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Growth Deal coverage
December 2018 to August 2019

SKV
COMMUNICATIONS

Preston-M55 link road: how much will it cost?



The original price tag for the proposed new road linking north west Preston with the M55 was £104m.

But it emerged early last year that the cost of the so-called Preston Western Distributor route had rocketed to £161m.

The price soared partly as a result of investigation work which revealed that two aqueducts needed to be re-routed - one of which was complicated by poor ground conditions along its length.

It is expected that just under half of the bill for the road will be footed by the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, with Lancashire Growth Deal funding contributing £58m and £25m coming from the government for construction of the new motorway junction.

A meeting of the City Deal board last month heard that the scheme had a risk-rating of "amber" - largely because of concerns over the outcome of two legal challenges to the route. Both of those hurdles have now been overcome.

The government has today given the go ahead to the construction of the road, following a public inquiry into the issuing of compulsory purchase orders for the land on which it will be built. Last month, it emerged that a separate legal challenge about the proposed entrance to a new garden village to be accessed via the road had been dropped.

This is when the Preston-M55 link road is due to open

A dual carriageway linking north Preston to the M55 motorway is due to open in March 2023, it has emerged.

Work on the so-called Preston Western Distributor Road – and a connecting route through to Cottam – is expected to begin in November. Construction is scheduled to take 41 months.

The project cleared a series of legal hurdles earlier this year after a court challenge to the design of the scheme was dropped and a planning inspector authorised the compulsory purchase of the land on which the road will be built.

The scale of the scheme means the government will have the final say and the Department for Transport will be presented with the business case for the link road early next month. A decision by ministers is expected in September.

A meeting of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) transport committee heard that the 2.5 mile route is forecast to boost the Lancashire economy by £108m over the next 60 years through the number of jobs which will be indirectly created by the increased capacity of the road network.

An independent report commissioned by the LEP to assess the business case rated the project as "high value for money" and calculated that the overall benefits of the scheme could top £290m – largely as a result of shorter journey times.

Hossein Farsi, technical lead with the report's authors Atkins, said it was not only users of the new road who stand to gain.

"The benefits will obviously be different depending on the journey you take and those travelling north to south along the route itself will benefit most.

"However, people travelling east to west across Preston will also have improved journey times, because they won't be sharing space on the road [with motorists who will be using the Preston Western Distributor]," Mr, Farsi explained.

The meeting was told that the estimated final cost of the scheme now stands at £185.3m, which is up from £161.6m in January 2018. When plans were first drawn up, the 70mph road had been expected to cost £104m at equivalent prices.



Lancashire
Post

06.06.2019

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Blackburn Council's member for regeneration, Phil Riley, wanted an assurance that there would be no further "surprises" in the amount which would be spent.

Members heard that the design of the road is 95 percent complete and so the price tag now being quoted – which includes £15.6m attributed to "risk" – is "there or thereabouts", according to Neil Stockley from Atkins.

"The design is at a very developed stage...but we don't have final target costs," he said.

Lancashire County Council has agreed to make up any shortfall if costs increase further before the road is completed.

Highways England will contribute £25m to the project, with £56m coming from the Lancashire Growth Deal, a pot of money obtained from the government for infrastructure projects.

The remaining sum – of just over £100m – will be supplied by the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal and is the biggest of the five transport projects which have been financed since the deal was struck in 2013.

A second east-west link road, connecting Lightfoot Lane to the Preston Western Distributor, is being funded separately – although some of its risk costs may have been absorbed into the risk profile of the overall scheme, the committee was told.

Legal challenge to Preston-M55 link road is stopped after objectors give way

A threatened legal challenge to a planned road linking the M55 motorway with north Preston has been dropped.

The future of the so-called Preston Western Distributor Road was thrown into doubt late last year after a landowner objected to the design of the scheme.

Tom Barron Farms Limited – which owns part of a wider site earmarked for more than 5,000 new homes – wanted the road to include roundabout access to a proposed ‘garden village’ on their portion of the site known as the North West Preston Masterplan area.

The landowner, together with construction firm Robertson Group, also warned members of Lancashire County Council’s development control committee that they could be acting illegally if they granted planning permission for the route – and revealed that papers had been lodged with the high court.

Consultants representing the pair argued that the two-and-a-half mile dual carriageway was such a significant piece of infrastructure that the government should make the final decision via a process known as a development consent order.

But councillors gave the green light for the original design after the authority’s head of planning, Andrew Mullaney, told them that access to housing sites along the route was something to be decided when individual planning applications were made to Preston City Council.

Now, the Local Democracy Reporting Service can reveal that the threatened legal action failed to materialise during the time allowed for objectors to seek a judicial review.

A spokesperson for Robertson Group said the firm was now “working closely with Lancashire County Council to develop options to provide suitable access to the land owned by Tom Barron Ltd and will continue to do so over the forthcoming months”.



Computer-generated image of part of planned Preston Western Distributor Road

But the road ahead for the scheme is not yet clear, as the authority awaits the outcome of a separate planning inquiry into the compulsory purchase orders which it has issued to buy up the land required for the route. The hearing was held at County Hall last November, but the planning inspectorate has not yet reached a decision.

Meanwhile, funding for the link route – which will connect a new junction 2 on the M55 at Bartle with Blackpool Road in Preston – could also prove a roadblock.

Papers presented to a recent meeting of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) show that the project is rated as ‘amber’ and that there is a risk to the “security of funding should there be a programme delay”.

A business case is being prepared for submission to the LEP and the Department for Transport in the spring. The cost of delivering the road was revealed to have rocketed last year to £161m – £57m more than first forecast for the work, which will involve re-routing an aqueduct.

It is expected that just under half of the bill will be footed by the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, with Lancashire Growth Deal funding contributing £58m and £25m coming from the government for construction of the new motorway junction.

A spokesperson for Lancashire County Council said: “We await the outcome of the government’s public inquiry to consider objections to the compulsory acquisition of land for this road scheme.

“We hope for a positive outcome and, with the Secretary of State’s confirmation to the use of the county council’s compulsory purchase powers, we will be able to proceed to finalise the preparatory stages of this crucial project to improve the highway network in Preston.”

REASONS FOR THE ROAD

The Preston Western Distributor is considered vital to the building of more than 5,000 homes to the north west of Cottam, a project which will be developed in phases.

The highways scheme includes:

Preston Western Distributor Road – a 70 mph, 2.5 mile stretch of dual carriageway linking the A583 Blackpool Road and A5085 Riversway with a new junction 2 of the M55 motorway. Includes a shared cycleway and footway.

East-West link road – a 2-mile single carriageway, with speeds ranging from 20-40mph, linking Lightfoot Lane with the new Preston Western Distributor. 200m of the route has already been built, connecting to a new housing development which is already under construction. It will eventually connect to the Preston Western Distributor close to the Saddle Inn on Lea Lane.

Cottam link road – a short 0.4-mile route, connecting Cottam Way with the Preston Western Distributor.

Blackburn £11.4m Haslingden Road widening scheme set for go-ahead

BLUEPRINTS for a £11.4million road scheme to cut traffic congestion on one of the main roads into Blackburn and improve access to the town's hospital have been unveiled.

And the changes to the road network are set to be approved by Blackburn with Darwen Council executive board members next week.

The upgrade will see a busy stretch of Haslingden Road double from one lane each way to two in either direction to cut jams on a main route to the M65 and **Grane Road**.

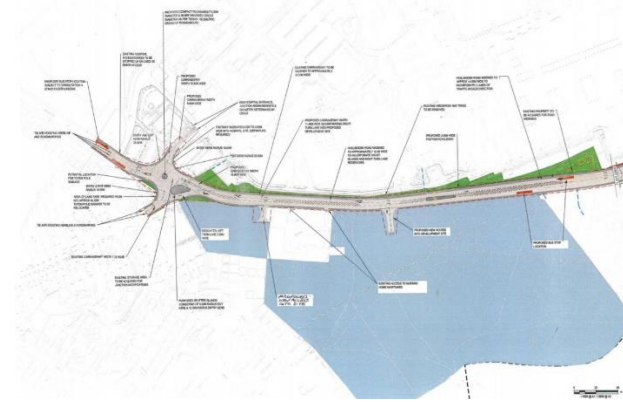
There will also be major improvements to the roundabouts serving the **Royal Blackburn Hospital** and the junction with Shadsworth Road.

The new Blackamoor link road, including two new traffic light-controlled junctions at Roman Road and Blackamoor Road will be followed by the closure of the existing junction between the two.

The council hopes it will improve poor air quality at the Blackamoor junction, open up the area near the reservoir for job-creating light industrial development and for new housing.

Executive member for growth and development, Cllr Phil Riley, said: "The Haslingden Road corridor is a major gateway into Blackburn with Darwen linking Blackburn town centre and the Strategic Road Network at M65 junction five.

"It currently suffers from significant levels of congestion in peak periods, and sites along and adjacent to the corridor are in the process of being developed, mainly for employment purposes. A side roads traffic order for Haslingden Road will enable the delivery of an improved traffic system increasing capacity for all traffic, improved facilities for public transport, and enhanced provision for pedestrians and cyclists.



"The scheme is expected to support the development of nearly 1,200 housing units and over 130,000 square feet of employment land in South East Blackburn as well as preventing the deterioration of air quality at the local Air Quality Management Area site at Blackamoor.

"The improved highway network will be able to cope with the expected increase in traffic and trip generation following the development of all Local Plan housing and employment site allocations across Blackburn with Darwen."

The scheme forms the final and largest part of the Pennine Gateways Growth Deal package which involves the Furthergate Link Road and road improvements in North Blackburn including the Brownhill roundabout upgrade.

The total project cost is estimated at £11.4m, with £8.89m of funding to be drawn down from Growth Deal 3 via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, with the remaining £2.5m coming from the council's local transport plan fund.

Planning applications relating to the proposals are due to be submitted in September.

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

03.08.2019

New Blackburn junction schemes 'to bring £17M benefits'

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

11.01.2019



WORK on a crucial roundabout in Blackburn - and two nearby junctions - could bring £17million in benefits to the town.

Consultants say the financial injection will come with the unlocking of two key housing sites at Roe Lee and off Whinney Lane.

Improvements will principally be made to Brownhill roundabout, using the government Growth Deal cash.

But the Pleckgate Road and Ramsgreave Drive crossroads and the A6119 Brownhill Drive, Whitebirk Drive and Whalley Old Road junction are also set to be improved.

Better lighting for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as landscaping, have also been promised.

Council bosses say they will take account of a series of public consultations over the traffic light sequencing at Brownhill roundabout.

Cllr Phil Riley, regeneration cabinet member, said: "We are going to invest in more intelligent traffic lights, which will take into account traffic flows at the junction, more than the existing ones.

"We expect that this will make the while roundabout work rather better and address any concerns which have been expressed."

Next Wednesday the Transport for Lancashire committee is recommending that £2.3m should be allocated by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership for the initiative.

The remaining £300,000 for the works has previously been pledged by Blackburn with Darwen Council.

Under the wider project the Whinney Lane scheme would create 272 homes by 2024.

A further 155 properties would be constructed at Roe Lee, off Ramsgreave Drive, by 2022, if everything goes according to plan.

Persimmon Homes has an application submitted for the site, pledging financial contributions towards off-site highways works and local schools places.

Dave Colbert, a county council specialist transport planning adviser, said in a report: "The scheme has the potential to generate a further £17million of wider economic benefits over the 60-year appraisal period, arising from the development of the two housing sites that the scheme will unlock."

The scheme is one of three Pennine Gateway projects for East Lancashire, which are expected to boost the economy by £414m, for a £125m overall investment.

One is for Furthergate, to ease motorists' progress towards the M65 at Whitebirk, and the other is the Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle corridor upgrades.

These are the new trees in central Blackpool that have cost £10,000 each

New trees planted in central Blackpool cost £10,000 each it has been revealed.

It means the total cost of the scheme to plant 10 new trees on Cookson Street came to £100,000.

Councillors expressed amazement that so much money had been spent when the figures emerged at a meeting of the full council.

Coun Gerard Walsh from the Conservative group said the figures had been given to him and Coun Christian Cox by a senior council officer and asked for Coun Campbell to confirm the figure.

He added: "Does she think £100,000 spent on trees in Cookson Street given all the cuts and austerity is good value for money?"

Tory group leader Coun Tony Williams said it had cost less than £10,000 to plant 100 trees in his Anchorsholme ward, while Independent Coun Maxine Callow said trees in Norbreck cost £350 each.

But council deputy leader Coun Gillian Campbell said the high cost was due to special circumstances.

She told the meeting: "These trees were incredibly expensive but there is a reason for this.

"They are street scene trees and they were picked because they will withstand the elements in Blackpool - wind, pollution and rain.

"They have put in a special system that holds the roots of the trees in to prevent them growing into the roadway and that part is very expensive."

The Gazette 

20.06.2019

Coun Campbell added she hoped more trees would be planted in the town and she would provide figures for the cost.

Cookson Street is among a number of town centre routes which have been upgraded since 2017 as part of the town's quality corridors scheme.

The project cost £7m in total, funded by a £6.6m grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal and a £740,000 contribution by Blackpool Council.



Blackpool's Talbot Road has been made the UK's first 'Resilience Pathway'

One of Blackpool's roads has been made into the country's first 'Resilience Pathway'. Leading from Bickerstaffe Square to the Promenade, the pavement on Talbot Road has been decorated with a series of hand-made paving stones.

The pathway, which features 42 different 'moves', was designed for Blackpool Headstart and was officially opened on Tuesday by resort mayor Coun Amy Cross.

Pauline Wigglesworth, HeadStart's programme lead, said: "What a fantastic day for Blackpool's young people.

"The reaction has been absolutely fantastic. I am so proud of what the young people involved have achieved.

"With help from some supportive adults, they have taken a random idea and made it into a reality."

Each paving stone is designed to represent an idea or suggestion, to 'help young people, their families and friends find a sense of belonging, cope with any problems they may face', according to Headstart.

The project has received funding from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and a major donation from Eric Wright Group, following a campaign by Headstart's young people.

The Gazette 

12.06.2019

A guide explaining the stones features on signage at both ends of the Pathway.

Neil Jack, chief executive at Blackpool Council, said: "This Pathway, created by young people, showcases some of the great work being done to improve the life chances of young people though the Resilience Revolution and Blackpool's public and voluntary sector agencies who work hard to really impact on the lives of young people."



£1M facelift is transforming shops and businesses in Blackpool town centre

The Property Improvement Fund was set up to help businesses in streets in need of investment.

Among the first to benefit is the Continental Cafe on Topping Street whose property has been transformed with a new shopfront and awning.

And owners Robert Pilling and James Caddell say the investment is already paying off with an upturn in trade.

Robert, who bought the cafe in 2001, said: "We are definitely benefitting from taking part in this scheme. We're a lot busier than this time last year – takings are up and I don't think that's just a coincidence.



"At first we weren't sure about the colour of the new shopfront but once the work had been completed, we realised that we couldn't have chosen anything better.

"It's very eye-catching and really stands out on the street. I think that a lot of people think it is a new cafe.

"The grant has come at a really good time. I did want to update the shopfront but it's finding the money to do it that is the struggle.

"When we received the letter from the council telling us about the scheme, at first it seemed too good to be true. I couldn't believe it.

The Gazette 

09.08.2019



A £1m injection of cash to upgrade businesses in Blackpool town centre is starting to show results.

The first premises to benefit from grants handed out by the council are being unveiled after the project was launched in February last year.



"The council have been really helpful and responsive throughout the project. I'm really glad that we have made the most of this opportunity."

The Mortgage Shop on Topping Street is among other properties to have had a facelift, while work on other properties is also underway and others are still at the planning application stage.

Coun Gillian Campbell, deputy leader of Blackpool Council, said: "These before and after pictures are fantastic. It is great to see the difference the Property Improvement Fund has already made.

Factfile

Nine projects are already completed or the works are under way.

13 are going through the approval/ planning process

There are a number of others at the application stage

"As more properties are improved the whole look of the streets will start to change. This can only be good for local businesses.

"We have received lots of positive comments from local residents who I hope will go to see the changes for themselves and support local traders.

"There are also some larger projects currently going through the approval process that I am keen to see come to fruition as soon as possible."

Only businesses on certain streets were eligible to apply for a share of the funding which is aimed at making parts of the town centre more attractive to shoppers, residents and investors.

Work can include structural improvements, brick work, stone work, roofing, guttering, rendering and replacement doors.

Streets included in the scheme 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).

Businesses were first invited to apply for funds last year.

Contractors have included Blackpool company Singleton and Smart which has manufactured hardwood shopfronts and windows in its workshop.

The scheme is funded by Blackpool Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP). through the Growth Deal Fund, with the council putting in around £100,000.

Grants are available for up to 95 per cent of the total cost of the works and the project is due to run until March next year.

It is part of a wider programme of work which includes improving roads leading into the town centre as part of the quality corridors project, and extending the tramway up Talbot Road to North Station.

Edward Street modernisation: Blackpool town centre road dug up as key roads project continues

The Gazette 

22.08.2019



Edward Street, which runs from Deansgate to Cedar Square in Blackpool town centre, has been dug up as part of the council's big bucks project to spruce up some key roads.

What's the latest?

The road wasn't actually due to be dug up yet, according to the council's own website and press statements at least. In an update released in June, the authority said it planned to do with work between October and December. That has now been changed to July to September.

What does the work involve?

The road is being given a modern look as part of a £7m programme to give town centre streets a facelift. The scheme, funded by a £6.6m grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal and a £740,000 contribution by Blackpool Council, has seen work already taken place to renew Church Street, Dickson Road, Talbot Road, Counce Street and Cookson Stree, with the Deansgate area the next phase.

What will the changes be?

Changes include resurfaced pavements and roads, new trees, benches and bins and improved paving at crossings with sensors to help blind and partially sighted people. Businesses in the town centre will be open as usual throughout the improvements works. The makeover is part of a wider plan to create a modern Blackpool with more places to shop and eat, new housing, improved public transport including the tramway extension, a conference centre and cleaner, greener streets.

Anything else?

Along with improvements to the roads and pavements, the project also involves working with local businesses to help them improve their shop fronts, making both their businesses and the town centre look more appealing.

Fears revaluation of Blackpool's Houndshill shopping centre could impact regeneration plans

The Gazette 

08.03.2019

The value of Blackpool's Houndshill shopping centre has been hit by struggles on the high street - prompting speculation about the potential impact on the next phase of town centre regeneration in the resort.

Land on Tower Street is earmarked for phase two of the centre - including the relocation of Wilko's from Talbot Road to make way for the construction of a tram interchange and hotel as part of the £22m extension of the tramway up Talbot Road.



Artist's impression of phase two of the Houndshill Centre

But New Frontier Properties, which bought the Houndshill for £105m in 2015, has now valued the complex, which is anchored by Debenhams, at £70.2m prompting concerns about its future.

The acquisition was funded through a combination of debt funding, in the sum of approximately £59.7m, which was secured from Deutsche Pfandbriefbank AG.

However both the council and New Frontier say the phase two development is still progressing.

In a recent trading statement, New Frontier said it continued "to actively manage its assets in a challenging retail environment" caused by factors including "a fall in consumer confidence, increased costs and declining national footfall impacted by a shift in shopping habits."

In September 2017, BCC Eiffel Ltd (the trading name used by New Frontier for its Blackpool business) was granted planning permission for the second phase of the Houndshill Centre including retail space and a cinema complex on land currently occupied by the Tower Street car park.

Within its trading statement it adds "good progress" is being made on the development "and we hope to commence development within the next six months."

The council owns the Wilko's building whose lease runs out in 12 months time. It is then due to be bulldozed to make way for a new tram terminal, linked to a proposed Holiday Inn hotel and Blackpool North Station.

Coun Tony Williams, leader of the Conservative group on the council, said he was concerned uncertainty surrounding the Houndshill Centre could delay the project.

He said: " I am seriously concerned about the lack of progress in regard to completing the tram extension, Wilko's move to the Houndshill Centre and the subsequent demolition of their existing site combined with the supposed new Holiday Inn development, also the failure to start construction on the promised IMAX cinema on Coronation Street.

"Something is obviously seriously wrong. The company which owns the Houndshill is in debt to an international bank and I suspect that might be behind the delays."

Alan Cavill, director of communications and regeneration at the council, said there could be a delay of three or four months to the tramway extension. But he said the scheme was still going ahead.

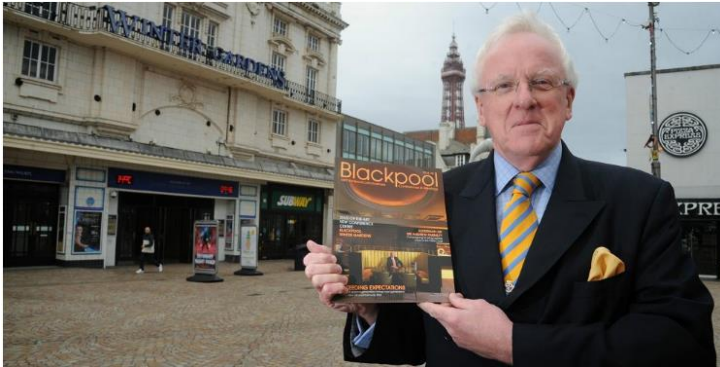
He said: "It is still our plan and desire to build the Houndshill extension but we have to do our due diligence on the current situation.

"We have made the Growth Deal aware of this and we are all doing our best to make it happen."

It is hoped the £22m tramway extension, which is being largely funded through the Government's Growth Deal, will be operational by the end of 2020.

Sir Andrew Parmley to lead new Blackpool ambassador programme

As the opening date for the Blackpool's new conference and exhibition centre draws closer, the resort has recruited former Lord Mayor of London Sir Andrew Parmley to lead a business tourism advocacy and ambassador programme.



In addition to promoting the central £28m facility, which is set to officially open next year as part of the existing Winter Gardens complex, the initiative will also look to raise awareness of the £500m of recent investments which are transforming the resort.

These include several new hotels, a tramway extension, public transport interchange and newly electrified rail connections. Other regeneration projects include major improvements to roads, bridges and traffic management schemes, and the development of new cultural, retail and leisure zones across the town.

Sir Andrew Parmley, a former Lord Mayor of the City of London and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, has been brought in to spearhead the initiative.

He is also a member of the Prime Minister's Apprenticeship Delivery Board and sits on the boards of several high-profile national charities and world-renowned orchestras and choirs.

Sir Andrew, who grew up on the Fylde coast and attended Blackpool Grammar School, said: "When I was growing up Blackpool was the destination of choice for conferences of every type - industrial, commercial and political. And even though the town has been through many major changes since then, including some very tough times in recent years, I have always remained a passionate advocate for the resort.

"The recent swathe of new investments and improvements to Blackpool's infrastructure, including the new Conference & Exhibition Centre, are now set to create a business tourism destination which will be unique in the UK. It will offer the best of the British seaside and northern friendliness together with high-grade hotel accommodation, efficient transport links and brand new conferencing facilities.

He added: "This is the message I will be spreading through my work in London and across the world, and I am proud that Blackpool has asked me to help drive this new advocacy programme."

Mandy Tythe-McCallum, business tourism manager for Visit Blackpool, said: "We couldn't wish for a more respected and well-connected individual to help us spread the word about Blackpool's reinvigorated business tourism offer based on his first-hand knowledge of what's actually happening.

"However, we are also looking to ensure partners across Lancashire, including our world-class universities, our large employers, and other influential organisations, are all fully briefed on the new
"For example, Lancashire is a global leader in areas like aerospace, energy and advanced manufacturing, while our emerging strengths include digital health and life sciences. These are some of the areas we will be pursuing as part of our business tourism advocacy and ambassadorial programme with a view to recruiting champions dedicated to these vertical markets who can help influence key decision makers within the conference and exhibition sector." With the addition of the new Conference and Exhibition Centre, which has been funded through the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal, the Winter Gardens will become a hub of 12 distinct venues offering a total of 4.9 acres of connected conference, meeting, event and exhibition space.

**LANCASHIRE
BUSINESSVIEW**

21.12.2018

Blackpool museum will be placed firmly in the national spotlight



Work is due to begin in January to create Blackpool's £13m new museum on the resort's seafront.

The new attraction will be built inside the Sands Hotel and leisure venue currently taking shape on Central Promenade.

Blackpool Council, which will operate the museum through an arms length charitable trust, is planning a £150,000 marketing campaign to launch the venture in time for the 2021 tourist season.

Among the goals will be to put the museum in the national spotlight as well as drawing in additional funding from private sector grants and donations.

The project received its last piece of public funding in June this year when £4.4m was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Other grants include £1.75m from the Coastal Communities Fund, £4m from the Northern Cultural Fund, £1.5m from the Lancashire Economic Partnership Growth Deal and £1m from Blackpool Council.

Details of the council's marketing campaign have been posted on The Chest, which is a procurement site for local authorities in the North West.

The council is seeking expressions of interest from marketing and communication consultants.

Around 300,000 visits a year are expected to the museum which will showcase Blackpool's long history of entertainment.

Residents will be entitled to free entry with adult ticket prices for tourists expected to be between £8 and £9.

The brief sets out aims for the campaign including raising awareness about the museum in the run up to its opening including among key visitor markets.

These include people living within 90 miles of Blackpool, special interest markets and schools, and national and international audiences.

It says the campaign "needs to have synergy with the museum's ethos as a funny, interesting, exciting experience for families."

It adds: "It should also be true to the spirit of the museum and most of all be fun."

The Gazette

22.08.2019

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comments



HAVE
YOUR SAY

Multi-million pound bid for Blackpool museum



A bid for a further £4m towards the Blackpool Museum is being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund by Blackpool Council this month.

Heritage chiefs will learn next March if the application has been successful.

Further cash is also being sought from the Coastal Communities Fund and fundraisers from the Blackpool Museum Trust, a charitable body, are hoping to raise the remaining £675,500 needed for the project.

The museum is earmarked for the hotel being developed on the site of the former Sands venue on Central Promenade.

There is already £4m in the pot from the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, while £400,000 of previous Lottery money has been used as development funding.

Other grants include £1.75m from the Coastal Communities Fund (with another bid being submitted) and £1.5m earmarked from the Lancashire Economic Partnership Growth Deal.

Council leader Coun Simon Blackburn said "significant progress" has now been made on the design of the exhibitions with more than 800 objects lined up covering circus, magic, variety and ballroom dance.

There will be gallery space for loaned exhibitions including from the Victoria and Albert Museum based in London, while work is also being done with comedy scriptwriters to capture the spirit of Blackpool.

Coun Blackburn said: "The museum is a key part of our vision for the future of Blackpool town centre.

"It will serve as a great compliment to all of the other projects currently in delivery.

"The museum will enable culture-led economic growth by providing a memorable, quality and educational destination venue for visitors, creating new jobs and skills and by bringing local people together to proudly celebrate the Blackpool story."

The Gazette 

22.08.2018

Blackpool Council plans to borrow £41m to drive its house improvements programme forward

The Gazette 

18.02.2019



Blackpool council is aiming to invest another £41m into its arm's length housing company.

The council wants to accelerate the ambitious programme, established three years ago, to target redundant, end-of-life or poor-quality hotels, guest houses and houses in multiple occupation.

Blackpool Housing Company has bought more than 100 properties and some of the projects already undertaken and converted them into around 300 homes, including conversions of problematic properties in Albert Road, have been praised for the quality of the improvement works and the positive regenerative impact on the local community.

The housing company was launched with an initial funding pot of £27m, secured through the Lancashire Growth Deal, with the aim of dramatically improving private sector housing standards across the resort and delivering the kind of affordable homes in which individuals and families would want to put down roots.

Properties that have already been acquired and renovated have been let under the brand of My Blackpool Home, providing a wide range of accommodation options for rental, catering for families, couples and single people.

At the current rate of delivery, the initial tranche of funding is forecast to run out during the second half of 2019.

Now the Council's Executive Committee will meet on Monday 25 February to discuss increasing the funding by a further £41m to enable the company to quicken the pace of change, with a target of delivering almost 1,000 quality new homes by 2025.

Coun Christine Wright, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "The physical difference that the housing company has made is clear for everyone to see on schemes such as Albert Road, Kirby Road and Park Road.

"It is harder to judge the social aspects but even at this early stage we can see that it is making a real difference to levels of transience. The evidence shows that access to a quality rented home is enabling hundreds of individuals and families to settle their lives in a very positive way. This, in turn, reduces demand on other council services."

Coun Jim Hobson, chairman of the Board of Blackpool Housing Company, said: "We are aiming at establishing a market presence as 'Landlord of Choice'. Blackpool Council's innovative housing company is challenging the dominance of existing poor standard small rented flats with a property portfolio that is affordable, fresh and offers a mix of homes attractive to all local residents and family sizes."

If approved, the £40.8m will be borrowed by the council and then loaned to Blackpool Housing Company at a commercial rate. The rental income generated through the lettings is used to pay back the loan.

The council has come in for some criticism over the scale of its debt after making a series of strategic loans for various improvement projects such as £17.5m for the Wilko's site near Talbot Road. In January 2018 its interest payments on the debt was £4.8m, although councils can take advantage of borrowing at cheaper rates than many other organisations.

The housing company operates on a commercial footing and is independent from the council with its own board of directors.

Prime Minister Theresa May praises Burnley Football Club's community project

Burnley
Express

25.04.19

Prime Minister Theresa May said Burnley Football Club should be very proud of its role in creating the Leisure Box facility which she visited this week.

Mrs May toured the £4.5m Leisure Box facility as part of a tour of Lancashire and was welcomed to the site by staff including Burnley FC in the Community's chief executive Neil Hart, Burnley FC chairman Mike Garlick and chairman of Trustees for Burnley FC in the Community and Burnley FC director Brian Nelson.

Her visit included a tour of the 133,000 square foot centre, where she met with children from local schools including Nelson St. Philip's CE Primary School, Casterton Primary Academy, Castercliff Primary Academy and Pendle Primary Academy who were taking part in various physical activities including climbing and football coaching.

After four years of collaborative work with a number of partners and the local authorities of Burnley and Pendle, Burnley FC's official charity have successfully renovated the warehouse section of the former Brierfield Mill into a dynamic, multipurpose leisure space. With the aim to bring sport, health and wellbeing opportunities to all sections of the community, the facility has already welcomed thousands through its doors within the first few weeks of its operations.

Spanning three floors, the Leisure Box houses an indoor 4G pitch, a sports hall, the biggest 'clip 'n climb' structure in East Lancashire, a kids and toddler play area, two full size cricket lanes, for-hire party rooms, a dance and fitness studio and a café.

Mrs May said: "I am very pleased to be here to open Leisure Box. This is a fantastic facility and it's a great credit to Burnley Football Club in the Community for what they have done in working with others and supporting this.

"I don't know of any other football club who has developed a facility like this and provided sporting opportunities for local children that they wouldn't have elsewhere.

"It's hugely important to have such a regeneration project in the heart of the community and Burnley Football Club can be proud in proving that football and sport can be a force for good.

"Many people support their local football club and seeing them put something back into the community as well is hugely important."

Andrew Stephenson MP for Pendle, added: "This is a project very close to my heart, I was elected as local MP in 2010 and at this time the site of the Leisure Box was the largest redundant mill site in Lancashire. It was a site that only attracted vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Over the years, so many people have moved heaven and earth to try and transform it into the beating heart of the community.

Neil Hart said: "We were honoured that the Prime Minister was able to join us to officially open the Leisure Box facility.

"That really wasn't possible without Burnley Football Club who have been instrumental, and by bringing the club here, to one of the most deprived communities, we are really opening the door for people.

"We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved in creating this legacy for the area and we are proud that the Prime Minister has found time in her incredibly busy schedule to come here to Burnley, to Pendle and to East Lancashire and to join in this celebration with us.

"The Leisure Box has been an extremely exciting project for us as an organisation and, while ambitious, we were confident the community here in Pendle and Burnley would embrace the centre. After four years of hard work, we are delighted to now be open to the public and to see that local people are already benefitting what we have on offer here. We're proud that through the Leisure Box, our charity can support our community in this unique way.

"The opening ceremony was a fantastic opportunity to welcome the Prime Minister to East Lancashire, to not only showcase to her the facility but also the wonderful community spirit we have here in our corner of the county. It has been that desire to work together as a community that has made this project possible; a real partnership approach to make this real and I'm delighted that we could mark the opening with such a special visit."

For their support of the Leisure Box project, Burnley FC in the Community would like to thank Richard Sutton and his family, the Sutton Pendle Charitable Trust, the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund administered by the Football Foundation, Sport England, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, Pendle Borough Council, Liberata, Barnfield Construction, Tim Webber, the Burnley FC in the Community Board of Trustees, Brian Nelson, the Burnley FC Board of Directors, Mike Garlick and Dave Baldwin.

The Leisure Box aims to bring an affordable leisure offer to the entire community, with a number of Burnley FC in the Community projects including football sessions, disability sport and kids' play offered free of charge.

For more information including opening times, please visit www.theleisurebox.org.



Mrs May opens the Leisure Box

Prime Minister Theresa May praises Pendle regeneration project on visit to Lancashire

PendleToday

25.04.19



By
DOMINIC COLLIS
Email

Published: 19:00
Thursday 25 April 2019

Prime Minister Theresa May took a break from Brexit negotiations to visit East Lancashire today when she viewed Burnley FC In the Community's new Leisure Box centre.

The community leisure facility, situated in the £32m. Northlight complex at Brierfield, played host to Mrs May who was visiting to offer her support to Conservative candidates in the upcoming marginal Pendle Council elections.



Prime Minister Theresa May and Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson chatting with two youngsters at the Leisure Box in Brierfield

Mrs May chatted with children and workers at the facility, as she was given a guided tour, and joked she couldn't find many cricket fans among the children.

Speaking to the Express about the Leisure Box she said: "This is a fantastic facility and one which Burnley Football Club should be very proud of. Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson has championed this, which is very important for the community and for local regeneration.



Mrs May chats to BFC In the Community staff members Leon Guthrie and Dean McGough

"I was not tempted to try out the facilities for myself as I was wearing heels," she joked as she admitted her love for cricket had not been wholly reciprocated.

"I'm a big cricket fan and asked the children for a show of hands of who liked it also. I didn't get many but one boy told me he was going to be a batsman for England.

"The Leisure Box is going to be of huge benefit to the local community and particularly to the health and wellbeing of children. It's great to see Pendle Borough Council has been involved in supporting this project, as it has been in trying to reopen the Skipton to Colne railway line."

Mrs May fielded a range of questions on various topics including the future of local newspapers which she said were vital to local democracy and was why the Government had set up the Cairncross Review.

Brexit, understandably, was never far from the lips of those local journalists who quizzed the Prime Minister on how she felt 'Leave' voting residents of Burnley and Pendle would feel about the delays in exiting the European Union.

She replied: "We are the party in government that is going to deliver on Brexit. It is the Labour party that has overwhelmingly not been voting for the deal."



Mrs May chatting with children at the Leisure Box

"I think there are real opportunities for the UK when we leave the EU," she added.

Northlight, the transformed former Smith and Nephew factory at Brierfield Mills, is a £32m. complex that includes new homes for Lancashire Adult Learning, BFC In the Community and arts organisation In-Situ, largely funded by the Local Economic Partnership.

Mrs May said: "We see LEPs as having a very important role and Northlight is a perfect example of how money can be spent wisely in local communities. Burnley Football Club should also be very proud of the role it has played in this."

Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson said he had chosen Northlight as the location for Mrs May's visit to the marginal constituency as it was "a shining example of partnership working between different people" and was Pendle's biggest ever regeneration project.

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP Growth Deal Management Board, said: "The opening of the Leisure Box facility is a major milestone in the development of the wider Northlight project.

"Nearly £6m. of Growth Deal funding has helped to transform this former mill complex into a thriving hub of education, leisure and residential services which everyone can enjoy.

"Such a mix of investments across commercial, cultural and community assets at the Northlight site is a great example of how Growth Deal funding can help unlock investment, stimulate regeneration and drive economic growth in an integrated and inclusive way.

"This project is one of many that have been supported by the LEP as part of a £1bn growth plan designed to transform Lancashire's economy and accelerate the county's position as a key driver of the Northern Powerhouse."

Prime Minister Theresa May praises Pendle regeneration project on visit to Lancashire

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See new drone images of UCLan's new engineering centre



Developers have released birds eye images of [UCLan's](#) new £35million Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) as the project nears completion.

The building, which dominates the skyline, forms a key part of the University's £200 million masterplan to make a step change in producing locally trained graduates in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Staff, students, and companies within the region will have access to top of the range equipment including flight simulators, Formula One cars and specialist electronic labs.



Designed by architects SimpsonHaugh, Manchester-based BAM Construction is scheduled to complete the building during the Spring.

Blog Preston

27.01.2019

UCLan's Michael Ahern, Chief Operating Officer, said: "These latest images clearly show the rapid progress being made to complete this much-anticipated facility.

"It will be fantastic for Preston to be home to such a modern, innovative building which will be a real hive of activity. Beyond being a world-class teaching and research facility, it's going to be a real asset to the City and the people of Preston, as well as Lancashire and the North West as a whole."

Simon Atkinson, Project Manager at BAM, said: "The EIC is going to be an integral part of inspiring and supporting new generations of engineers and shaping the future of skills development in that sector. Having trained and given work to many generations of engineers at BAM, the building is close to our hearts."



Identified as a signature project within Lancashire's Strategic Economic Plan, the EIC has secured £10.5 million via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships' Growth Deal with the Government. The new facility has also received £5.8 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and £5 million from HEFCE's STEM Capital Fund.

UCLan's Engineering Innovation Centre ready to welcome new students



Construction of the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) has now completed.

Timelapse footage filmed since the first phase of works started has captured the construction of the £35m-plus state-of-the-art facility in Preston, part of the university's £200m Masterplan.

Designed by internationally-renowned architects SimpsonHaugh and built by main contractor BAM Construction, the EIC will enable Lancashire to take centre stage in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, mirroring its importance as the beating heart of the original industrial revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries.

It will play its part in producing an increase of hundreds of locally-trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Crucially the facility will also become a regional hotbed for promoting collaboration and knowledge transfer between university researchers, industry experts, businesses and students.

While enhancing Lancashire's position as one of the most renowned engineering and manufacturing regions in the UK, the EIC will also establish the university as one of the UK's leading universities for engineering innovation by driving new discoveries and developments in emerging fields such as 3D printing, artificial intelligence, drone technology and The Internet of Things.

Work at the EIC will lead to new methods, ideas and technological breakthroughs that have the potential to transform lives and drive the future prosperity of Lancashire.

Integrated teaching and research spaces will deliver a range of key objectives, ensuring that local skills reflect social and economic needs and increasing the number of women in engineering careers.

Michael Ahern, UCLan chief operating officer, said: "The EIC is set to be a real asset to the university and the region, bringing enormous educational and economic benefits now and for generations to come.

"It really is an impressive building that forms a cornerstone of our masterplan development, providing our region with access to top of the range facilities, research expertise and student talent.

"We are now at the stage of incorporating all our IT infrastructure and moving into place a huge range of engineering-related kit, including flight simulators, manufacturing hardware and software and motorsports equipment.

"Everything will be in place and ready for when our students return for the new academic year in September."

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VIDEO | Engineering Innovation Centre completed in Preston

Construction of the University of Central Lancashire's £35m Engineering Innovation Centre has finished, with a timelapse video released showing progress on the building from concept to completion.

The facility, designed by Reiach & Hall alongside SimpsonHaugh, and built by Bam Construction, is part of the university's £250m masterplan being delivered at the Preston campus.

The building hosts specialist training space with equipment including flight simulators, a graphene centre, automotive research and manufacturing, and specialist electronic labs, all with an aim of producing 500 additional locally-trained engineering graduates each year.

The facility is intended to act as a venue for collaboration and knowledge transfer between University researchers, industry experts, businesses and students. Focus areas include research into 3D printing, artificial intelligence, drone technology and the Internet of Things.

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WORK COMPLETES ON UCLAN'S ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTRE

insider
MEDIA LIMITED

25.06.2019



Construction of the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan's) Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) has completed.

The £35m facility is part of the establishment's £200m masterplan. Designed by SimpsonHaugh and built by BAM Construction, it comprises 652 panes of specially designed glass and 630 tonnes of steel.

The EIC has been designed to allow Lancashire to "take centre stage in the Fourth Industrial Revolution", mirroring its importance as the beating heart of the original in the 18th and 19th centuries.

It will work towards producing an increase of hundreds of locally trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering, and will also become a regional hotbed for promoting collaboration and knowledge transfer between university researchers, industry experts, businesses and students.

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Bird's eye view of new £35m UCLan building



New drone photography showing the progress of the University of Central Lancashire's £35 million Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) has been released.

The images give a bird's eye view of the building, part of UCLan's £200m masterplan to transform the higher education facility and the area around it.

The EIC is expected to make a big part in producing locally trained graduates in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Staff, students, and companies within the region will have access to top of the range equipment including flight simulators, Formula One cars and specialist electronic labs.

UCLan's chief operating officer Michael Ahern said: "These latest images clearly show the rapid progress being made to complete this much-anticipated facility.

"It will be fantastic for Preston to be home to such a modern, innovative building which will be a real hive of activity.

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Designed by internationally renowned architects SimpsonHaugh, Manchester-based BAM Construction is scheduled to complete the building during the Spring.

Watch: This is how UCLan's stunning new engineering centre came to life

Work on the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) new £35m Engineering Innovation Centre is now complete.

The construction project has been ongoing for more than a year and has cost £35m.



Work is now complete and the centre will open its doors to students at the start of the next academic year.

Has work been completed?

Yes, construction on the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) new £35m Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) is now done and dusted.

Can we see inside the complex?

Not yet but for those interested how it was developed (ie, prospective engineering students!) there is a fascinating time-lapse video on UCLan's twitter account, showing the construction process from start to finish.

When will the centre open?

Everything is set to be in place and ready for when students return for the new academic year in September.

What is the centre for?

The EIC is expected to play a big part in producing locally-trained graduates in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering. It is aimed at enhancing Lancashire's position as one of the most innovative engineering and manufacturing regions in the UK, and it will also establish UCLan as one of the UK's leading universities for engineering innovation.

What do they say?

Michael Ahern, chief operating Officer at UCLan, said: "It really is a first-class facility that is brimming with new engineering and teaching technologies that will help create innovative engineers of the future while having a dual role in cultivating substantial educational and economic benefits."

Who is funding the project?

The EIC has secured £10.5m via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships' Growth Deal with the Government, £5.8m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and £5 million from Higher Education Funding Council England's STEM Capital Fund.

£35m UCLan development wins construction award



The University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) recently completed Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) has scooped its first industry award.

The £35 million-plus facility was named Building Services Project of the Year (North West) at the 2019 Specifi awards for the mechanical and electrical work carried out by BDP.

The news comes just weeks before the EIC opens its doors to the first intake of students this academic year.

The EIC will play its part in producing an increase of hundreds of locally trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Designed by internationally renowned architects SimpsonHaugh working in partnership with Reiach and Hall Architects, it was built by main contractor BAM.

Robert Ferry, Principal at BDP, said: "As a former student at UCLan I was personally very excited when we were commissioned to deliver the EIC building with our architect friends at Simpson Haugh and Reiach & Hall.

"The finished product really is a fantastic building that will provide UCLan and the surrounding business community with a facility in which to collaborate and build on the rich engineering heritage within the area.

"To receive awards for the scheme is icing on the cake and testament to the hard work of everyone involved in the project. Well done all."

Michael Ahern, UCLan's Chief Operating Officer, said: "Construction of the EIC has recently completed and it's fantastic that this milestone has coincided with the building's first award win.

"Congratulations to the team involved at BDP. We're looking forward to the EIC welcoming students when they return for the new academic year in September and showcasing this impressive facility."

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The facility will also become a regional hotbed for promoting collaboration and knowledge transfer between University researchers, industry experts, businesses and students.

Blog Preston

08.08.2019



New £41m Health Innovation Campus taking shape at Lancaster University

Lancaster University's new £41m Health Innovation Campus (HIC) is beginning to take shape. The campus is a major investment by the University to discover new ways to improve the population's health and wellbeing. The building is currently under construction on the northern edge of the University's Bailrigg campus, and some of the site's key areas are beginning to take shape. A conference and exhibition space will be at the heart of the building, along with a business lounge and study area. Lancaster University's medical school will also move into cutting-edge new facilities on site. As part of its mission to bring together cross-sector organisations to collaborate on projects, the building will include SME incubation spaces where businesses can co-locate to better utilise the University's research and development capabilities. Dr Sherry Kothari, Director of the Health Innovation Campus, said: "The vision for health innovation at Lancaster is to challenge the status quo today to create healthier lives tomorrow. "Our experienced team is already in place, working to bring together business with academic experts and public sector partners to come up with solutions to pressing health challenges. "Once the HIC building is completed, it will provide a focal point where researchers, healthcare professionals, businesses, local authorities and policy-makers can investigate systematic approaches to improving health and wellbeing, in line with the aims of the UK's Industrial Strategy and the NHS long-term plan. "This is a major investment by the University and its partners to improve the health of our communities, protect and enhance services and help people live longer, healthier lives." Development of the HIC has been supported with funding from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal, as well as the European Regional Development Fund.

Lancashire County Council boss visits Lancaster University's new Health Innovation Campus



The chief executive of Lancashire County Council has visited the new Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University to learn more about the "exciting" project.

The £41m campus – part-funded by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership growth deal investment – will bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, businesses, local authorities and policy-makers, to collaborate on improving health in the region.



Angie Ridgwell met with campus director Dr Sherry Kothari to discuss the project's aims and ambitions, as well as receive an update on the construction of the new campus, which is set to open in spring 2020.

Dr Kothari said: "It was fantastic to welcome Angie to the Health Innovation Campus to share our vision for improving health in the region and discuss how the work of the council fits into those plans and what we can collectively achieve.

"Health and wellbeing is on the cusp of a paradigm shift, with a greater focus on improving health outcomes and maintaining good health rather than treating illness. This requires a systems approach, involving people across a wide range of sectors and disciplines coming together to work on better solutions.

"The county council has been very supportive of developments to date and is one of our key stakeholders as we move forward so it was great to see how enthusiastic Angie was about the type of projects we will be looking to take forward."



During the visit, Ms Ridgwell was given a full tour of the new facilities which will provide a home for the Health Innovation Campus team, as well as Lancaster University's medical school and the Division of Health Research.

It also features co-location space for businesses wishing to collaborate with partners on health-related initiatives – or those looking to further explore business opportunities in this area.



03.09.2019

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"It will also help to bring more inward investment to the county, and underline Lancaster University's position as one of the country's top learning establishments."



Lancashire County Council boss visits Lancaster University's new Health Innovation Campus



The chief executive of Lancashire County Council has visited the new Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University to learn more about the "exciting" project.

The £41m campus – part-funded by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership growth deal investment – will bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, businesses, local authorities and policy-makers, to collaborate on improving health in the region.



Angie Ridgwell met with campus director Dr Sherry Kothari to discuss the project's aims and ambitions, as well as receive an update on the construction of the new campus, which is set to open in spring 2020.

Dr Kothari said: "It was fantastic to welcome Angie to the Health Innovation Campus to share our vision for improving health in the region and discuss how the work of the council fits into those plans and what we can collectively achieve.

"Health and wellbeing is on the cusp of a paradigm shift, with a greater focus on improving health outcomes and maintaining good health rather than treating illness. This requires a systems approach, involving people across a wide range of sectors and disciplines coming together to work on better solutions.

"The county council has been very supportive of developments to date and is one of our key stakeholders as we move forward so it was great to see how enthusiastic Angie was about the type of projects we will be looking to take forward."



During the visit, Ms Ridgwell was given a full tour of the new facilities which will provide a home for the Health Innovation Campus team, as well as Lancaster University's medical school and the Division of Health Research.

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LANCASTER
GUARDIAN
03.09.2019

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Ms Ridgwell, chief executive and director of resources at Lancashire County Council, said: “It was great to see the progress being made in the construction of this exciting project.

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LANCASHIREBUSINESSVIEW

10.09.2019

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Behind the scenes at Lancaster University's Health Innovation Campus



Lancaster University's new £41m Health Innovation Campus is beginning to take shape – as these exclusive behind the scenes photos show.

The campus is a major investment by the university to discover new ways to improve the population's health and well-being.



The building is currently under construction on the northern edge of the university's Bailrigg campus, and some of the site's key areas are beginning to take shape.

A conference and exhibition space will be at the heart of the building, along with a business lounge and study area. Lancaster University's medical school will also move into cutting-edge new facilities on site.

As part of its mission to bring together cross-sector organisations to collaborate on projects, the building will include small/medium-sized enterprise incubation spaces where businesses can co-locate to better use the university's research and development capabilities.

Dr Sherry Kothari, director of the Health Innovation Campus (HIC), said: "The vision for health innovation at Lancaster is to challenge the status quo today to create healthier lives tomorrow.



"Our experienced team is already in place, working to bring together business with academic experts and public sector partners to come up with solutions to pressing health challenges.

"Once the HIC building is completed, it will provide a focal point where researchers, healthcare professionals, businesses, local authorities and policy-makers can investigate systematic approaches to improving health and wellbeing, in line with the aims of the UK's Industrial Strategy and the NHS long-term plan.

"This is a major investment by the university and its partners to improve the health of our communities, protect and enhance services and help people live longer, healthier lives."



What is the Health Innovation Campus?

The campus will make a major contribution towards tackling some of the significant health challenges we face today.

Health systems in the UK, and globally, are under enormous pressure, necessitating innovative approaches through various methodologies.



The Health Innovation Campus will provide a focal point to support researchers, healthcare providers, businesses, local authorities and policy makers to collaborate with academics from a top 10 UK institution to find solutions to serious health challenges.

How is the campus being funded?

Development of the new campus has been supported by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal, as well as the European Regional Development Fund.

The project is receiving up to £8.6m of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the managing authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations.



25.04.2019



Feature : PPD Move to Vision Park

InBusinessBurnley
Issue 15

12.12.2018

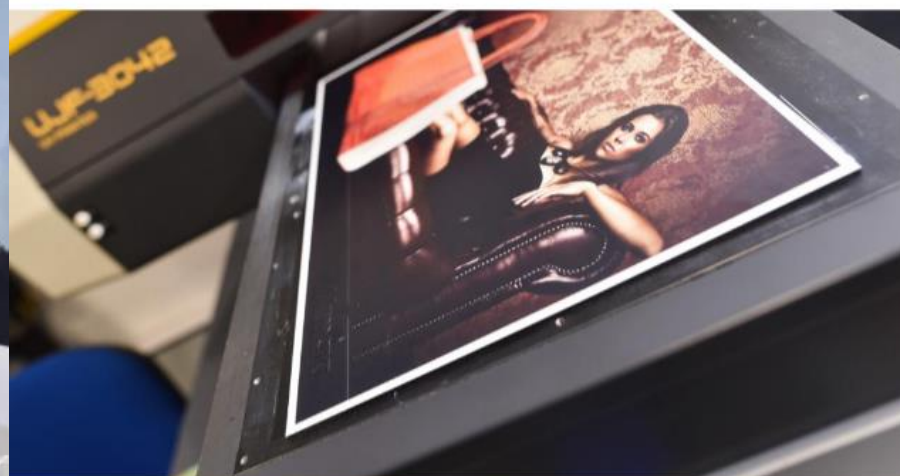
Leading UK Digital Print Production supply company move to prestigious new address on Vision Park

Vision Park, Burnley's latest hi-spec business space, is delighted to welcome one of UK's leading digital print production companies, Production Print Direct Limited (PP Direct), to the innovation hub. PP Direct signed up for their 2,500 sq.ft. hi-spec unit earlier in the year and they've created a modern showroom, offices, and a large service space with a mezzanine for future expansion and events since taking up occupation of their unit.

Managing Director, Mike Ashforth said: "We've taken quite a lot of space at Vision Park to prepare us for the next stage of our growth. One of the aspirations for moving into Vision Park was to give us room to grow and allow us to open up from supplying and servicing the commercial print market into the office market."

Adding: "The prestigious aspect of the site is what attracted us to Vision Park. It's got the look and feel of a prestigious location. We liked the development from the outset—it had the space we needed to create our vision, with no constraints, and Burnley Council were extremely flexible in supporting our plans."

"The proximity of Vision Park to Burnley College and the UCLan university campus was another influential factor as we felt it was something that could help the business in the future, being located in such close proximity to such a good resource and possibly our future workforce."



"We've taken quite a lot of space at Vision Park to prepare us for our next stage of growth."

MD, Mike Ashforth, PP Direct

Feature : PPD Move to Vision Park



Service Director, Tony Molloy added: "The main reason behind the move and investment is to allow us to set the ball rolling with our next stage of our planned growth to move into the office print market."

Mike and his team have a strong history in the digital print industry and the business growth is attributed to this strong background and the understanding of how the machines need operate in the environment where they are being put to work.

Established in 2012, Production Print Direct specialise in providing a quality service led/service response based delivery to the commercial print industry. With highly skilled and highly trained engineers who understand what commercial print operators need their equipment to do.

Mike talks about the fast-changing market for digital print requirements, saying: "Digitally printed pages continue to grow at a rate that exceeds the decline in litho and will continue to do so for many years. Print buyers need their print service provider to have on demand capability, responding to their fast-changing communication requirements. The trend that is set to continue for years is that digital volumes are growing rapidly due to the on-demand nature of customer needs. Order today- print today- deliver tomorrow is fast becoming the norm.

"Our technicians are trained to the highest standards and work within the print for pay industry giving our customers the confidence to explore machine capabilities and work with us to overcome challenging medias, files and timescales. Transferring these skills and experience to the office print market will ensure that all customers always receive a 'best in class' service provision.

"Our range of new cut-sheet presses and multifunctional devices (MFD's) from Canon and Develop along with roll fed and flatbed inkjet devices from Mimaki provides professional printers and MFD users alike, with a huge range of industry leading technologies that offer quality, reliability and productivity to grow your business.

"The opportunities for commercial printers to be part of this exciting revival are enormous and having the right equipment is critical. For office print users, PP Direct offer industry leading service levels, equipment and expertise under our newly created Office Print Direct (OP Direct) branding."



Vision Park represents an opportunity to relocate to one of the most exciting commercial developments in the Lancashire region.

The 5 acre (2.02 hectare) development provides a high quality industrial accommodation and advanced manufacturing hybrid accommodation for a wide variety of occupiers with bespoke design and build solutions to suit.

Phase One was completed in January 2018 providing a range of industrial units from 825 sq. ft. to 5,500 sq. ft. The quality of built environment and finished product will be underpinned by the skilled and diverse labour pool within the region. Vision Park represents an opportunity to relocate to the most exciting commercial development in the Lancashire region.

The Vision Park Development has been supported by a grant from LEP's £320m Growth Deal.

For details of space at Vision Park call:
Martyn Hardacre on 01282 477213



InBusinessBurnley
Issue 15

12.12.2018

PHASE 1
50%
Occupied

PHASE 2 & 3

- Light industrial/
hybrid units/office
- Available to lease
or freehold

**NOW TAKING
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Within A Flagship
Development Site In
Convenient Location

Units from
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Flexible Terms Available



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Martyn Hardacre
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InBusinessBurnley
Issue 14

25.08.2018

25.08.2018

Feature : Vision Park

Vision Park nearing 50% occupancy following the launch of the flagship development

Following the celebratory launch event of Burnley's flagship Vision Park development earlier this year, Burnley Council are delighted to announce that the park is already almost 50% occupied.

Trebor Developments handed the keys over to Burnley Council on the completed Phase One development at Vision Park at the launch event of the new business space in January and there has been a good level of enquiries coming in for the unique business space since the launch.

Barnfield Construction Limited was the principal contractor appointed to carry out the construction, and have delivered the high quality spec that the partners wanted to achieve.

Phase One consists of a range of quality industrial units from 1,500 sq ft to 5,000 sq ft, which are available on flexible terms.

Trebor are also promoting Phases Two and Three for office accommodation and hybrid industrial/office units to meet occupiers' specific requirements.

Bob Tattrie, Managing Partner for Trebor Developments, commented, "We are delighted to see Phase One handed over and the strong interest

in the units and as predicted take up is going well which has established Vision Park as the premium employment location in Burnley."

"Throughout the project we have worked closely with Burnley Borough Council 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 industrial hybrid units in the area."

The Vision Park development has been supported by a grant from the LEP's £320m Growth Deal investment programme.

Graham Cowley, Chair of the LEP'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."

Trebor and Burnley's joint agents for Vision Park are Trevor Dawson and GVA, end user specific design proposals are now available for phases Two and Three to meet specific occupier requirements.

For details on the remaining units and phases II and III contact Burnley Council's business support team on: 01282 477213



Aerospace Lancashire flies high at Paris Air Show

Aerospace Lancashire, the partnership between the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Lancashire County Council (LCC) and local aerospace businesses, received an overwhelmingly positive response when it exhibited at last week's Paris Air Show.

The four-day, bi-annual event sees around 2,400 companies exhibiting, welcomes over 320,000 international visitors, and attracts over 3,000 members of the world's press.

As in previous years, Aerospace Lancashire were part of the North West Aerospace Alliance's (NWAA) stand. The NWAA, which represents and supports the aerospace industry across the region, has 220 members which account for 25% of the UK aerospace industry. Combined its members have a turnover of over £7bn.

Many of the NWAA's biggest members are based in Lancashire, and companies such as BAE Systems, Safran Nacelles, Kaman and MB Aerospace also attended the Paris show.

Their presence, alongside a number of Lancashire SMEs who are part of the county's massive aerospace supply chain, was used by Aerospace Lancashire to demonstrate to investors, employers and policymakers the continuing significance of Lancashire's world-class aerospace industry.

This included highlighting how the county was still the number one region in the UK for aerospace activity and remains fourth in the world overall. Other major assets currently being brought forward, which will enhance the county's aerospace offer, were also actively promoted.

These include UCLan's new £30m Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) at Preston and the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre North West (AMRC NW) which is set to be sited at the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone, both of which have been supported by the LEP's Growth Deal fund.

The AMRC NW will also be adjacent to BAE's facilities at Samlesbury which include their Academy for Skills and Knowledge (ASK).

Over the course of the Paris show the Aerospace Lancashire team held meetings with government minister Andrew Stephenson from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), representatives from Department of International Trade (DIT), and major UK-based aerospace businesses.

They also had talks with over 25 different companies, delegations and international aerospace clusters who were interested in finding out more about Lancashire's aerospace sector and potential investment opportunities.

Lancashire County Council's Head of Business Growth and Innovation, Andy Walker, who attended the show, said: "Lancashire's reputation as one of the world's most significant aerospace clusters, with major manufacturers based in the county together with hundreds of SMEs in the supply chain, continues to be recognised on a global scale.

"We are still the only place in the UK where an entire aircraft can be produced without leaving the county boundary, and we are still continually investing in skills, technology and business support specifically around aerospace and aviation.

"New assets, such as UCLan's EIC and the planned AMRC North West facility, together with advanced manufacturing investment programmes such as the Made Smarter initiative, also continue to help us make the case for Lancashire domestically and internationally at key events like this.



"The reaction from influential UK government officials, foreign investors and major employers to the Aerospace Lancashire proposition was extremely positive and we look forward to continuing the conversation with these and others on behalf of the whole county going forward."

David Bailey, Chief Executive of the NWAA, said: "Lancashire, and the hundreds of businesses within the county which work within the aerospace sector, are key partners for the NWAA. It was therefore fantastic that Aerospace Lancashire were able to join us at Paris this year.

"We were able to introduce the county to a wide range of potential companies and aerospace clusters looking to forge links with the UK and we helped make the case for Lancashire, and the wider North West, to influential government policymakers both in the UK and abroad."

County Councillor Michael Green, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet member for economic development, environment and planning, said: "We're pleased that we could support the Lancashire delegation to Paris. Major international events, such as the Paris Air Show, are a significant opportunity to attract investment, grow our economy and bring highly skilled jobs to the county.

"We have a globally-renowned aerospace and advanced manufacturing sector, and it's important that we continue to support the sector to develop and grow in the future."

**BUSINESS
LANCASHIRE**

03.07.2019

Lancashire's aerospace sector's 'extremely positive' presence at the Paris Air Show

The flag was flown for the county's crucial aerospace sector at one of the biggest air shows in the world.

Aerospace Lancashire, the partnership between the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, Lancashire County Council and hundreds of aerospace businesses, exhibited at the Paris Air Show.

The four-day, bi-annual event sees around 2,400 companies exhibiting and welcomes over 320,000 international visitors.

As in previous years, Aerospace Lancashire were part of the North West Aerospace Alliance's (NWAA) stand. The NWAA, which represents and supports the aerospace industry across the region, has 220 members which account for 25 per cent of the UK aerospace industry. Combined its members have a turnover of over £7bn.

Companies such as BAE Systems, Safran Nacelles, Kaman and MB Aerospace also attended the Paris show. Their presence, alongside Lancashire SMEs who are part of the county's massive aerospace supply chain, was used by Aerospace Lancashire to demonstrate to investors, employers and policymakers the significance of Lancashire's world-class aerospace sector.

This included highlighting how the county was still the number one region in the UK for aerospace activity and remains fourth in the world overall. Other major assets currently being brought forward, which will enhance the county's aerospace offer, were also actively promoted.

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The Gazette

02.07.2019

Blackburn with Darwen borough steals top man from county council

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

10.01.2019



BLACKBURN with Darwen Borough has appointed a new £90,000 a year growth director lured from a similar post at giant neighbour Lancashire County Council.

Burnley resident Martin Kelly takes up the post vacated by Ian Richardson in March last year.

His previous job for nine years was director of economic development and planning at Lancashire County Council working across 12 boroughs.

He had also acted as the chief operating officer of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership since 2012.

Cllr Phil Riley, Executive Member for Regeneration, said: "He is a great catch. It's something of a coup for Blackburn with Darwen Council."

Mr Kelly will be responsible for growth strategies, strategic transport and infrastructure development, town centres and planning and property services.

He is on a director salary band of £87,896 to £94,087 a year.

At Lancashire, Mr Kelly secured a £1billion investment programme for the county council including winning its £320 million Growth Deal covering 40 major initiatives.

They included Darwen's Ellison Fold Way distributor road aimed unlocking new employment and housing opportunities, major rail improvements between Blackburn, Darwen, Bolton and Manchester, Blackburn town centre's Making Rooms and the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone.

Mr Kelly said: "There is a clear desire to make a difference for the residents, communities and businesses here which was central to my decision to join. The welcome I've received from colleagues has been brilliant,"

Cllr Riley said: "We are really pleased to welcome Martin. He brings lots of experience and expertise of large scale growth projects and will be a great asset to the continuing revival of the borough."

"The challenge of the cuts continues and it's important we recruit high calibre people like Martin to help make sure Blackburn with Darwen attracts investment and maximises income opportunities."

Cllr Derek Hardman, regeneration spokesman for the council Conservative group, said: "The proof of the pudding will be in the eating. His main job will be to get investment into the borough and if he does that it will be a good appointment."

Originally from St Helens, Rugby League fan Mr Kelly lives with his young family in Burnley. He previously worked for Manchester City Council, Bolton Council and the former North West Regional Development Agency and Leeds Business School.

CBE for Edwin Booth

LANCASHIREBUSINESSVIEW

02.01.2019

Edwin Booth, the fifth generation chairman of the Booths grocery chain and **out-going chairman** of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, has been granted a CBE in the Queen's New Year's honours list.



Edwin earned the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire distinction, which is one rank above OBE and only below a knighthood, for his contributions to both business and charity.

He has been the LEP's first and only chair in 2011, overseeing the formation of **Boost**; a £320m Growth Deal set to create 11,000 jobs; a £450m City Deal set to create 20,000 jobs; three Enterprise Zones; and the Transport for Lancashire organisation.

The LEP has also been instrumental in developing a single economic plan and a 'Lancashire narrative' to guide its ambitions and promote the county on a national and international platform.

Edwin said: "For years I have done various things and been involved in many facets of life, most recently chairing the LEP.

"That has been a fascinating journey. Over the years I have managed to encourage many businesses to interact with schools and young people. All I can say is I am just passionate about life and about people. If I can help anyone to be the best they can, either in business or outside, then that's what I like to do."

Chorley-born Bill Beaumont has also been knighted. He played 34 times for the England national rugby union team between 1975 and 1982, 21 one of those as captain. He has been the chairman of Rugby Football Union since 2012 and was elected as the chairman of World Rugby in 2016.

Blackpool's Jon Bamborough has been awarded an MBE for founding the Blackpool Music Festival, which raises money to help feed and house the homeless. Helen Bingley of Lancaster and Susan Smith of the Morecambe Bay NHS Trust earned OBEs. John Blowes earned an MBE for services to renewable energy.

£5m worth of 'social value' created by county's growth deal projects



A government growth deal for Lancashire has generated more than £5m of so-called "social value", according to the organisation overseeing how the money is spent.

The county's Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) received £320m from Whitehall back in 2014 to fund projects designed to boost the region's economy. These have included the redesign of Preston city centre's main shopping streets, a plan to develop a conference centre and hotel at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool and the creation of a health innovation campus at Lancaster University.

As part of assessing the impact of more than 40 investments either made or planned across the county, the LEP has designed a method of calculating their worth to society as a whole.

It is estimated that £5.5m of social value has been created, with the vast majority coming from the number of apprenticeships offered by growth deal projects, as well as job opportunities for residents from disadvantaged backgrounds.

A meeting of the LEP's growth deal management board heard that the method of calculating the wider benefits of such projects may underestimate their true value.

"The figure does not include a large chunk of spending generated by procurement from small and medium-sized businesses [in the county]," Martin Hill, Skills and Enterprise Co-ordinator, said.

"[The investment] also raises the profile of community projects and volunteers - and this is not necessarily being captured," he added.

One board member highlighted the difficulty of reflecting the more unexpected benefits of growth deal investment.

"Some of the stories have been fantastic - like the workmen on a tram project in Blackpool who revived a man who collapsed nearby or the workshop which was also used to make toys for local children," Alan Cavill said.

More than three quarters of growth deal projects which are underway are reporting some level of social value.

"Lancashire has been ahead of the game and that has set us in good stead for future bids [for funding]," Graham Cowley, chair of the growth deal management board, said.

"Inclusive growth is a major element of maximising investment in Lancashire," he added.

Lancashire was given a £320m government growth deal in 2014. Picture: Alan Bevilay