construction, the two buildings will provide 17 units which can be used for office, research and light industrial businesses.

Advanced manufacturers and digital-based companies are being sought for the five-acre site, part of which once housed the town's former household waste centre.

Owned by Burnley Council, each unit in the first phase has state-of-the-art functions with shutter doors, fireproof letter boxes, CCTV, executive meeting suits, kitchen and shower facilities and are ideal for start up businesses.

Exclusive sneak peek into Burnley's new multi-million pound Vision Park

The units range from 850 square feet to 2,605 square feet and were developed by Barnfield Construction on behalf of Trebor Developments.

Burnley Council chief executive Mick Cartledge said discussions have taken place with potential businesses to move into the site, however no deals have been completed.

He added: "The first phase has been completed and the buildings look fantastic.

"These spacious, modern units are perfect for lots of first-time and growing businesses.

"We want to bring highly skilled jobs to the town and through Vision Park we will be able to achieve this.

"These units are in a great part of town, it's in the town centre, its close to the motorway, there's so much potential.

"With the university announcing their significant expansion and the nearby college, we are really adding to the 'knowledge quarter' of Burnley."

Paul Davies, site manager from Barnfield Construction, said: "We've improved the road infrastructure around the park and we've helped reduce the chances of cars speeding by narrowing the roads near the houses.

"Neighbours have supported us with this. We've had several people come to us and asking us to look around.

"In the summer the site will be amazing, you can hear the river nearby, the flowers will be out, it will be a really attractive place to work."

Around £1.7million was funded by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to help kickstart the project last year.

The partnership is behind improvements to junctions along the M65, as part of the Burnley and Pendle Growth Corridor and is backing the efforts to revamp Brierfield Mill.

Tenants will have access to a range of programmes at the education campus' to help support and grow their businesses.

Burnley's MP, Julie Cooper, said the park was another positive venture for the town.

He said: "Vision Park is in every sense excellent news for Burnley both in terms of the high number of new job opportunities on the site and the spin off for the wider local economy.

"It sends a clear message that Burnley is an excellent place to invest and to do business.

"The links on offer with UCLan and Burnley College are particularly attractive to high-tech digital and manufacturing companies and the town is now gaining a reputation as a hub for these types of businesses as a consequence."

Work on the second and third phases of the site will begin towards the end of next year.

Bob Tatttrie, managing partner for Trebor, said: "We are delighted to see phase one ready for occupation, establishing Vision Park as the premium employment location in Burnley, offering high quality, yet flexible, accommodation that can meet a range of occupiers' requirements and we are looking forward to phases two and three coming on stream."

Government green light for £22m tramway



Blackpool's £22m tram extension dream has been officially backed by the Government.

The Department for Transport (DfT) tonight revealed it had [approved](#) the plan to extend the track from North Pier to North Station along Talbot Road, re-establishing a link which ceased operation in 1936.

A new tram terminal will also be built on the site of the Wilko's store, which is moving to Tower Street as part of the second phase of the Houndhill Centre.

The tramway extension is being funded through the Lancashire Growth Deal with Blackpool Council contributing towards the cost.

The DfT today granted the council an order under the Transport for Works Act to go ahead with the scheme, although work had already begun. It said the Secretary of State had received 14 objections, 27 expressions of support and two neutral representations, but some of the objections were later withdrawn.

It also considered a 257-name petition against the scheme.

Town Hall chiefs say the scheme will provide "a better service for passengers" - but some businesses and traders had objected to the scheme. Among those to oppose the scheme were Stephen Pierre, owner of the Galleon bar who was behind the petition, and Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators Association which said the scheme would contribute to traffic problems and deemed the council's traffic analysis was "unreliable" and said they had a "poor record of congestion forecasting".

One amendment to the scheme was maintaining an eight-space taxi rank on Market Street rather than reduce it to six, as originally planned.

The 12-page document said the Secretary of State was "content the scheme would bring better integration of public transport services and have accessibility benefits to users, both for residents and visitors."

Services to North Station could begin in April 2019.

No one from Blackpool Council was available for comment last night.

5
comments



**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

Official rubber stamp for new tramway

News Home More from Local

Friday, December 1st, 2017 12:00am



Trams are to link with North Station again for the first time in 80 years

Blackpool's £21m tram extension dream has been officially backed by the Government.

The Department for Transport has approved the plan to extend the track from North Pier to North Station along Talbot Road, re-establishing a link which ceased operation in 1936.

A new tram terminal will also be built on the site of the Wilko's store.

The tramway extension is being funded through the Lancashire Growth Deal.

The Secretary of State said the scheme had received 14 objections, 27 expressions of support and two neutral representations, but some of the objections were later withdrawn. It also considered a 257-name petition against the scheme. Town Hall chiefs say the scheme will provide "a better service for passengers"

It's hoped the new tram link will now be the starting point for further expansion of the system in the future. The Blackpool Flexity trams are proving a hit with thousands of local commuters.



07.12.17

Another green light for Northlight



5:31am 7th December 2017

52 apartments will be built in the iconic Victorian mill in Brierfield.

Planning permission has been granted at the Northlight site, in the former Brierfield Mill.

Office spaces for businesses and underground parking have also been given the green light.



"Our ambitious plans to create a new £32m learning, living, working, leisure and cultural destination for the North West entered an exciting new stage this week.

"This will make our Grade II listed mill a great place to work, live and visit and will create hundreds of jobs".



Pendle Enterprise And Regeneration Ltd (PEARL) is the joint venture company of Pendle Council and Barnfield Investment Properties which owns Northlight.

The development of Northlight has been made possible thanks to a range of funding including £4.2m from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal Funding, £2.15m from Lancashire County Council and £1.5m from Pendle Council.



"We've bought properties on Clitheroe Road adjoining Northlight, including the derelict Railway Tavern, a garage and car sales business through Compulsory Purchase.

"All these properties will now be demolished to provide an attractive landscaped car park for Northlight.

"People have been asking why there's been a delay, but we need to wait for the utility companies to disconnect the services.

"Once that's done PEARL can arrange to get the buildings safely demolished and we've lined up a demolition contractor to start work.

"The demolition will really help to open up views of the mill from Railway Street and will be another exciting step forward!"



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES £41M HEALTH INNOVATION CAMPUS

[Home](#) › [Latest News & Features](#) › [News](#) › Lancaster University announces £41m Health Innovation Campus

BY **TIM ALDRED**

Posted on: 19th December, 2017 at 8:03 am



Lancaster University has unveiled a major new investment in helping people live as long and as healthily as possible.

The first phase of the new Health Innovation Campus will cost £41m and construction has already begun on a site adjacent to the university's main campus. It is scheduled for completion in 2019.

The university is funding the project with backing from Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

Lancaster University says the Health Innovation Campus will create new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies.

Innovations will be targeted around the prevention and early diagnosis of illness and access to care.

As well as digital innovation, this will include the design, development and evaluation of healthy places to live and work, improving quality and value in health innovation systems, and the development of new materials to improve health.

Lancaster University's deputy vice-chancellor Professor Andrew Atherton, said: "Lancaster University's role as an economic anchor and driver of innovation has been recognised nationally and we have helped thousands of businesses grow, especially in the North of England.

"The Health Innovation Campus is an ambitious and exciting extension of our partnerships to improve productivity through innovation, and promises to boost the region's prosperity and help us all live longer and healthier lives."

Graham Cowley, Chair of the LEP's Growth Deal Fund, said: "It is set to be a fantastic facility which will drive new research and inspire fresh thinking with regards to how we tackle the key health issues regionally, nationally and globally.

"In addition to generating jobs and enhancing the university's international reputation, the Health Innovation Campus development will also help put Lancaster on the map as an emerging inward investment proposition."

The campus will work by co-locating academics from a broad range of different backgrounds in a new building alongside businesses and other partners. The building will also provide a new home for the university's expanding work in health and medicine.

Emphasis will be on how to prevent people getting sick in the first place. It will save money as well as lives by creating new products, processes and services and thereby reduce patient demand for treatments.

At the centre of the HIC philosophy is a commitment to work collaboratively with businesses and the health sector to co-design, develop and evaluate new ideas. It will also have a focus on personal and organisational development to ensure there is capacity and capability to promote, embed and implement innovation.

CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTS ON HEALTH INNOVATION CAMPUS

© 19 Dec 2017 North West Property



Construction work has started on site at the £41m first phase of Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus.

The Health Innovation Campus has been funded with a £17m grant from the Regional Growth Fund, an £8.6m grant from the European Regional Development Fund and £15.4m from the university.

Construction of the first phase of the building, next to the university's campus, is expected to complete in 2019.

Lancaster University's deputy vice-chancellor Professor Andrew Atherton said: "Lancaster University's role as an economic anchor and driver of innovation has been recognised nationally and we have helped thousands of businesses grow, especially in the North of England.

"The Health Innovation Campus is an ambitious and exciting extension of our partnerships to improve productivity through innovation, and promises to boost the region's prosperity and help us all live longer

Graham Cowley, chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Fund, added: "Innovation has always been the lifeblood of the Lancashire economy so it is encouraging to hear that work on the HIC has started thanks to the LEP's Growth Deal funding and support from the ERDF."



Bam starts on first phase of Lancaster health campus

19 Dec 2017, 09:31

The first phase of Lancaster University's 350,000 sq ft Health Innovation Campus has started on site, with main contractor Bam beginning construction of an 80,000 sq ft innovation hub.

The building is situated on previously undeveloped land to the north of the University's Bailrigg campus, and has been designed by architect John McAslan & Partners.

The project has an overall value of £41m, and it is understood Bam's contract is in the region of £30m.

It will provide space for academics, healthcare providers, alongside science & technology firms and SME-focussed business space. Research will focus on digital innovation in healthcare and space is intended to be used by a variety of national and international firms.

It will also be home to the University's health and medicine research departments.

Work on the first phase, which was approved by planners in February this year, is due to complete in September 2019.

Revised plans for the wider campus, which will cover 350,000 sq ft, were approved in 2016, after originally being mothballed following the closure of the North West Development Agency in 2014. Plans to turn the site into a science park were first proposed in 2007.

Lancaster University's deputy vice-chancellor Andrew Atherton said: "Lancaster University's role as an economic anchor and driver of innovation has been recognised nationally and we have helped thousands of businesses grow, especially in the North of England.

"The Health Innovation Campus is an ambitious and exciting extension of our partnerships to improve productivity through innovation, and promises to boost the region's prosperity and help us all live longer and healthier lives."

The campus has been funded with a £17m grant from the Regional Growth Fund and £8.6m from the European Regional Growth Fund. Lancaster University has provided the remaining £15.4m.

New Preston Western Distributor road cost soars by £57m

News of the [cash](#) bombshell was delivered at a meeting of the Transport for Lancashire committee this week.

It is now thought the new Preston Western Distributor road, seen as the key to providing 5,000 new homes in north west Preston, will cost £161.6m.

Despite the escalating costs the scheme is set to proceed to its next stage. This will mean compulsory purchase orders can be obtained by the county council to ensure land is available for the route's development.

The committee, a sub-committee of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership(LEP), was told the original estimate of £104.5m was made before any site investigation or design work.

The 4.3kn dual carriageway will connect the A583 Preston to Blackpool Road at Lea with the M55 at a new motorway Junction 2, near Bartle.

It is now known two major viaducts, each 250 m in length, will have to be constructed.

A report to the committee revealed: "One is extremely costly due to the extremely poor ground conditions identified through detailed geotechnical investigations and subsequent requirement for deep piling."

The committee's acting chairman Coun Michael Green, county council cabinet member for economic development, environment and planning, said: "You can imagine the shock Coun Geoff Driver (council leader) and myself had when we saw the difference in those figures. We are where we are. We know this is crucially important to the centre of Lancashire as a whole and also to the west of the county and Fylde."

After the meeting he said: "The road is of strategic importance in terms of housing developments and the growth of the Lancashire economy. That's why it's right to still press ahead to complete that road, but that doesn't reduce our disappointment at becoming aware of the figures.

"We will have to find the funding via the City Deal. It will go forward while we continue to seek any other alternative forms of funding."

The price rise includes additional costs for the diversion of the Hodder Aqueduct and because of the risks of working in hazardous environments over waterways, railways and motorways.

During the meeting Blackburn with Darwen councillor and LEP Board member Phil Riley asked "Does there come a moment when this doesn't work? There has to be a moment when escalating costs become a matter of concern."

But LEP Board member Graham Cowley said the scheme would have wider benefits and said he wanted to welcome the fact such an important scheme for the sub-region and beyond "was actually here now and we have some certainty about its delivery."

A report by Dave Colbert, the County Council's specialist adviser on transport planning, advised the route has potential to generate an additional £144m of GVA (gross value added) for the local economy over the 60 year evaluation period "principally through unlocked development."

£58m funding for the route will come from the Lancashire Growth Deal and Highways England will provide £25m towards the cost of the new motorway junction. The remainder of the route costs will be funded through the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

•The committee noted the project has developed to the expected standard in most areas and recommended the LEP Board grant the scheme conditional approval at its meeting on January 30. This will pave the way for the council to apply not just for compulsory purchase orders and planning consents but for any highway orders affecting existing roads.

FACTFILE

•This the largest transport project in the Lancashire [Growth](#) Deal programme and a key project for the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

•It will support the delivery of the city's new "strategic housing location" and 5,000 new homes.

•It will improve access between the Enterprise Zone site at Warton and the area.

• It will create the opportunity for a new "parkway" station at Cottam by the Preston to Blackpool North railway line, providing rail based park and ride facilities for commuters to Preston, Manchester, Liverpool and Manchester.

•The road should reduce peak hour congestion in Preston city centre and enable the introduction of bus priority measures and improvements to promote walking and cycling.

Lancashire
Post

11.01.18

31st January

County council appoints new executive director, Stephen Young



LANCASHIRE County Council has appointed a new executive director of growth, environment, transport and community services.

Stephen Young will join the authority in April from Bolton Council, where he is currently their director of place.

This new role includes major areas of the county council's work including highways, economic development, planning, public transport, waste management, libraries and museums.

The role also aims to bring major projects and funding to Lancashire through the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, the Growth Deal, Transport for the North, and the Northern Powerhouse.

Mr Young previously worked for Oldham Metropolitan Council and Burnley Council.

Next stage of Preston's shared space to take shape

Posted on - 4th January, 2018 - 11:04am | Author - Ed Walker | Posted in - News, Politics, Preston City Centre, Roads, Transport



Current view down Lancaster Road Pic: Tony Worrall

Months of roadworks in [Preston city centre](#) are to take place to create the latest stage of the shared space scheme.

Lancashire County Council has announced the new road layout used in [Fishergate](#) and the top end of Church Street is now being extended.

However, the county council says it is making amendments to the design used for Fishergate – as it has received [much criticism from disabled groups](#).

Kerb heights are to be higher, to help people distinguish between the road and the pavement, and materials being used for the road surface will have a greater contrast to the pavement.

Work is beginning on the new road layout in Lord Street from Monday (8 January) and will take until the summer of 2019 to complete the whole scheme.

Read more: [UCLan's Adelphi Square scheme set for approval](#)

Cabinet member for highways and transport county councillor Keith Iddon said: "It's important to provide a welcoming city centre that appeals to businesses and shoppers.

"These latest improvements will bring a similar feel to work done elsewhere in the city centre, which we know have helped to attract new retailers and shoppers.

"Our highways team planned this phase by taking on board comments and feedback on previous improvements and we've made some changes. We hope that this will help to improve the experience for everyone who visits this part of the city centre."

The county council says it is to undertake the work in stages to try and limit the disruption to businesses in the area.

The first stage will see a temporary road layout put in place with Lord Street, at the side of the Guild Hall, closed to vehicles and Tibbald Street will close from Crooked Lane.

A one-way restriction on Lancaster Road will be temporarily reserved during the work and vehicles will be able to travel from Old Vicarage towards the Guild Hall.

A bus and taxi-only section in front of the Guild Hall will also be temporarily removed during this work with all drivers able to travel towards Church Street.

Another change from the Fishergate scheme is the introduction of specific taxi and delivery bays on the road surface, rather than being on the pavement.

Stone flags outside the Town Hall and the Harris will be maintained.

However, flags outside the Miller Arcade are being taken up and reused to repair damaged ones outside the other two buildings.



Cabinet member for planning and regulation at Preston City Council councillor Peter Moss said "The next phase of improvement works are very welcome to complete the overall look of the main thoroughfares in Preston.

"An attractive city centre is essential to bring in visitors and future investment, and will be yet one more successful element of the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal."

Work on the Fishergate scheme, which was funded by European Union money, began in 2013 and funding for this section of roadworks is coming from the Growth Deal and Lancashire County Council's contribution to the City Deal – a £430million investment in infrastructure and housing across Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire.

Bus stops outside the Town Hall and at the top of the market will be closed from Monday due to the roadworks.

Archbishop to bless Lancaster teaching block

16/01/2018



The Chancellor of the University of Cumbria, the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, is to visit the university's Lancaster campus later this month to formally bless the new teaching block named after him.

The £9million Sentamu building, part funded by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), was opened in September by LEP chairman Edwin Booth. The building, which includes eight teaching rooms, a lecture theatre and student facilities, will help support the creation of more than 700 new health and social care jobs in the region by 2024.

"We're delighted Dr Sentamu has agreed to come to see the building which is already making a significant difference to the university just months after opening." Vice Chancellor Prof Julie Mennell said. "To be able to offer state of the art facilities for students and be able to host conferences in such creative and inspiring surroundings is making a big difference to the Lancaster campus."

Guests at the blessing, to be held on January 24, will hear Dr Sentamu speak about the values of the university and the difference it has made since it was created ten years ago.

"The University of Cumbria has seen thousands of students achieve more than they thought possible and it has been part of transforming communities across the country," Dr Sentamu said. "It has been a privilege to be Chancellor during this period of growth and I am deeply honoured to have named after me a building in a place of learning and human flourishing."

Five named on Blackburn framework

17 Jan 2018, 08:55

Barnfield Construction, Casey, Eric Wright Group, I&H Brown and Seddon have been appointed to a framework to bring forward council-owned sites for commercial development by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

The local authority has more than 180 public and private sites identified for development across the borough, and said that the framework will be used to help accelerate some of those sites, in addition to procuring construction and civil engineering works for infrastructure projects and capital programmes.

Two of the first schemes to come under the framework include the construction of a picturehouse operated by Reel Cinemas on the former site of the Waves leisure centre in Blackburn, and the new multi-use public space in Darwen town centre that replaces the former three-day market building. Demolition of this 1970s-built hall was started last September, to be replaced by a £1.67m three-tier open space.

The framework will operate for a minimum of four years with options to extend by a further four years, enabling the council to accelerate construction and development activity through pre-procured delivery partners, with opportunities for early contractor involvement enabling joint development of schemes. The framework will also be open for any public sector body within Lancashire to use, overseen by Growth Lancashire.

Cllr Phil Riley, the council's executive member for regeneration, said: "This framework further demonstrates market confidence in Blackburn with Darwen with investment and commitment from five respected local and regional companies."

Simon Jones, the council's growth programme director, added: "The flexibility of this framework to deliver construction, civil engineering and development schemes will help accelerate growth across the borough delivering our infrastructure schemes supported by LEP Growth Deal 3 funding."

VIDEO | Steel frame complete at UCLan engineering centre

17 Jan 2018, 11:38

The last beam in 630 tonnes of steel has been put in place at the University of Central Lancashire's Engineering Innovation Centre.

Timelapse footage filmed over seven weeks has captured the progress at the site of the £30m-plus facility, part of the university's £200m masterplan.

Main contractor BAM Construction is now installing pre-cast floor planks. The company has stockpiled 200 wagonloads of excavated material offsite and is returning it for use when required, as well as recycling 90% of the waste produced during the project through Preston-based charity, Recycling Lives.



Michael Ahern, chief operating officer at UCLan, said: "It's exciting to see the building taking shape before our very eyes, and the timelapse footage only highlights the scale

and magnitude of this project.

"The EIC will be a real asset to the university and the region, bringing enormous educational and economic benefits now and for generations to come."

The EIC is expected to produce an increase of 500 locally trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Identified as a signature project within Lancashire's Strategic Economic Plan, the EIC has secured £10.5m from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships' Growth Deal, along with £5.8m from the European Regional Development Fund and £5m from HEFCE's STEM Capital Fund.

The news follows the granting of consent last week for UCLan's proposed student centre, which will provide the university with a new gateway from the city centre at the Adelphi roundabout.

Improvement works aiming to make Preston more attractive



Roadworks on Lancaster Road

Lancashire County Council launched the latest phase of its improvement works in Preston city centre earlier this year.

What is the project?

The first phases on Fishergate and Church Street were finished last year.

Now the scheme, including new pavements, lighting, benches, bins and road surface, is being extended to parts of Lancaster Road, Jacson Street, Lord Street and a section of Tithebarn Street. It will continue in several stages until 2019.

Are there any disruptions as a result of the work?

Yes. Until April a temporary road layout is in place and bus stops close to the town hall have been moved.

What progress has been made?

County Coun Keith Iddon, said: "I'm really pleased that the first stage is on schedule and has gone well so far.



20 Hilarious Construction Worker Mistakes That Will Have You Cracking Up

[Read More](#)

Trendchaser

We've already made changes around the junction of Lancaster Road and Lord Street to create wider pavements, narrow the road and create new informal crossing points.

When it's finished this will create a more welcoming and attractive city centre."

Who is funding these improvements?

The scheme is a county council contribution to the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal and part of its specific Growth Deal.

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HAVE
YOUR SAY

FIRST PHASE OF VISION PARK COMPLETED

[Home](#) » [Latest News & Features](#) » [News](#) » First phase of Vision Park completed

BY **TIM ALDRED**

Posted on: 2nd February, 2018 at 7:39 am

Phase One of Burnley's Vision Park is complete, with Trebor Developments handing over the keys to the council.



The first phase consists of a range of industrial units from 1,500 sq ft to 5,000 sq ft, which will be available on flexible terms. Several units are already under offer.

Phases Two and Three will offer office accommodation and hybrid industrial/office units to meet occupiers' specific requirements.

Bob Tattrie, managing partner for Trebor Developments, said: "We have worked closely with Burnley Borough Council in partnership to deliver a facility which the Council can manage effectively and attract a wide range of occupiers.

"We are sure Phases Two and Three at Vision Park will also be attractive to occupiers wanting office accommodation or high quality office industrial accommodation in the area".

Burnley Council leader Mark Townsend said: "The buildings look fantastic and we already have three companies at the sign up stage and two at heads of terms stage.

"The site is set to create several new highly skilled jobs for Burnley, with a target of 300 new jobs at Vision Park when Phase Two of the site is complete. The spacious modern units have excellent facilities for growth hi-tech digital and manufacturing businesses, in an excellent location in Burnley's Knowledge Quarter, close to the town centre and motorway junctions."

He added: "Vision Park and the new Evolve business space, has been described as one of the most exciting commercial developments in the Lancashire region. Burnley is already a regionally significant centre for advanced manufacturing, with a growing digi-tech sector and we are creating modern business environments to attract growing business in these sectors."

Burnley's Vision Park development has been supported by a grant from the LEP's £320m Growth Deal investment programme.

TREBOR HANDS OVER KEYS ON VISION PARK PHASE ONE

6 Feb 2018 North West Property



Mark Townsend

Trebor Developments has handed over the keys on the completed first phase of the Vision Park scheme to Burnley Council.

Phase one comprises industrial units ranging from 1,500 sq ft to 5,000 sq ft available on flexible terms. Several units at Vision Park are already under offer.

End-user specific design proposals are now available for phases two and three to meet specific occupier requirements.

Bob Tattre, managing partner for Trebor Developments, said: "We are delighted to see phase one handed over and expect very strong interest in the units. We have worked closely with Burnley Borough Council in partnership to deliver a facility which the council can manage effectively and attract a wide range of occupiers.

"We are sure phases two and three at Vision Park will also be attractive to occupiers wanting office accommodation or high-quality office industrial accommodation in the area."

Mark Townsend, Burnley Council leader, added: "I'm delighted with the completed first phase, the buildings look fantastic and we already have three companies at the sign-up stage and two at heads-of-terms stage.

"The site is set to create several new highly skilled jobs for Burnley, with a target of 300 new jobs at Vision Park when phase two of the site is complete. The spacious modern units have excellent facilities for growth hi-tech digital and manufacturing businesses in an excellent location in Burnley's Knowledge Quarter close to the town centre and motorway junctions."

The Vision Park development has been supported by a grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's £320m Growth Deal investment programme.

Graham Cowley, chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal board, said: "Through initiatives like the Lancashire Growth Deal we are able to create spaces and facilities like this which businesses need to thrive. With phase one now completed, and handed over to Burnley Council to progress, the LEP looks forward to seeing Vision Park flourish as a hub of innovation, productivity and commercial growth."

The joint agents for Vision Park are Trevor Dawson and GVA.



Motorists may have spotted new electronic signs popping up across the resort in recent weeks.

It's all to do with a new multi-million pound scheme aimed at helping people get to their destinations more easily, and to combat [traffic](#) congestion.

10
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YOUR SAY



1 min. read

£2 million project to help ease traffic in Blackpool

Twenty-one new electronic signs are being installed across the resort... Here's why.

Tourists arriving in Blackpool will now be directed past roadworks, full car parks, and traffic jams, it was revealed.

Some of the signs have been tested in recent days, displaying a trial message.

Council bosses hope the move will ease congestion - and make residents' and visitors' lives easier.

“

Intelligent signage is already well used in other towns and cities across the country and will make Blackpool so much more accessible for tourists, shoppers and businesses.

Fred Jackson



”

Coun Jackson said the signs will 'provide updates on traffic, road works, and car parking availability, giving everyone coming into and moving around the town a better experience, particularly during peak season and when we hold popular events such as the fireworks'.

The signs are being installed on key routes into the town centre where the council said 'people will have the opportunity to make a decision about their route and change it.'

Messages will begin to be displayed from the end of March – though some eagle-eyed motorists will have noticed a test message appearing in recent days.

Most of the cash for the scheme came from the Lancashire Economic Partnership, a group of business leaders, academics, and councillors, formed in 2011.

The group contributed £1.51m, while Blackpool Council paid £650,000.

A new £1m scheme has been launched by Blackpool Council, designed to improve the appearance of town centre properties.

The scheme, which is backed by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, aims to make the town centre more attractive to shoppers, residents and investors, part of a bigger programme of works to make Blackpool better.

Grants are available for up to 95 per cent of the total cost of the works, which may include structural work, brick work, stone work, roofing, guttering, rendering and doors.

The eligible streets are Deansgate, Edward Street, Topping Street, Talbot Road (between the Promenade and Dickson Road) and Church Street (between Cookson Street and St John's Square)



Cllr Gillian Campbell, deputy Leader of Blackpool Council, said: "This scheme is part of a wider regeneration project which aims to encourage the economic revitalisation of Blackpool town centre through a programme of highways, public realm and building improvement works.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for building owners or businesses to improve their properties at very little cost to themselves. I would encourage businesses in the designated area to get in touch and speak to a member of the team who can talk them through the application process.

"We have run similar schemes in the past and it is amazing to see what a difference exterior works can make to the whole appearance of a street or area."

The scheme will run until March 2020.

Businesses are set to share in a £1m funding pot aimed at breathing new life into parts of Blackpool town centre.

The council has launched the scheme in order to overhaul streets linking areas where millions of pounds is already being spent on regeneration.

Traders in Topping Street, Deansgate, Edward Street, and parts of Church Street and Talbot Road are being urged to [apply](#) for some of the funding.

They could use it to improve the fronts of their properties in order to make key town centre streets more attractive.

However, business considered to have a negative impact on the area – such as betting shops or those offering high interest loans – will not be eligible.

Blackpool Council is providing up to £100,000 of the funding, with the rest coming from the Lancashire [Enterprise](#) Partnership.

It is part of a programme of work including improving roads leading into the town centre, and extending the tramway up Talbot Road to North Station.

Coun Gillian Campbell, deputy leader of Blackpool Council, said: “This scheme is part of a wider regeneration project which aims to encourage the economic revitalisation of Blackpool town centre through a programme of highways, public realm and building improvement works.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for building owners or businesses to improve their properties at very little cost to themselves.

“I would encourage businesses in the designated area to get in touch and speak to a member of the team who can talk them through the application process.

2

comments



**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

£1M BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LAUNCHED

© 27 Feb 2018 North West Property



A £1m scheme to improve the appearance of town centre properties in Blackpool has launched as part of a wider initiative designed to revitalise the area.

It is hoped the project, which is funded by Blackpool Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), will make the town centre more attractive to shoppers, residents and investors.

Grants are available for up to 95 per cent of the total cost of the works.

Councillor Gillian Campbell, deputy leader of Blackpool Council, said: "This scheme is part of a wider regeneration project which aims to encourage the economic revitalisation of Blackpool town centre through a programme of highways, public realm and building improvement works.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for building owners or businesses to improve their properties at very little cost to themselves. I would encourage businesses in the designated area to get in touch and speak to a member of the team who can talk them through the application process.

"We have run similar schemes in the past and it is amazing to see what a difference exterior works can make to the whole appearance of a street or area."

The project will run until March 2020.

28.12.17

CONFERENCE DRIVE WITH CONNECTIVITY AT ITS HEART



The new image has been released as tourism chiefs in the resort launch a new campaign this week to put Blackpool back on the national business stage. It includes a major new connectivity initiative across the resort.

Facilitated by tourism bureau VisitBlackpool, the town's venues, hotels, leisure attractions and key service providers are set to work closely together to deliver what they describe as a "hassle-free and seamless" event management experience.

The 'connected Blackpool' initiative has the new £25m Conference and Exhibition Centre, due to open its doors in summer 2019, at its heart.

The new venue will be able to accommodate 2,000 delegates across a 6,150 sqm footprint. It will be available to book as a standalone venue or can be integrated with the wider Winter Gardens exhibition and events venues – to which it will be directly linked – creating an overall capacity of 7,000.

With the addition of the new Conference and Exhibition Centre, the Winter Gardens will become a hub of 12 distinct venues, all under one roof, offering a total of 4.9 acres of connected conference, meeting, event and exhibition space.

Mandy Tythe-McCallum, head of Blackpool's Business Tourism team, said: "Blackpool has enjoyed over £500m of new investment and improved infrastructure over recent years, much of which has been carefully planned to create an integrated and hassle-free experience for visitors.

"However, we have also been working hard behind the scenes to bring the resort's key partners together, both from the private and public sector, to ensure conference and exhibition organisers can enjoy a bespoke, one-stop-shop approach when they come to us.

"For example, we can research, negotiate and secure venues, meeting rooms and accommodation to meet every specific need and situation, regardless of how complex. We can also provide 'rover' tram tickets for delegates upon arrival, so they can explore the whole resort in comfort.

"Further, the VisitBlackpool team can pick up the phone to any hotel GM, leisure attraction manager or service provider in the town to get the information which a client requires to guarantee things run smoothly.

"This combination of new facilities, transport links and hotel stock, together with a joined-up, pragmatic approach to delivery, plus a friendly Northern welcome, is at the heart of our connectivity offer."

Michael Williams, managing director of the Winter Gardens and Blackpool's new Conference and Exhibition Centre, said: "Blackpool's ability to facilitate partnerships and create strong links between all the resort's venues, hotels, attractions and visitor services is something very few locations can achieve."

In addition to the new conference and events centre, Blackpool's recent regeneration includes improved transport connectivity. Following the electrification of lines between Preston to Blackpool new quicker trains, and more direct routes from across the UK, will make the resort easier to reach from May 2018.

The town is also extending its modern, efficient tram service. This will see visitors by train being able to transfer to a tram direct from the station, allowing quick and easy access to the resort's major hotels, landmarks, leisure attractions, piers and seafront.

The expanded tram service will also link up Blackpool's six new hotels, including a five-star development, which will add 700 premium rooms to the town's existing stock.

Much of the new investment being enjoyed by Blackpool, including the new conference centre and tram network, has been supported by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal fund.



Agenda Item 6

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Agenda Item 8

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