**BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE – Lead Rob Green**

**Background**

The overall vision is to make Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, a premier business location in the North West.

In April 2016 the Government awarded Enterprise Zone status to the Blackpool Airport site which includes Blackpool International Airport and the surrounding business parks. Blackpool Airport EZ has benefited from public sector investment including acquisition of Blackpool Airport, phase 1 infrastructure works; fencing, taxiway removal, drainage and grass pitches commitment in excess of £1m. Nine new private sector developments have been completed totalling 186,517 sq ft, including Blackpool & The Fylde College’s Lancashire Energy HQ, a 32,000 sq ft flagship training centre for technical and professional education for the energy sector.

**Performance**

Blackpool Council (EZ accountable body) has approved up to £28.8m funding by prudential borrowing for development of Phase 1 Common Edge infrastructure. Phase 1 planning application has been approved with completion of 12 no grass sports pitches, which will come into use in Autumn 2021 after establishment of the playing surface. Work has commenced on site (Oct 2020) for a 40,000 sq ft manufacturing facility, supported by £800,000 Growth Deal Funding due for completion autumn 2021. Design of new highways and enabling works is ongoing and negotiations are progressing for acquisition of additional third party land and property required to support delivery of the masterplan

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Baselines at April 2016** |  |
| Existing jobs | Difficult to estimate as it is an existing business park with over 200 businesses located on site |
| Companies on site | c.250 – 300 |
| Business rates baseline (set Dec 2017) | Blackpool - £1,503,000  Fylde - £870,000 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Performance Indicators** | **Targets** (over 25 year life time of EZ to 2041) | **Actuals up to Qtr. 3 20/21** | **RAG** |
| Build, convert or re-purpose potential employment space | 260,000 sqm | 24,277 sq m |  |
| Attract Private Sector Investment | £300m | c.£21.69m |  |
| Jobs created | 5,000 | 1525 (gross) |  |
| New Businesses to the area | 140 | 91 |  |
| Develop new infrastructure | £65m | £28.8m \* |  |

\*Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) funds borrowed to cover initial costs of new road and infrastructure. Spend to date on infrastructure, on property and land acquisitions = £8,925,000

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Milestones** | **Dates** |
| Grass football pitch engineering contract completed | Sep 2020 |
| Changing Rooms and car park/3G pitch planning application submitted | Sept 2020 |
| 40,000 sqft spec devt start on site | Oct 2020 |
| Aqua Comms landing, connection made on land | Oct 2020 |
| Private sector new build complete | Oct 2020 |
| Common Edge Changing room and 3G pitches construction tender | Nov 2020 |
| Head of Terms to be agreed 20,000 sq ft unit | Dec 2020 |
| Changing rooms and 3G planning approval | Dec 2020 |
| Revised masterplan/Delivery Plan to be considered by Accountable body | Dec 2020 |
| Architectural feasibility study & design work for airport complete | Dec 2020 |
| 20mw gas fired generator planning decision | Dec 2020 |
| Design and planning application for eastern gateway access | Feb 2021 |
| Land / property acquisitions x 4 | Q4 2020 |
| Appoint international marketing agents LAMEC brand | Jan 2021 |
| Town Deal Business case for EZ submitted | Feb 2021 |
| Outline planning app for airport redevelopment | Mar 2021 |
| Fiscal benefit extension decision from HM Treasury | Mar 2021 |
| Marketing of Common Edge phase 1 commences | Mar 2021 |
| Proposition and identifying opportunities for data centre market | Mar 2021 |
| Design and planning application for Common Edge Road | Summer 2021 |
| Release of existing sports pitches and commencement of highway and utility infrastructure | Sep 2021 |
| Planning approval for highways | Oct 2021 |
| 12 month construction contract for access road | Jan 2022 |
| Control tower, first station relocation commenced | Jan 2022 |
| Delivery of spec dev of 20,000 sq ft commercial unit | Apr 2022 |
| Replacement hangar development commenced | Sep 2022 |

**Objectives over 2-3 years**

Phase 1 infrastructure complete

Phase 1 spec and bespoke developments commenced and pre-lets secured

Commenced relocation of aviation operational infrastructure to enable new development

Commenced upgraded utilities including PV solar site and new primary sub station

**Objectives over 5 years**

Common Edge Phase 1 development complete – all plots occupied

Residential development underway

Relocation of airport property stock and infrastructure complete

New airport spec development in planning stages

**Objectives over 10 years**

Phase 2 continued spec development of remaining plots airport site

Squires Gate Industrial Estate – spec proposals for future development

**Risks**

A new Single Portfolio Risk Register for the combined programmes has been created, which can be found at Appendix M to the main report.