

## **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

<b>Baselines at April 2016</b>	
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

<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b> (over 25 year life time of EZ to 2041)	<b>Actuals up to Qtr. 3 20/21</b>	<b>RAG</b>
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

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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.