



Growth Deal Media Coverage March - November 2018



BLACKPOOL HOUSING COMPANY REGENERATING RESORT

Blackpool Housing Company has completed its largest renovation project to date, part of its quest to transform the town's poor quality hotels into desirable homes.

The company, wholly owned by Blackpool Council but operating independently with its own board of directors, secured an initial £26m in funding through the Lancashire Growth Deal.

The programme targets poor quality and 'end of life' hotels, guest houses and Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

More than £12.5m has been invested in property assets so far, acquiring almost 60 property sites across inner Blackpool. The portfolio now includes more than 150 homes to rent, ranging from one-bed apartments to four-bed family homes.

One of the first purchases completed by the company and now completely renovated were two former hotels on Albert Road, one that had operated as a notorious and troublesome 'party' hotel until the end of the 2015 season and the other having sat derelict and empty since it suffered from fire damage a number of years ago.

The two properties with more than 60 bedrooms between them have now been converted into 20 high quality self-contained apartments.

David Galvin, managing director, said: "We recognise that to make the necessary impact and regenerate the inner area of Blackpool, we will need to operate on a large scale.

"The company has focussed on purchasing property that has negatively impacted the town, property that either provides substandard and often cramped accommodation or in many cases, is sat empty, unused and derelict. These properties were a blight on Albert Road previously creating problems for local neighbours and other hotels. Our investment here demonstrates what we are aiming to achieve in our mission to improve living standards.

"The company has been renovating its property portfolio to high standards and under a new brand tag of My Blackpool Home, providing a wide range of accommodation options for rental across the town catering for families, couples and single people."

Councillor Jim Hobson, chairman of My Blackpool Home, said: "Our ambition was for the new company to become a landlord of choice in the town, working alongside other responsible landlords to provide accommodation that people will choose to live in.



LANCASHIRE **BUSINESS** VIEW

02.03.18

8th March

600 yard 'missing link' in Blackburn road finally on track



Pennine Reach Development, Blackburn - looking from Whitebirk roundabout

THE 600-yard 'missing link' in a £40 million road is on schedule to be built by April next year.

As part of the government funded Lancashire Growth Deal, the Pennines Gateways project will deliver improvements at three of the main gateways into Blackburn off the M65 motorway at junctions 4, 5 and 6.

Members were updated on the progression of the scheme at a Blackburn with Darwen Council executive board meeting.

A price war over a tiny parcel of land had left Blackburn with a £1 million road to nowhere.

The dispute with supermarket giant **Tesco** was finally resolved in 2016 and now the section of road from the Red Lion roundabout near the M65 Junction 6 towards Tesco's Hill Street superstore can finally be completed.

Members also approved plans to start land and property negotiation related to the scheme.

The project consists of three infrastructure packages at Furthergate, North Blackburn and South East Blackburn.

Between April 2018 and March 2021, it is proposed to complete the Burnley Road link road from Red Lion Roundabout to Gorse Street and a new signalised Gorse Street junction.

There will also be a Brownhill roundabout upgrade, Pleckgate Road and Ramsgreave Drive junction improvements plus Whalley Old Road and Whitebirk Drive junction capacity upgrades.

Haslingden Road highway improvements including widening and upgraded roundabouts at major access points plus new a new link road to Link Blackamoor Road with Roman Road also form part of the project.

Council bosses say detailed consultation has taken place in relation to the Furthergate package including the completion of the Burnley Road Link Road as part of the Pennine Reach major transport project, and a leaflet drop and drop-in exhibition is proposed.

A public consultation event was held last month relating to the North Blackburn proposals, where members of the public were able to speak to council officers and members.

Further events are planned for South East Blackburn and Blackamoor by way of a leaflet drop and drop-in exhibition. Land and property holders are to be consulted in detail on an individual basis.

The majority of funding for the project is to be provided by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, which has secured £320 million from the Government to support economic growth in the area.

According to the report, the LEP will provide £12 million of the £13.4m scheme, with the remaining £1.4m to be provided by the council.

The £1.4m local contribution will come from the council's Local Transport Plan.

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

08.03.18



At the heart of the scheme is a new Student Centre, linked with a new public square

In 2015, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), announced its intention to create historic and transformational change at its Preston Campus through a £200 million Campus Masterplan development.

At the heart of the scheme a new Student Centre, linked with a new public square, aims to draw the University closer to the City. UCLan's long-term vision is to spark a major focus on regeneration and business investment in the University quarter, reinforce the University's ties to the local community and create wider benefits for Preston and beyond.

But to acknowledge its importance, there's a need to understand why the Masterplan is essential for a University that has grown organically over a period of 190 years. David Taylor, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the University Board summarised the need for a change to the campus. "The University developed generically over a long period of time, from an Institute to a College to a Polytechnic to a University. Consequently, we didn't have any sense of place or focus for the campus.

"So starting from a low base we commissioned Allies & Morrison to complete the Masterplan exercise for us. A lot of great information went into that – consulting with staff, students, public consultations, and they came up with a really outstanding plan of attack, and in a really short period of time we've started to deliver it.

"What we also have to make people aware of is that the Masterplan is funded by UCLan and we're keeping that £200 million investment here in the City. The expenditure in these difficult times is quite a brave thing to do but it will be a gamechanger – not just for us but for Preston too."

The Masterplan is undoubtedly a transformational project for the University and it's already starting to take shape. Work has finished on two new £8.15m social spaces designed by award-winning architecture practice AHR, working alongside a UCLan design team comprising staff and students to establish input and ownership from the people who will use the spaces. The new facilities have been a huge success with students and staff since they opened last month.

Construction of its £32m Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC), is also progressing well. It will see the University establish itself as a leader in engineering innovation, and will help produce an increase of 500 locally trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

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

Its jewel in the crown – the £57m Student Centre and Civic Square – has recently received planning approval and will see one of the largest civic spaces developed in England in the last 100 years.

David added: "It really will give us a focus. We'll look at how the Student Centre links back to St Peter's Church and the Adelphi area and we'll align the changes in levels between the square, the EIC and adjoining buildings. The public spaces between will all be beautifully landscaped, cleverly lit and fully accessible for all. It's going to give us a real sense of place."

In addition to creating a world-class campus, many in the City see the Masterplan as an opportunity to bring together a number of elements in Preston that have long been disconnected.

David concluded: "Preston is a compact and interesting place but while it's got lots of building blocks, nobody has ever really put them together. It's really only in the last two or three years, with the advent of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and CityDeal, that a lot of fantastic initiatives have happened in the City and are leading it to a really promising future. The advantage that our city has compared to say a Manchester or a Liverpool is that they're vast city centres, whereas Preston is a compact place so it's easier to enhance. Preston will have a new campus at one end and the core of the city centre at the other and they're both going to come together to reinvigorate the economy and boost social cohesion.

"It's our vision that the Masterplan will benefit everyone."



LANCASHIRE ENERGY HQ OPENS

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The multimillion-pound Lancashire Energy HQ has officially opened.

The site – launched by Blackpool and The Fylde College – is a dedicated education and training facility, and the flagship development on Blackpool Airport's Enterprise Zone.

It offers a range of energy-related training for employment in the industry as well as opportunities for those already working in the sector to renew their accreditation and licences. Industry partners also have the opportunity to utilise the facility to further develop their workforce.

insider
MEDIA LIMITED

13.03.18

Jake Berry MP, minister for the Northern Powerhouse who was on hand to open the £10.7m site, said: "With hundreds of students – many of them on apprenticeships with local businesses – passing through Energy HQ's doors each year, it is clear that it is the Northern Powerhouse that is delivering the next generation of energy engineers and driving forward innovative, low-carbon technology."

Bev Robinson, principal and chief executive of Blackpool and The Fylde College, added: "At B&FC, we work with industry to co-create the training and education needed to develop technically and professionally skilled employees. Lancashire Energy HQ has been designed with industry to meet the needs of the expanding energy sector which in turn delivers energy security for the UK."

"Students who choose to study with us will develop vital skills to ensure they are workplace-ready when they join the energy sector."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal management board, said: "The Lancashire Growth Deal is a multimillion-pound enabling fund which allows key projects like the Energy HQ to be brought forward."

"This fantastic facility will help us inspire and develop the next generation of engineers, scientists and technicians which we will be needed to fulfil Lancashire's massive commercial potential in this sector."

B&FC's Lancashire Energy HQ officially opened by Northern Powerhouse minister



Jake Berry MP, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, officially opening Lancashire Energy HQ

Blackpool and The Fylde College (B&FC)'s new Lancashire Energy HQ has been officially opened by Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry MP.

Lancashire Energy HQ is a £10.7m dedicated education and training facility and is the flagship development on Blackpool Airport's Enterprise Zone. It offers a wide range of energy-related training for future employment in the industry as well as opportunities for those already working in the sector to renew their industry accreditation and licences. Industry partners also have the opportunity to utilise the facility to further develop their workforce.

Fittingly, this week's launch event for Lancashire Energy HQ was held during National Apprenticeship Week and the National Year of Engineering.

Jake Berry MP, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, said: "I am delighted to officially unveil this fantastic facility, which puts state of the art training at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse.

"With hundreds of students – many of them on apprenticeships with local businesses – passing through Energy HQ's doors each year, it is clear that it is the Northern Powerhouse that is delivering the next generation of energy engineers and driving forward innovative, low-carbon technology."

Designed with industry partners, Lancashire Energy HQ includes a wide range of specialised resources which enables B&FC's dual professional staff to deliver high level skills to support the renewable energy sectors, as well as nuclear technologies, oil and gas and welding practices.

**BUSINESS
LANCASHIRE**

09.03.18

Bev Robinson OBE, Principal and Chief Executive, Blackpool and The Fylde College, added: "At B&FC, we work with industry to co-create the training and education needed to develop technically and professionally skilled employees. Lancashire Energy HQ has been designed with industry to meet the needs of the expanding energy sector which in turn delivers energy security for the UK. Students who choose to study with us will develop vital skills to ensure they are workplace-ready when they join the energy sector.

"I would like to thank the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry MP, for doing us the honour of officially opening this exciting new facility. I would also like to thank Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership who have co-funded the construction of this facility."

Graham Cowley, Chair of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal Management Board, added: "The Lancashire Growth Deal is a multi-million pound enabling fund which allows key projects like the Energy HQ to be brought forward. Growth Deal investments are also aligned to the LEP's priority sectors, such as energy and environmental technologies, where we already employ around 40,000 people in over 5,000 businesses across the county.

"This fantastic facility will help us inspire and develop the next generation of engineers, scientists and technicians which we will be needed to fulfil Lancashire's massive commercial potential in this sector."

Money for new Blackburn with Darwen bus shelters welcomed as services continue to be cut



MONEY for new bus shelters has been welcomed in the wake of more services being lost.

Blackburn with Darwen Council is planning to spend almost £290,000 on shelters across the borough over the next three years.

The cash forms part of the council's 2018/19 - 2020/21 capital programme for transport and highways, which is funded by a combination of Department for Transport grants, Growth Deal cash and Section 106 contributions from housing developers.

Speaking at a local authority executive board meeting, Cllr Maureen Bateson said "I appreciate the money for quality bus shelters. They are going to be needed given public transport is decreasing.

"I appreciate the council's position that we can't subsidise public transport because of government cuts.

"It is not just a Blackburn with Darwen problem, it is a national problem."

"The amount of services that have been lost is huge and for many people it cuts out an important part of their life."

The cash will be used to replace older shelters and the remaining stock the council inherited from Clear Channel.

The detailed programme approved for 2018/19 includes two new shelters on Exchange Street, Whalley New Road upgrades and Pleckgate Road.

Stops and boarders will be upgraded to accessibility act standards and the council will expand advertising.

Income from advertising is reinvested in bus stop maintenance and cleaning, and also the provision of printed timetable information and public transport co-ordination in the borough.

In addition, there will be a trial of e-paper timetabling on the upgraded stops at the side of the Town Hall.

Cllr Phil Riley said: "In very simple terms, since bus route deregulation it has absolutely plummeted all over the country. The story in Blackburn with Darwen is the same in all the big cities."

Cllr Riley said the only place which had not seen a reduction in bus services was London, where routes had not been deregulated.

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

20.03.18

LANCASHIRE AND MANCHESTER JOIN FORCES FOR FRENCH EXHIBITION

LANCASHIRE **BUSINESS** VIEW

March 18

THE LANCASHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP IS TO EXHIBIT AT MIPIM INTERNATIONAL, THE PROPERTY AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE HELD ANNUALLY IN CANNES, FRANCE.

It is anticipated that that around 23,000 delegates will attend the four-day event which starts on March 14th, including potential investors, developers, property agents and policy makers drawn from across the globe.

The LEP, which exhibited at MIPIM UK in London last autumn under the We Are Lancashire – the place for growth banner for the first time, has decided that for the MIPIM expo in France it will be part of the Manchester at MIPIM Partnership, based at the new Manchester Pavilion.

A group of senior Lancashire representatives, including Ruth Connor, chief executive of Marketing Lancashire and David Taylor, deputy chair of the LEP and chair of the University of Central Lancashire Board will attend MIPIM.

They will be promoting a wide range of new economic opportunities across the county including Lancashire's new Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster which includes the county's four Enterprise Zone sites at Samlesbury, Warton, Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse in Wyre. Combined these sites provide a world-class offer to investors and occupiers within the advanced manufacturing, energy and engineering sectors with the potential to generate 10,000 new high value jobs.

MIPIM attendees can also find out more about the county's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) which was recently announced in the government's £70m Growth Deal 3 funding announcement for Lancashire.

The AMRC, which will be based at the Aerospace Enterprise Zone at Samlesbury, will see the LEP and its partners working closely with Sheffield University to create a centre of R&D excellence to help drive world class productivity and innovation gains through key SME supply chains.

Another key development is a new inward investment focus on Central Lancashire underpinned by the £434m City Deal programme, which is driving new investment and development opportunities in and around Preston and South Ribble. The Central Lancashire investment offer will include details of Preston's new Harris Quarter cinema and leisure scheme, the potential for the re-development of an 'HS2 ready' Preston train station, the £200m UCLan masterplan, the regeneration of Winckley Square, and a number of other high quality and premium residential and commercial property opportunities across the central Lancashire region.

Lancashire's world class sectoral strengths in industries such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing and energy will also be a major part of the county's pitch to investors and developers, as will the county's unrivalled quality of life offer which was highlighted in the recent Channel 4 tv programme that declared Lancashire was not only home to the best place in the UK to live (South Ribble), but was also home to two other of the UK's top ten most desirable and liveable destinations, the Ribble Valley and Lancaster.

Simultaneously, by aligning themselves to Manchester's 250 plus delegation, the Lancashire team will be highlighting the county's proximity to the major northern urban hubs of Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds, capitalising on the brand recognition of these cities at the heart of the increasingly visible and global Northern Powerhouse initiative.

Edwin Booth, chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership said: "When Lancashire attended MIPIM UK in London last year it was the first time the county had presented itself as a united region with a clear and compelling offer. The reaction from major investors, developers, funders and policy makers was extremely positive, especially with regards to Lancashire's Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster of Enterprise Zone sites and our £434m transformational City Deal for Central Lancashire. As a result of this we decided to explore the opportunities offered by MIPIM in Cannes.

"What became clear is that the promotion of the Northern Powerhouse globally is starting to gain some real traction, and that a thriving and confident Lancashire at the heart of the Powerhouse is a very strong message to take to market.

"In order to maximise Lancashire's key role within the Powerhouse and to benefit from the growing international awareness of this initiative, we decided it would be strategically advantageous to partner with our neighbour, Manchester, as the city remains one of the strongest 'attack brands' within the Northern Powerhouse's pitch to global investors.

"Whilst we will be showcasing the assets and investment potential Lancashire has to offer, and will use MIPIM in Cannes to build on the successful 'We Are Lancashire' positioning which we launched at the London event, the LEP will also be highlighting that Lancashire is central to the Powerhouse initiative both geographically and economically.

"Lancashire's position as the UK's leading region for AEM and Aerospace activity also complements Manchester's own economic strengths and sector specialisms, and we look forward to working with Manchester to promote the North West and the whole of the North of England as a credible investment destination."

Sir Howard Bernstein, the chief executive of Manchester City Council who this year will lead his 18th Manchester at MIPIM delegation said: "Building strong partnerships has always been core to Manchester's approach, and this is never more clearly the case than in our work at MIPIM. Last year our commitment to cooperative working made Manchester's delegation the second largest of 550 international cities in attendance.

"Now, as Manchester at MIPIM prepares for its most high-profile year yet as part of an ever-stronger Northern Powerhouse, it's a great pleasure to be working with our neighbours in Lancashire. We look forward to promoting our mutual and complementary strengths on this important international stage.

"Central to the ethos of the Northern Powerhouse is the concept that northern regions working together can be stronger than the sum of their parts. At MIPIM this year, Manchester and Lancashire can take new strides in proving this."

MUSEUM PLAN GETS £8M BOOST

Plans to create a new museum celebrating Blackpool's unique place in entertainment have received a multi-million pound funding boost.

The Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund has allocated £4m towards the ambitious project which aims to bring £12.5m of additional spending into the resort.

And a Heritage Lottery Fund award will deliver £400,000 up front to support the development of the museum – with the prospect of a further £4m to make the attraction a reality.

The new museum will celebrate the town's history as the UK's first mass seaside holiday resort and the aim is to open its doors to visitors in 2020.

The biggest new museum development in the North West, it is expected to attract almost 300,000 visitors a year and will be developed on the world-famous Golden Mile.

The aim is to “engage younger audiences” in the history of Blackpool and further strengthen the town's growing tourism offer.

Councillor Gillian Campbell, deputy leader of **Blackpool Council**, said: “This is great news and we are delighted to have secured such significant funding. This is a major step forward to help deliver this exciting project.

“These announcements are extremely welcome and are critical pieces in a £13m funding jigsaw.

“We are now seeking additional funding from the Growth Deal and Coastal Communities Fund to help complete the funding that needs to be achieved. We will continue to work hard to complete this complex funding jigsaw.”

The planned museum will explore the extraordinary and rarely told stories of Britain's largest seaside resort.

Blackpool has played an unrivalled role in the development of British popular entertainment over the past 150 years and the museum is described as a “dynamic and celebratory space” – a blend of museum and visitor attraction, filled with artefacts, film, music and performance.

The plan is to locate it in the historic Palatine Building on the Golden Mile, next door but one to Blackpool Tower.

LANCASHIRE BUSINESS VIEW

23.03.18

Amuseum: £4m funding for new Blackpool museum

Blackpool is to receive £4m in government funding towards plans for a new museum telling the story of the resort.

Plans for the museum, which has a working title name of Amuseum, were first revealed last year.

The museum, set to open in 2020, will be located on the world famous Golden Mile in the former Sands Venue.

A further £400,000 has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a conditional £4m towards the plans.

Amuseum will feature artefacts, film, music and performance to tell the story of the resort and would be a "blend of museum and visitor attraction", the council said.

It's hoped it will attract almost 300,000 visitors a year and is aimed of "engaging younger audiences in the history of Blackpool".



The original Winter Gardens museum plan was deemed too much of financial risk

Gillian Campbell, deputy leader of Blackpool Council, said the funding deals are "critical pieces in a £13 million funding jigsaw".

"We are now seeking additional funding from the Growth Deal and Coastal Communities Fund to help complete the funding that needs to be achieved," she

BBC richard

NEWS

23.03.18

Next stage for major £100m bid for transport and road improvements in Lancaster



Major infrastructure plans to support new homes in Lancaster and the development of Lancaster University, including the new Health Innovation Campus, have received approval to be taken to the next stage.

Lancashire County Council submitted a bid for £100m from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Forward Fund towards transport infrastructure [improvements](#) in South Lancaster.

These proposals will now move to the 'co-development' stage, where government officials will work with the council to further develop the [bid](#) and assess the project in more detail.

The HIF Forward Fund would support a range of transport infrastructure initiatives, including a bus rapid transit network and dedicated cycle route between South Lancaster and the city centre, along with other improvements to address flood and drainage risks.

Wider improvements would also include a re-configured Junction 33, enabling residents and businesses in South Lancaster to access the motorway network without needing to travel through either the city centre or Galgate.

The proposals are designed to support delivery of the [Health](#) Innovation Campus and the wider expansion plans of Lancaster University, as well as the Garden Village at Bailrigg.

This bid from the county council was made with support from Lancaster City Council, Lancaster University and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

County Councillor Geoff Driver CBE, leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "It's great news that the county council has been successful in the latest stage of this process.

"This is not a guarantee of funding for the project, but it is an indication from the Government of the strength and quality of our bid.

"These are ambitious plans for Lancaster, which will benefit many people who live and [work](#) in the district.

"In particular, the changes to the motorway junction will help to reduce congestion at the crossroads in Galgate, which we know is a longstanding local issue.

"Detailed plans take time to get right and we'll need to bring together the necessary funding, but this is an important step forward."

County Councillor Michael Green, cabinet member for economic development, [environment](#) and planning, said: "This is an important opportunity to capitalise on the growth opportunities that Lancaster has to offer.

"This is a key milestone for our plans, which would make Lancaster integral to the future economic growth of the county, and help us to unlock the potential for growth across the city.

"The Health Innovation Campus will bring together innovators, academics, entrepreneurs, businesses, local government, citizens and health care providers.

"This has big potential to create a world-class centre of excellence, and it's vital that the county council does what it can to support the opportunities that it will bring.

"It's also vital for economic growth that we have a good supply of housing.

"As cities grow and new jobs are created, more homes are needed to meet the demand.

"It's a sign of an area that is developing and growing."

The HIF is a new £4.1 billion national infrastructure investment programme designed to unlock the delivery of up to 400,000 new homes in areas of high demand in England.

Housing Secretary Sajid Javid said: "This Government is committed to working with communities to build the homes this country needs and ensure the right infrastructure is in place to support them.

"We will now be working closely with 45 areas shortlisted to apply for government investment. These key projects will help unlock more much needed homes by delivering the roads, schools and doctor's surgeries that communities need."

The plans for the Garden Village are currently being developed by Lancaster City Council, with opportunities for public consultation as part of the planning process.

As part of the wider plans for this part of the city, significant growth deal funds have already been secured to re-configure Junction 33 on the M6 to support new housing and employment growth opportunities, including the new Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University.

The changes to Junction 33 would remove the need to travel from the city through Galgate to access the motorway.

 LANCASTER
GUARDIAN

26.03.18

How the Lancaster Road roadworks are progressing – and what's next



Work continues between Lord Street and Lancaster Road



Highways manager for the county council Phil Baird said: “Work has recently been taking place on Lord Street, the section next to the Guild Hall loading bay access. This was scheduled to fit around some of the busier times for the Guild Hall and involved putting in high quality granite paving, reinforcing the carriageway crossings, cleaning and replacing the existing drainage system, and creating a more pedestrian-friendly area.

“These latest improvements will bring a similar feel to work done elsewhere in the city centre, which we know have helped to attract new retailers and shoppers.

“We recently stopped work on Lord Street, as planned, to carry out road improvements around the bus station as part of the multi-million pound ongoing redevelopment work.

“Work will begin in April on Jacson Street, followed by adjacent areas of Lancaster Road. This work will run through the summer, before the improvement work moves towards the front of the Guild Hall. This work will fit around the University of Central Lancashire’s graduation ceremonies that are held there in the summer, to minimise any disruption from the work.”

Read more: [Official opening of Preston's new market](#)

Funding for the work has come from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership’s Growth Deal.

Chair of the LEP Growth Deal Management Board Graham Cowley said: “The improvement works to Lancaster Road, which have been funded by the LEP’s Growth Deal, are part of a wider integrated scheme which will make central Preston easier to navigate. They will also improve the connectivity between key city assets such as the University of Central Lancashire’s new Engineering Innovation Centre, the regenerated Guild Hall, and Preston’s iconic bus station. Overall the scheme is designed to help boost Preston city centre’s economic growth, creating new jobs in the process.”

A business owner has spoken of his relief his city centre cafe is no longer fenced off by roadworks.

[Ham and Jam](#) in Lancaster Road remained open throughout the work which is the latest in upgrading the city’s roads and pavements.

Owner Richard Lowthian said: “We are so pleased the majority of the Fishgate Phase three work is completed outside Ham and Jam.

“It’s been a challenging few months for our customers as well as Ham and Jam we are still waiting for the final works to be completed.

“We believe it will be a great place for outside seating once it’s completed. A great job nearly complete.”

The Guild Hall has also seen disruption due to the roadworks.

Head of Operations at the Guild Group Richard Simkin said: “Other than the constant issues around the entire development we have gritted our teeth and done all we can along with the strong support of the county council.

“There has been some serious knock on effects to our business but we are looking very much forward to all the works being complete.

“I feel for the likes of Ham and Jam who had their front door almost blocked and hope they are now recovering.

“Clearly investment is great but the knock on effect for ourselves and others is still being felt.”

Blog Preston

02.04.18

Photographs show progress on University's Engineering Innovation Centre



New drone photography has been released demonstrating the progress of the construction of the University of Central Lancashire's £32 million Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC), a key project of its £200 million Masterplan.

The EIC will further establish UCLan as a leader in engineering innovation, and is anticipated to produce an increase of 500 locally trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Identified as a signature project within Lancashire's Strategic Economic Plan, the EIC has secured £10.5 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.

Manchester-based BAM Construction is on schedule to complete the building in early 2019.

**BUSINESS
LANCASHIRE**

06.04.18

Changes to bus stops in Preston City Centre



7:50am 14th April 2018
(Updated 7:52am 14th April 2018)

Temporary changes have been made to bus stops in Preston City Centre, as part of the latest stage of improvement work to create a more welcoming and attractive city centre.

Bus stops on Lancaster Road opposite Jacson Street have closed while improvement work is carried out on the section between Jacson Street and Church Street.

Until these stops re-open, passengers are encouraged to catch their bus from the nearby bus station.

The work is expected to be completed in the summer. Local road diversions will be in place during this time.



Local businesses and bus companies have been consulted in advance about this work.

Funding for this improvement work has come from the Growth Deal, and as part of Lancashire County Council's contribution to the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

A spokesperson for the county council said: **"We apologise to people for any disruption while this improvement work is carried out.**

"People will need to head to the bus station to catch their bus, until the new bus shelters have been installed and they re-open.

"Businesses are expected to remain open during this work. When we're carrying out work directly outside people's doors, the work has been planned to fit around their opening hours where we can. This should reduce any disruption, as we did during the Fishergate improvement work."



This latest stage of improvement work includes parts of Lancaster Road, Jacson Street, Lord Street and a section of Tithebarn Street.

The overall work is being carried out in several stages, running through to summer 2019. This will include new pavements, lighting, benches, bins and a new road surface.

Once finished, these improvements will run alongside some of the city's most well-known buildings including the Guild Hall, the Harris Museum and Library and the Town Hall.

Graham Cowley, Chair of the LEP's Growth Deal Management Board, said: **"The improvement works to Lancaster Road, which have been funded by the LEP's Growth Deal, are part of a wider integrated scheme which will make central Preston easier to navigate.** They will also improve the connectivity between key city assets such as the University of Central Lancashire's new Engineering Innovation Centre, the regenerated Guild Hall, and Preston's iconic bus station. Overall the scheme is designed to help boost Preston city centre's economic growth, creating new jobs in the process."

The Park & Ride bus stops on Jacson Street have temporarily relocated to Stand G on Church Street, outside the Evoque nightclub.

The bus stops on Lancaster Road, directly outside the town hall, have closed permanently.



14.04.18



NORTH WEST
Place

10 May 2018

17.04.18

Deals start to flow at Burnley business park

17 Apr 2018, 08:00

Four units have been disposed of at Vision Park in Burnley, following the completion of the phase one industrial units in February, with deals close on a further three units.

The first phase units are billed as industrial starter spaces and grow-on units of between 1,500 sq ft and 5,000 sq ft, with 34,500 sq ft built out in total.

Long leasehold deals have been agreed with aerospace supplier Protocol Precision Engineering and Blackburn Distributions, while 12-month leases have been signed by Bates Box Power and gluten-free specialist Good Food 2 Go.

Two units are under offer with FloControl, while Unit 14 has been reserved under deposit by Production Print Direct, which will be taking a five-year lease.

Trebor Developments is the delivery partner of Burnley Council on the whole of Vision Park, which sits off Princess Way between junction 11 of the M65 and the town centre, close to the Burnley College UCLan site. As part of the Burnley Knowledge Quarter, Vision Park is to comprise up to 130,000 sq ft when complete. Trebor was selected in 2014.

The scheme is supported by a £1.7m loan from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal and will be managed by Burnley Council.



L-R Richard Keelty, Head of Google Digital Garage, Phil Smith, Chair of Innovate UK and The Tech Partnership, LEP director Mike Blackburn OBE and Lisa Moizer, Strategic Coordinator, Lancashire Skills

DIGITAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES IN LANGASHIRE

A government scheme to boost digital skills has been launched in Lancashire.

The UK's first Digital Skills Partnership is being piloted by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in the county, in partnership with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP's) Skills and Employment Hub.

The approach will help identify gaps in digital skills provision in Lancashire, encourage partners to work strategically together to address them and attract investment from outside bodies.

Google, TSB and Lloyds have all agreed to give more support to digital skills training in Lancashire through the partnership. Google has committed to working with local partners to train 1,000 people and businesses through its Google Digital Garage programme.

Improving skill levels in this key sector of the economy will help support the LEP's strategic aim to boost countywide job creation and fuel economic growth.

The initiative was announced at The Lancashire Digital Skills Summit, an event focusing on tech skills in Preston. The summit showcased the work under way to improve digital skills and discussed what further steps were needed.

A total of 43 key local partners signed up to the partnership on the day, including local digital businesses, the three universities, colleges, schools, Digital Lancashire and Lancashire County Council.

Richard Keelty, head of Google Digital Garage, commented: "We've seen first-hand the value the Digital Skills Partnership can bring at a national level, so we're excited to be a part of the UK's first local digital skills partnership.

"Working with our local partners and the Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership, the Google Digital Garage will provide free training to help people and businesses across Lancashire harness the power of the web to grow their skills, careers, and businesses. We encourage everyone, whatever your level of experience, to make the most of the free digital coaching on offer."

Phil Smith, chair of Innovate UK and The Tech Partnership, said: "As Chair of Innovate UK, and Tech Partnership, I am acutely aware of the importance of digital skills for a dynamic and productive economy.

"The Digital Skills Partnership will support local partnerships, like Lancashire, to coordinate and develop innovative programmes, and will help promote collaboration between local and national organisations, so that programmes are delivered in areas where they will have the greatest impact."

LEP director Mike Blackburn OBE, said: "In the last few years we have invested millions in the learning infrastructure through Growth Deal funds and vocational training through European Social Funds and also other initiatives, so we are delighted to have established the first Local Digital Skills Partnership in the country."

Director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, said: "We have worked with local partners to identify skills and employment opportunities across Lancashire and digital has been identified as a priority sector.

"We are now working across the county to create a pipeline of new talent, support businesses, and establish an inclusive approach to workforce development. This collaboration between local and national partners means we can do so much more to inspire our next generation and address the current digital skills gap."

The creative economy in Lancashire – which is dominated by digital, creative, software and computer science businesses - employs 36,000 people and is worth £1.3bn in GVA.

BQ

20.04.18



L-R: Richard Keelty (Google Digital Garage), Phil Smith (Innovate UK/The Tech Partnership), Mike Blackburn (LEP) and Lisa Moizer (Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub)



EDITOR

Richard Bell
20 APR 2018

Lancashire chosen for UK's first Digital Skills Partnership

Lancashire will serve as the testbed for a new government scheme to boost digital skills.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is piloting the Digital Skills Partnership in collaboration with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP's) Skills and Employment Hub.

It is hoped the initiative will identify gaps in the county's digital skills provision, encourage partners to work together to address them and attract investment from outside bodies.

Through the Digital Skills Partnership, tech giant Google and banks TSB and Lloyds have committed to providing more support to digital skills training in the area.

Google's support will include working with local partners as it trains 1,000 people and businesses through its Google Digital Garage programme.

The Digital Skills Partnership was announced at The Lancashire Digital Skills Summit in Preston. Held at the headquarters of ecommerce company EKM, the event showcased work already underway to enhance digital skills in the county and discussed what steps were needed.

In total, 43 Lancashire businesses, charities and public bodies signed up on the day – among them the county's three universities, Digital Lancashire, Lancashire County Council, various schools and a raft of digital-focused SMEs.

LEP director Mike Blackburn OBE said: "In the last few years we have invested millions in the learning infrastructure through Growth Deal funds and vocational training through European Social Funds and also other initiatives, so we are delighted to have established the first Local Digital Skills Partnership in the country.

"Digital industries are clearly set to be a key sector for driving economic growth and creating new jobs in Lancashire, and this is another example of the LEP's commitment to improving skills in order to unlock opportunities and realise the county's commercial potential in this area."

Lancashire's creative economy is worth £1.3bn annually and employs 36,000 people.

But a recent survey found that 57% of fast-growing businesses in the county are struggling to find technically capable staff with advanced IT or software skills.

Businesses to focus on digital skills via new partnership



A pioneering Government scheme to boost digital skills has been launched in Lancashire.

The UK's first Digital Skills Partnership is being piloted by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in Lancashire, in partnership with the Lancashire [Enterprise](#) Partnership Skills and Employment Hub.

The ground-breaking new initiative was announced at the recent Lancashire Digital Skills Summit, an [event](#) focusing on tech skills in Preston, at which some of Lancashire's most high-profile businesses, charities and public bodies signed up to the partnership.

It aims to identify gaps in digital skills provision in the county, encourage partners to work strategically together to address them and attract investment from outside bodies.

The aim is improve skills to help grow the economy, to have greater impact and be more effective and sustainable over the long term.

Google, TSB and Lloyds have all agreed to give more support to digital skills training in Lancashire through the partnership. Google has committed to working with local partners to train 1,000 people and businesses through its Google Digital Garage programme.

Richard Keelty, head of Google Digital Garage, said: "We've seen first-hand the [value](#) the Digital Skills Partnership can bring at a national level, so we're excited to be a part of the UK's first local digital skills partnership."

LEP [director](#) Mike Blackburn OBE, said: "In the last few years we have invested millions in the learning infrastructure through Growth Deal funds and vocational training through European Social Funds and also other initiatives, so we are delighted to have established the first Local Digital Skills Partnership in the country."

"Digital industries are clearly set to be a key sector for driving economic growth and creating new jobs in Lancashire, and this is another example of the LEP's commitment to improving skills in order to unlock [opportunities](#) and realise the county's commercial potential in this area."

Director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, said: "We have worked with local partners to identify skills and employment opportunities across Lancashire and digital has been identified as a priority sector."

"We are now working across the county to create a pipeline of new talent, support businesses, and establish an inclusive approach to workforce development. This collaboration between local and national partners means we can do so much more to inspire our next generation and address the current digital skills gap."

The Gazette 

20.04.18

£4.9m facelift and flood defence boost for Padiham



A HISTORIC town has been given a £4.9million grant to protect it from flooding a improve the look of its central area.

The cash for Padiham from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership will also clear the way for the development of 250 homes on the former Baxi Potterton factory site in Wyre Street.

Much of the money will be spent on flood defences along the River Calder and Green Brook to protect the town from any repeat of the Boxing Day 2015 floods which devastated the centre.

They are also essential to the housing scheme on the Baxi site going ahead.

The remainder will be used to expand and enhance the existing £2million 'Crafting the Future' Townscape Heritage Initiative on 'The Hill' stretching up Church Street from the Town Hall to the Slade Lane roundabout.

It will improve the look of historic buildings and roads creating an area of special architectural interest to help existing traders and attract new businesses to the town centre.

The £4.9 million was approved by the LEP board from its Local Growth Fund last night/ Tuesday night.

Burnley Council leader Cllr Mark Townsend said: "This is fantastic news and a massive boost for Padiham. It shows confidence that the town has a bright and prosperous future to go with its historic past."

Liberal Democrat group leader Cllr **Gordon Birtwistle** said: "This is excellent news for the town. The flood defence work is essential to turn the long-derelict Baxi site into housing."

Burnley Council chief executive Mick Cartledge said: "I'd like to thank the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership for giving these schemes, and Padiham as a whole, a massive boost.

"This is a significant investment and a major step in helping develop new flood defences, create almost 250 new high-quality homes, and attract new businesses and investment by improving the look and vitality of the town centre linking into the THI on 'The Hill!'"

Graham Cowley, chair of the LEP's Growth Deal Board, said: "By supporting the 'North-West Burnley Growth Corridor' in Padiham we are not only helping to protect existing residential and commercial premises, we are ensuring the area can accommodate more growth and investment in the future."

Mr Cowley added: "The Local Growth Fund is an enabling investment initiative designed to support a wide range of projects and programmes across the whole of the county."

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

25.04.18

Cash floods in to Padiham



Vital cash has been secured to create flood defences and new homes in Padiham.

The board of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has approved £4.9m. of funding that will help to prevent a repeat of the disastrous Boxing Day 2015 floods in the town, but also create up to 250 new high quality [homes](#) on a former industrial site in the town centre.

The schemes to receive the money will see:

- Flood defences along the River Calder and Green Brook, protecting existing premises and enabling the development of homes on the former Baxi site;
- Public realm improvements to the town centre.

Burnley Council chief executive Mick Cartledge said: "I'd like to thank the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership for its support in giving these schemes, and Padiham as a whole, a massive boost.

"Burnley Council has been working closely with the Environment Agency, Homes England, Lancashire County Council and the LEP to bring forward a strong case for funding and all that hard work has paid off.

"This is a significant investment in the town and a major step in helping to develop new flood defences, create almost 250 new high quality homes, and attract new businesses and investment by improving the look and vitality of the town centre by linking into the ongoing Townscape Heritage Initiative on 'The Hill'.

"The borough council will continue to work with partners to continue to drive forward the delivery of these important projects."

The LEP's funding has come from the Local Growth Fund, a multi-million pound investment programme for Lancashire which seeks to drive economic growth, create high value jobs and help build new homes.

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "The Local Growth Fund is an enabling investment initiative designed to support a wide range of projects and programmes across the whole of the county.

"By supporting the North West Burnley Growth Corridor in Padiham we are not only helping to protect existing residential and commercial premises, we are also ensuring that the area can accommodate more growth and investment in the future."

Burnley
Express

25.04.18

Back to the past as the tracks of time collide



Tram tracks have been uncovered on Talbot Road outside the Town Hall

Part of Blackpool's tramway history came back to life during the ongoing £22m extension work to link up with Blackpool North Station.

As Talbot Road was dug up, in preparation for the laying of new tram tracks on the road, a section of the old tracks which used to be there many decades was uncovered.

It was an unexpected reminder of how things used to be in the [resort](#) – and provided a taste of how things will be again.

Our pictures show how the old tracks used to look and how they look now, exhumed for the first time in decades.

Preparation work began at the end of last year for the ambitious and controversial project, which will see the track being extended from North Pier to North Station, re-establishing a link which ceased operation in 1936.

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

And two new trams are also being [purchased](#) by Blackpool Transport to bring its Flexity fleet to 18 in total.

The tramway extension is being funded through the Lancashire Growth Deal.

The Gazette

27.04.18

Work to start on final Blackpool bridge repair



Work will begin next month to repair Devonshire Road Bridge as part of an £11.3m project to upgrade bridges across Blackpool.

Supporting steel beams which have corroded over time will be replaced as part of the scheme with [work](#) beginning on Monday June 4.

It is expected to take 15 weeks to complete the [project](#) and during that time Devonshire Road will be closed to southbound traffic between Clarendon Road and Mansfield Road.

Drivers will be diverted along Warbreck Hill Road, Plymouth Road, Poulton Road, Westcliffe Drive and Talbot Road.

Pedestrian access to the bridge will be maintained at all times and businesses on Devonshire Road will be open as usual.

Devonshire Road Bridge is the last one in the programme to be repaired with other major investment having already taken place including at Crossley's Bridge in Layton and Harrowside and Squires Gate bridges in South Shore.

Coun Fred Jackson (left), Blackpool Council cabinet member for highways, said: "It is essential this work is undertaken to keep key bridge access open to road users travelling around Blackpool whether it be to work, shop or enjoy our many fabulous attractions.

"All of this work and other investment around the town is focused on making Blackpool better so we ask residents and commuters to bear with us as we progress towards that goal."

The footway will also be resurfaced and cladding on [brickwork](#) under the bridge will be cleaned.

Funding for the Blackpool bridge improvement programme is made up of contributions from Blackpool Council, the Department for Transport and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

In the last three years the LEP has secured £320m of Growth Deal investment.

The investment programme began in 2015 when the bridge which carries Yeadon Way over Princess Street was demolished and replaced.

The Gazette

08.05.18

Date revealed for Blackpool's Devonshire Road Bridge repairs

News Home More from Local

Tuesday, May 8th, 2018 10:30am



Essential work at Devonshire Road Bridge will start on Monday 4 June, 5am as Blackpool's major bridges improvement programme moves into its final stages.

Devonshire Road Bridge is the last bridge in a significant programme of investment which has seen a number of the town's key bridges modernised as part of a £11.3m project to ensure they remain safe in the future.

Refurbishment work at Devonshire Road Bridge will involve repairing supporting steel beams that have corroded over time so that the bridge will stay open for years to come.

The footway will be resurfaced and cleaning and cladding of brickwork under the bridge will also take place to provide a cleaner, brighter bridge for all.



While the work is being undertaken Devonshire Road will be closed to southbound traffic between Claremont Road and Mansfield Road from Monday 4 June at 5am.

To help traffic flow road users travelling southbound will be diverted along Warbreck Hill Road, Plymouth Road, Poulton Road, Westcliffe Drive and Talbot Road. (See attached map).

Pedestrian access to the bridge will be maintained at all times and businesses on Devonshire Road will be open as usual.

The works are expected to last for 15 weeks (weather permitting).

Cllr Fred Jackson, Blackpool Council Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "It is essential that this work is undertaken to keep key bridge access open to road users travelling into and around Blackpool whether it be to work, shop or enjoy our many fabulous attractions.

"All of this work and other investment around the town is focussed on making Blackpool better so we ask residents and commuters to bear with us as we progress towards that goal."

Funding for the Blackpool bridge improvement programme is made up of contributions from Blackpool Council, the Department for Transport and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

For more information on the works and to keep up-to-date with the bridges improvement programme visit www.blackpool.gov.uk/Bridges.



Breathing new life into resort homes



Blackpool Housing Company completed its largest renovation project to date. The company, wholly owned by Blackpool Council but operating independently with its own board of directors, secured an initial £26m in funding through the Lancashire Growth Deal. More than £12.5m has been invested, acquiring almost 60 poor quality and 'end of life' hotels, guest houses and Housing in Multiple Occupation, which it has so far converted into more than 150 homes to rent.

LANCASHIREBUSINESSVIEW

May/June 2018

Flood defences coming to Padiham



Padiham

A multi-million pound boost for two major infrastructure schemes in Padiham is set to take another step forward.

It follows the decision by the board of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to approve £4.9m. funding that will support the delivery of major infrastructure works at sites in the town.

The schemes are:

Flood defences along the River Calder and Green Brook, protecting existing premises and enabling the development of homes on the former Baxi site

Public realm improvements that will improve and enhance the town centre, aimed at increasing footfall and attracting new retailers

Burnley Council's Executive Committee is recommended to delegate authority to senior officers to complete the legal agreements with partners in order for the schemes to progress, when it meets on June 5th.

The LEP's funding came from the Local Growth Fund, a multi-million pound investment programme for Lancashire which seeks to drive economic growth, create high value jobs and help build new homes.

The total cost of the schemes is £7.9m. with the remaining funding coming from the Environment Agency and the Padiham Townscape Heritage scheme.

Coun. Sue Graham, the council's Executive member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This is a massive boost for Padiham. The projects will help protect the town from future flooding while, at the same time, unlocking the development of 240 homes on the former Baxi site.

"It will also support the work to protect Padiham historical heart on 'The Hill' through the Townscape Heritage project. This is about looking ahead to an exciting future for Padiham whilst, at the same time, helping to protect its past.

"Once again I'd like to thank the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, as well as partners such as the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council, for their support."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "The Local Growth Fund is an enabling investment initiative designed to support a wide range of projects and programmes across the whole of the county.

"By supporting the North West Burnley Growth Corridor in Padiham we are not only helping to protect existing residential and commercial premises, we are also ensuring that the area can accommodate more growth and investment in the future."

Burnley
Express

25.05.18



Homes England has already started demolition work on the former factory in Padiham

Homes England brings forward Baxi site after £5m funding boost

29 May 2018, 14:52

A £4.9m funding package is due to be agreed to help overhaul the former Baxi site in Padiham, which could deliver up to 240 new homes, ahead of Homes England seeking a development partner later this year.

The Baxi site has been earmarked for redevelopment since the heating equipment factory closed more than 10 years ago, but the brownfield site has remained vacant ever since. The site is liable to flooding and has been declared commercially unviable to redevelop as a result.

Now, however, the Homes England, which purchased the majority of the site last year, is looking to bring forward up to 240 new homes on the site with the help of a grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Fund alongside £2.8m from the Environment Agency.

The LEP is due to provide £3m of funding, which is expected to be signed off next week by Burnley Council. This will be used to build flood defences along the river Calder, which will protect the Baxi site as well as 92 existing homes and 77 businesses from flooding.

Homes England is in negotiations with the landowner to purchase the rest of the site, and has already started demolition work to clear the site by this summer.

Once this completes, Homes England will develop a masterplan for the site and will look to appoint a development partner to build out the scheme.

Also part of the scheme are proposals to improve public realm in Padiham town centre in a bid to increase footfall and encourage uptake of empty retail units.

The LEP will provide £1.9m towards this part of the project alongside £180,000 from Padiham Townscape Heritage Funding, and will primarily focus on public realm works running between the St Leonards roundabout to the Tesco roundabout on Burnley Road.

This includes public art, footpath widening, and landscaping, which the council said would "aim to bring back traditional life and vitality to the historic core and renew the appreciation of the town's rich heritage".

It is also intended to tie in with the proposed works to the Baxi site, and works are expected to start in January 2019 with a completion date of March 2020.

Burnley Council's executive is set to sign off the funding package at a meeting on 5 June.

NORTH WEST
Place

May 29th 2018

31st May

£4.9million Padiham improvement grant set to be approved

Ciaran Duggan [@CiaranDugganLT](#)

Reporter



The board of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) have approved £4.9 million funding that would support the delivery of major infrastructure works at sites in Padiham



0 comments

A MULTI-MILLION pound boost for two major infrastructure schemes in a town is set to take another step forward.

Burnley Council's executive board will consider a £4.9million grant from Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which will support the delivery of major infrastructure works at sites in the town.

The LEP's funding came from the Local Growth Fund, a multi-million pound investment programme for Lancashire which seeks to drive economic growth, create high-value jobs and help build new homes.

The proposed funds will support the creation of flood defences along the River Calder and Green Brook, protecting existing premises and enabling the development of 240 homes on the former Baxi site.

If the grant is approved, there will also be public realm improvements to improve and enhance the town centre, aimed at increasing footfall and attracting new retailers.

The total cost of the schemes will be £7.9million, with the remaining funding coming from the Environment Agency and the Padiham Townscape Heritage Scheme.

Burnley Council's executive, which is due to meet at Burnley Town Hall on June 5, has been recommended to approve the grant and delegate authority to senior officers to complete the legal agreements with partners.

Cllr Sue Graham, the council's executive member for regeneration and economic development, said: "The projects will help protect the town from future flooding and will also support the work to protect Padiham's historical heart on 'The Hill' through the Townscape Heritage project.

"This is about looking ahead to an exciting future for Padiham while, at the same time, helping to protect its past."

Graham Cowley, chair of the LEP's growth deal management board, said: "By supporting the North West Burnley Growth Corridor in Padiham we are not only helping to protect existing residential and commercial premises we are also ensuring that the area can accommodate more growth and investment in the future."

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

31.05.18

Another step forward for Padiham investment



9:30am 29th May 2018

A multi-million pound boost for two major infrastructure schemes in Padiham is set to take another step forward

It follows the decision by the board of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to approve **£4.9 million funding** that will support the delivery of major infrastructure works at sites in the town.

The schemes are:

- **Flood defences along the River Calder** and Green Brook, protecting existing premises and enabling the development of homes on the former Baxi site
- Public realm improvements that will improve and enhance the town centre aimed at increasing footfall and attracting new retailers



Burnley Council's executive is recommended to delegate authority to senior officers to complete the legal agreements with partners in order for the schemes to progress, when it meets on 5th June.

The LEP's funding came from the Local Growth Fund, a multi-million pound investment programme for Lancashire which seeks to drive economic growth, create high value jobs and help build new homes.

The total cost of the schemes is £7.9 million with the remaining funding coming from the Environment Agency and the Padiham Townscape Heritage scheme.



Councillor Sue Graham, the council's executive member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This is a massive boost for Padiham. The projects will help protect the town from future flooding while, at the same time, unlocking the development of 240 homes on the former Baxi site. It will also support the work to protect Padiham historical heart on 'The Hill' through the Townscape Heritage project.

"This is about looking ahead to an exciting future for Padiham whilst, at the same time, helping to protect its past.

"Once again I'd like to thank the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, as well as partners such as the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council, for their support."



31.05.18

5th June

£4.9million Padiham improvement grant approved by Burnley Council



Burnley Council's executive board has approved a £4.9 million grant that would support the delivery of major infrastructure works at sites in Padiham

A MULTI-MILLION pound boost for two major infrastructure schemes in a town has taken a 'major' step forward.

The executive board at Burnley Council have accepted a grant of £4.9million from Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which will support the delivery of two major infrastructure works in Padiham.

The funds will support the creation of flood defences along the River Calder, which will enable the development of 240 homes on the former Baxi site.

Deputy leader Cllr John Harbour, the executive member for housing and environment and a member of Padiham Town Council, said the money will make a 'major' difference in the town.

He said: "I'm pleased with the work done around this area in the last couple of years. It has been fantastic.

"The deal is the icing on the cake - it will help bring in money for flood defences and public realm improvements.

"The money will make a major difference to Padiham and the sooner we get going on the project the better."

The total cost of the Padiham schemes will be close to £8million, with the remaining funding coming from the Environment Agency and the Padiham Townscape Heritage Scheme.

The LEP's funding has come from the Local Growth Fund, a multi-million pound investment programme for Lancashire which seeks to drive economic growth, help build homes and create 'high-value' jobs.

Graham Cowley, chair of the LEP's growth deal management board, previously said: "By supporting the North West Burnley Growth Corridor in Padiham we are not only helping to protect existing residential and commercial premises we are also ensuring that the area can accommodate more growth and investment in the future."

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

05.06.18



The project will improve the environment around Padiham's derelict Baxi site

A package to overhaul the site, which could deliver a vital 240 homes in the area, has been agreed, which will allow Homes England to progress its search for a development partner. The regeneration body purchased the majority of the site last year and is in the process of demolition.

The LEP is also providing funding for flood defences that will protect the Baxi site, along with 92 existing homes and 77 businesses.

NORTH WEST
Place

06.07.18

Padiham public realm spend approved

6 Jul 2018, 11:14

A £2m package to improve public realm in the Lancashire town, linking with the development of the former Baxi site, has been confirmed.

Lancashire County Council, as the highway authority, will manage the design, delivery and payment for the works along Burnley Road, which are being funded by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership following a successful application by Burnley Council.

The works primarily focus on the stretch running between the St Leonards roundabout to the Tesco roundabout on Burnley Road.

This includes public art, footpath widening, and landscaping, which the council said would "aim to bring back traditional life and vitality to the historic core and renew the appreciation of the town's rich heritage".

It is also intended to tie in with the proposed works to the Baxi site, and works are expected to start in January 2019 with a completion date of March 2020.

Heating equipment manufacturer Baxi departed the site 10 years ago and it has remained unused since, becoming prone to flooding.

7th June

£8million town centre improvement schemes set to be completed by 2020



TWO major schemes in a town could be completed by 2020 following a multi-million pound grant.

The executive board at Burnley Council has accepted a grant of £4.9million from Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which will support the delivery of two major infrastructure works in Padiham.

The funds will support the creation of 240 new homes on the former Baxi site, protect Padiham town centre from future flooding and 'reinvigorate Padiham as a **retail** destination'.

A total of 160 properties were flooded in Padiham during the Boxing Day floods of 2015 and new flood defences will be created along the River Calder and Green Brook, along with flood defence walls across the town.

The Environment Agency has said the new scheme would protect 92 homes and 77 businesses in Padiham from 'significant' flood risk.

Padiham's town centre will also get a facelift that is hoped will increase footfall and in turn will help to reduce the number of shop vacancies.

Footpaths will be widened and new traffic-calming measures will start at the St Leonard's mini roundabout and run to the **Tesco** roundabout, near Wyre Street.

Deputy leader Cllr John Harbour, the executive member for housing, and a member of Padiham Town Council, said the money will make a major difference in the town.

He said: "The money will make a major difference to Padiham and the sooner we get going on the project the better."

The LEP's funding has come from the Local Growth Fund, a multi-million pound investment programme for Lancashire which seeks to drive economic growth, help build homes and create 'high-value' jobs.

Congestion-busting upgrades in Burnley mark latest phase of Growth Deal



8:52am 9th July 2018

Improvements to key junctions in the centre of Burnley mark the latest phase of an ongoing programme of investments to reduce congestion and boost economic growth.

Four junctions along **Active Way**, at **Church Street**, **Bank Top**, **Royal Road** and **Westgate** have been upgraded with high-tech traffic lights.

Two pedestrian crossings on **Active Way** and one on **Princess Way** have also been modernised. One outside **Burnley College** is the first of its kind in Lancashire, featuring countdown timers telling people how long they have left to cross.

The work is part of the **Burnley Pendle Hyndburn Growth Corridor programme** which aims to cut congestion on the **M65** and at key access points for business, skills and housing sites which are earmarked for future growth.

The £13m package extending from M65 Junction 7 at Accrington to Junction 13 at Barrowford is part of the £250m Growth Deal secured from government by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and includes contributions from Lancashire County Council and Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn councils.



Graham Cowley, chair of the **Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal** Management Board, said: "The Growth Deal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in ensuring our transport infrastructure has the capacity to support future economic growth.

"The aim of these schemes in **Burnley** is to improve access and reduce delay from the motorway through the Westgate and Active Way corridor to ensure that companies looking to invest in this area have the confidence that their goods and employees will be able to move efficiently.

Burnley Council leader Mark Townsend added: "I welcome this investment into improving **Burnley's** road system. The new traffic light systems will help ease the flow of traffic through the town centre, cutting journey times and reducing pollution. We're working hard to attract more people to come to **Burnley** and it's important that we continue to make sure our roads can cope with increasing traffic."

The pedestrian crossing with the countdown timer aims to improve safety by alerting students, who may be walking together in large groups and not giving their full attention to the road, when the lights are due to change.

The growth corridor schemes have also included improvements to cycling and pedestrian facilities to support people in considering alternatives to using their car for shorter journeys.

The improvements to traffic light junctions on **Active Way** marks the completion of 11 of the 16 pieces of work in the overall **Growth Corridor programme** which represent a £2.3m investment in **Burnley**.



Congestion-busting upgrades in Burnley helping town grow



At the new 'countdown' pedestrian crossing outside Burnley College, Graham Cowley, chair of LEP Growth Deal Management Board, John Gatheral and Martin Porter, LCC highways design team, Coun. Mark Townsend, leader of Burnley Council, County Coun. Aidy Riggott, LCC lead member for economic development and cultural services.

Improvements to key junctions in the centre of Burnley mark the latest phase of an ongoing programme of investments to reduce congestion and boost economic growth.

Four junctions along Active Way, at Church Street, Bank Top, Royal Road and Westgate have been upgraded with high-tech traffic lights.

Two pedestrian crossings in [Active](#) Way and one in Princess Way have also been modernised. One outside Burnley College is the first of its kind in Lancashire, featuring countdown timers telling people how long they have left to cross.

The work is part of the Burnley Pendle Hyndburn Growth Corridor programme which aims to cut congestion on the M65 and at key access points for business, skills and housing sites which are earmarked for future growth.

The £13m package extending from M65 Junction 7 at Accrington to Junction 13 at Barrowford is part of the £250m Growth Deal secured from government by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, and includes contributions from Lancashire County Council and Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn councils.

Graham Cowley, chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "The Growth Deal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in ensuring our transport infrastructure has the capacity to support future economic growth.

"The aim of these schemes in Burnley is to [improve](#) access and reduce delay from the motorway through the Westgate and Active Way corridor to ensure that companies looking to invest in this area have the confidence that their goods and employees will be able to move efficiently.

County Coun. Aidy Riggott, Lancashire County Council lead member for economic development and cultural services, said: "These latest improvements to junctions in the centre of Burnley will aid movement around town centre in general, but with a particular focus on improving access to sites such as Burnley College, the UCLan campus, and the Heasondford Industrial Estate.

"In and around Burnley earlier schemes have already resulted in improvements at M65 junction 10, Gannow Top and Barrack roundabouts, and the Trafalgar Street/Westgate junction."

Burnley Council leader Mark Townsend added: "I welcome this investment into improving Burnley's road system. The new traffic light systems will [help](#) ease the flow of traffic through the town centre, cutting journey times and reducing pollution. We're working hard to attract more people to come to Burnley and it's important that we continue to make sure our roads can cope with increasing traffic."

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Burnley
Express

09.07.18

Bacup celebrates official opening of Britannia Greenway

It is part of a major new cycling and walking route to link areas in East Lancashire



Britannia Greenway official opening

Bacup celebrated the official opening of the Britannia Greenway, part of a major new cycling and walking route being developed to link areas throughout East Lancashire.

Local people gathered to process along the 1km route from New Line Picnic Site on their bikes, horses, scooters, and on foot.

Mid-Pennine Arts hosted an event at the picnic site featuring strolling performers, activities for children, and a story teller, with music from Whitworth and Healey Brass Band.

People also had the chance to decorate their chosen form of transport, or themselves, before setting out on the route.

Rossendale Free Press

10.07.18

The opening of the greenway saw a ribbon cutting performed by Lancashire County Council cabinet member Coun Michael Green.

It marks the completion of the first section of the Valley of Stone route, one of four routes which make up the East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway project.

This will create 23km of new multi-user routes and improve 95km of existing routes in East Lancashire by 2020.

Total funding for the project is £5.85m as part of the £250m Growth Deal secured from government by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with local contributions from Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council.

The Britannia Greenway belongs to Rossendale Borough Council.



County Coun Green said: "I'm very pleased to be able to open one of the first sections of this cycle network, which will make a real difference to people's travel options, encourage healthy lifestyles, and help to boost the economy.

"The aim is to create a joined-up network that provides access to workplaces, schools, colleges and other services, as well as creating opportunities for tourism and recreation.

"This investment is allowing us to transform largely old disused railway lines, which in parts are muddy, narrow and difficult to negotiate, into greenways which are great for all sorts of activities.

"They will be places where you can teach a child how to ride their bike, take toddlers for a walk or in a pushchair, use a wheelchair or mobility vehicle, go for a horse ride, bike ride, run, or take a leisurely walk."

Coun Barbara Ashworth, Rossendale Council portfolio holder for health, said: "We have lots of great leisure facilities in Rossendale and this is just another reason to get out and about in the borough and to get active.

"The Britannia Greenway is a wonderful facility away from busy roads which will be used by people of all ages for lots of different activities.

"The Northern Grip mountain bike festival also took place at Lee Quarry at the weekend.

"It was a great celebration of cycling and, who knows, maybe a youngster who learns to ride a bike on the greenway could be showing off their skills at the festival in future."



It has been widened and resurfaced using a flexible surface made from an estimated 10,500 recycled tyres.

This provides excellent grip, whilst being easy on joints for runners and equestrian users.

It is also porous so that water runs through it easily, reducing the risk of standing water and sheet ice in winter.

Future plans for the East Lancashire Cycleway project include restoration and reopening of the disused railway tunnels in Stacksteads, a new cycle and horse-friendly bridge in Stacksteads Country Park and numerous surfacing improvements along the cycleway routes.

Graham Cowley, chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "Improving sustainable transport options is vital to widen access to economic opportunities and this investment will have a real impact by making cycling attractive and accessible to many more people in East Lancashire.

"These schemes complement the multi-million-pound investments which the LEP is already making to deliver the transport infrastructure we need to support our economy and attract further investment into the county."

13th July

Padiham improvement programme all set to go ahead



An image of how Padiham town centre will look

THE final part of the financial jigsaw for a multi-million pound boost for a Lancashire town has been put in place by Lancashire County Council.

Its ruling Cabinet approved the authority's highways department taking charge of £2million-worth of work improving Burnley Road in Padiham.

The scheme will involve widening footways, new pedestrian crossings, the creation of decorative

focal points and decluttering the street scene.

The project is expected to start in forecast start in September 2019 take 12 months.

The cash will come through Burnley Borough Council.

The work is part of a £7.9m scheme to give Padiham a facelift using a £4.9m grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

The scheme will create and improve flood defences enabling the development of 240 homes on the former Baxi site and see public realm improvements to enhance the town centre.

Other funding is coming from the Environment Agency and the Padiham Townscape Heritage Scheme.

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

13.07.18

People in the news: **Dr Sherry Kothari**

Facing up to the healthcare challenge

Lancaster University will welcome a new arrival from down under in September. Dr Sherry Kothari will arrive in the city from Australia to become the first director of its Health Innovation Campus (HIC).

The HIC is a much-anticipated £41m project where experts will work collaboratively with businesses and the health sector to tackle the biggest challenge in healthcare today - helping people to live as long and as healthily as possible.

Dr Kothari is currently the chief executive and managing director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Cell Therapy Manufacturing based in Adelaide.

The \$60m not-for-profit Australian Government initiative brings together industry and academia.

And it is focused on facilitating the manufacture and translation of cell therapies into clinical practice to provide new treatments for conditions such as diabetes, chronic wounds, cardiovascular disease, and immune-mediated diseases such as cancer.

Speaking about her new role she said: "We live in a time of unprecedented

change. Health systems in the UK and globally are under enormous pressure, necessitating innovative approaches across a range of platforms to ensure better health outcomes.

"Lancaster's Health Innovation Campus is an exciting initiative focused on challenging the status quo to bring about meaningful impact to how we manage the future health of our nation."

Dr Kothari started her career in maxillofacial surgery before a PhD in biomaterials and tissue engineering in the UK, followed by an MBA.

Early in her career, she received the Marie Curie Fellowship and was a lecturer at UMIST and Sheffield University.

She has also been recognised in prestigious innovation and leadership awards and was recently invited to join the International Women's Forum, an organisation that advances leadership by connecting the world's most pre-eminent women of significant and diverse achievement.

The university's deputy vice-chancellor Professor Andrew Atherton said of the new director: "Her expertise and experience

will be a huge asset to our team. Through the Health Innovation Campus we intend to generate world-class science in collaboration with partners and make a major contribution to the local and national economy by attracting major investment, supporting job creation and the growth of businesses locally."

HIC is funded by the university, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Fund and the European Structural and Investment Fund.

Construction of the first phase of the building, next to the university's campus, has started on site and is due to open next year.

The HIC aims to create new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions.

And those behind the project say it will have wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies.

Innovations will be targeted around the prevention and early diagnosis of illness and access to care.



East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway



20.07.18

Northern Powerhouse Minister takes to two wheels to explore latest phase of the East Lancashire Cycleway which uses flexible paving made from old tyres

By Phil Ghayour - July 23, 2018



Jake Berry and local partners from the Britannia Greenway cycleway project in Rossendale

Jake Berry, Northern Powerhouse Minister and MP for Rossendale and Darwen, was one of the very first cyclists to try out the latest section of the East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway in his home constituency.

Alongside local cycle enthusiasts, walkers and horse riders, he explored the 1km Britannia Greenway route in Bacup. Britannia Greenway is a section of the 16.5km Valley of Stone cycle path, connecting Rawtenstall to Whitworth.

The Valley of Stone itself is one of four routes which make up the East Lancashire Cycle network, the others being Weavers Wheel around Blackburn, National Cycle Network Route 6 linking Accrington to Stubbins, and the Huncoat Greenway near [Accrington](#).

Primarily funded by Lancashire's Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Local Growth Deal fund, the £5.85m Cycleway programme is on course to deliver 120km of new and improved routes across East Lancashire by 2020.

The aim of the project is to create a joined-up network that will provide improved access to workplaces, schools, colleges, shops and other services, as well as providing tourism and recreational opportunities. The routes are mostly based on old disused railway lines, creating off-road 'greenways'.

In addition to transforming a rough farm track into a smooth and accessible path for cyclists, the Britannia Green section of the Cycleway in Bacup is also suitable for horse riders, walkers, runners, wheelchair users and baby buggies.

This is thanks to an innovative, flexible paving system called Nu-Flex which is constructed from recycled tyres. The material provides excellent grip, whilst being easy on joints for runners and equestrian users. It is also porous so that water runs through it easily, reducing the risk of standing water and sheet ice in winter.

Jake Berry was today joined by representatives of the British Horse Society, Rossendale Harriers running club and the Northern Grip mountain bike festival who have all been partners in the Cycleway project.

Also present was Steve Smith, Managing Director of Nu-Phalt Ltd which is the company that developed the Nu-Flex product. Mr Smith, who is from Penwortham near Preston, has been closely involved in the installation of the flexible paving at the Britannia Greenway site.

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry, said: "The East Lancashire Cycle Network is exactly the type of enabling project which the Government's Growth Fund is intended to support. It will give thousands of people access to a traffic-free network of paths to enjoy a wide range of activities, including cycling, walking and horse riding which will improve public health and reduce the impact on the environment.

"The fact this part of the route is utilising a revolutionary surfacing process, which is made from an estimated 10,500 recycled tyres, also demonstrates how innovative manufacturing can also help unlock economic potential.

"I'm immensely proud that this section of the route has opened in Rossendale, and I'm thrilled that it will be available for my constituents to enjoy for many years to come."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "Supported by £2.6m investment from the LEP's Local Growth Deal fund, the East Lancashire Cycleway Network is on course to deliver 120km of new and improved routes across the area. This means thousands more residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the benefits of cycling, an activity which has been proven to not only boost health and wellbeing but also increase productivity."

"I am therefore delighted that the Northern Powerhouse Minister has had the opportunity to see first-hand how Growth Deal funding is being used by the LEP in Lancashire to drive regeneration and stimulate economic growth through projects like this."

**BUSINESS
LANCASHIRE**

23.07.18



Jake Berry MP and locals on the route. Right - Mr Berry tries out the cycleway



MP uses pedal power to mark cycleway section

ROSSENDALE and Darwen MP Jake Berry donned a helmet to try the latest section of the East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway Network.

The Northern Powerhouse Minister joined bike enthusiasts, walkers and horse-riders, to explore the half-mile Britannia Greenway at Bacup, the final section of The Valley of Stone cycle path, connecting

Rawtenstall to Whitworth as part of the Network.

Once a rough farm track, the Britannia Greenway is now suitable for cyclists, horse-riders, walkers, runners, wheelchair-users and baby buggies.

Primarily funded by Lancashire's Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Deal fund, the overall £5.85million cycleway programme is on course to

deliver 74 miles of new and improved routes across East Lancashire by 2020.

Other routes include The Weavers Wheel around Blackburn

Mr Berry, said: "I'm immensely proud that this section of the route has opened in Rossendale, and I'm thrilled that it will be available for my constituents to enjoy for many years to come."

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

25.07.18

25th July

Jake gets on his bike to promote new Rossendale cycleway



Primarily funded by Lancashire's Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Deal fund, the overall £5.85million cycleway programme is on course to deliver 74 miles of new and improved routes across East Lancashire by 2020.

Other routes include The Weavers Wheel around Blackburn, National Cycle Network Route 6 linking Accrington to Stubbins, and the Huncoat Greenway near Accrington.

Mr Berry, said: "The East Lancashire Cycle Network is exactly the type of enabling project which the government's growth fund is intended to support.

"It will give thousands of people access to a traffic-free network of paths to enjoy a wide range of activities, including cycling, walking and horse riding which will improve public health and reduce the impact on the environment.

"I'm immensely proud that this section of the route has opened in Rossendale, and I'm thrilled that it will be available for my constituents to enjoy for many years to come."

ROSSENDALE and Darwen MP Jake Berry donned a helmet to try out the latest section of the East Lancashire Strategic Cycleway in his home constituency.

The Northern Powerhouse Minister joined local bike enthusiasts, walkers and horse riders, to explore the 0.6 mile-long Britannia Greenway route at Bacup on Friday.

It is the final section of The Valley of Stone cycle path, connecting Rawtenstall to Whitworth part of the East Lancashire Cycle Network.

In addition to transforming a rough farm track into a smooth path for cyclists, the Britannia Greenway is also suitable for horse riders, walkers, runners, wheelchair users and baby buggies.

LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

25.07.18

MP leads the way on new cycle route

ALEX SCAPENS
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ABID to get drivers off the road and using alternative forms of transport has seen 10,000 car tyres shredded and turned into a cycleway. The 1km Britannia

Greenway route, which starts at New Line Picnic site in Bacup, opened this month and one of the first people to try it out was Rossendale MP Jake Berry. Its surface was especially selected as rubber to be softer and less slippy so the path can also give runners, walk-

ers and horse riders an off-road option. The path cost £133,000 and will link to the 16.5km 'Valley of Stone Route' from Rawtenstall to Whitworth in an attempt to help people get active. It is part of the wider £5.85m East Lancs Cycleway programme

which is aiming to create 120km of new or improved routes right across East Lancashire by 2020. Northern Powerhouse Minister Mr Berry, who had a go at cycling part of the route, said: "There are lots of reasons this is important, if we want cleaner air and to move



● MP Jake Berry is joined by horse riders, cyclists and runners at the new Britannia Greenway cycle route

cars off the road we need alternative means of getting around.

"A lot of us want to get healthy and out with our family at places like this and it links Rossendale to other areas.

"The Northern Powerhouse is about improving transport and this does that.

"But it is about more than business, it is about happy, healthy places and green forms of transport.

"This is another thing putting Rossendale on the visitors map and that will pull people into the valley."

Until work started the path was a rough and often muddy farm track.

Its creation was first discussed in 2012, largely through Rossendale Cycle Forum, of which councillor Andy MacNae, Rossendale Council's executive member for leisure and tourism, is a member.

The new rubber surface will drain more easily, meaning less ice in winter, and could now be used at other locations on Lancashire's cycle network.

Coun MacNae said: "It creates a route for kids to get to school on bikes, it goes right by where people live and near plenty of schools.

"It also gives people the option to get out to become fitter and healthier."

Building work begins on £41m Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University



David Read, Head of Growth Delivery North West for ERDF, Vice-Chancellor Prof Mark E. Smith and Graham Cowley, Director, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

A groundbreaking ceremony has taken place to mark the start of building work on the £41m Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University.

The first phase of the new building, adjacent to the main campus, is due to open in autumn 2019.

Health experts will work collaboratively with businesses and the health sector to tackle the biggest challenge in [healthcare](#) today – helping people to live as long and as healthily as possible.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Mark E. Smith said: “The HIC will drive business innovation, creating new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies. It will allow Lancaster’s world-class research to have even greater impact.”

The work of the HIC will focus on enabling people to achieve and sustain optimal health and well-being, to enable early detection and intervention of disease and access to care.

The new director of the Health Innovation Campus, Dr Sherry Kothari, said: “This is an exciting initiative focused on providing innovative solutions to addressing the enormous challenges faced by our healthcare system.

“The HIC will provide a focal point for health care providers to work collaboratively with researchers and companies to bring about meaningful impact to how we manage the future health of our region.”

As well as digital innovation, this will include the design, development and evaluation of healthy places to live and work, improving health systems, and the development of new materials to improve health.

HIC is funded by the university and through the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership’s Growth Deal Fund and the ERDF’s Structural and Investment Fund.

Local Growth Minister and Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry, said: “With Growth Deal funding, this new Health Innovation Campus will establish Lancaster University as a global player in the prevention and [diagnosis](#) of illnesses. It also boosts Lancashire’s reputation within the Northern Powerhouse as a centre for cutting-edge scientific research and digital innovation.”

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP’s Growth Deal Management Board, said: “Healthcare is an emerging economic sector in Lancashire and the Health Innovation Campus is set to act as a dynamic catalyst for the whole region within both health R&D and innovative healthcare practice.

“Further this facility will be accessible to local SMEs who are active within health, wellbeing and related sectors. This means smaller firms will be able to tap into the University’s wealth of knowledge and experience to help them accelerate commercial opportunities, become more competitive and add significant value to the wider Lancashire economy.”

WORK STARTS ON £41M HEALTH INNOVATION CAMPUS

Building work has started on a landmark £41m university health project in Lancaster.

The world-leading **Health Innovation Campus (HIC)** will support 300 county-based SMEs in developing new and innovative digital and technological health solutions.

And Northern Powerhouse minister and Lancashire MP Jake Berry has predicted it will establish the university as a “global player” in the health sector.

The first phase of the new building, which is next to the main campus, is due to open in autumn next year. A ground-breaking ceremony was held to mark the start of the construction phase.

Once open experts at the HIC will work collaboratively with businesses and the sector to tackle the biggest challenge in healthcare today – helping people to live as long and as healthily as possible.

Lancaster vice-chancellor Professor Mark E Smith said the HIC would play a regional role in health by “engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies”.

And he added: “It will allow Lancaster’s world-class research to have even greater impact.”

HIC’s new director Dr Sherry Kothari said: “This is an exciting initiative focused on providing innovative solutions to addressing the enormous challenges faced by our healthcare system.

“The HIC will provide a focal point for health care providers to work collaboratively with researchers and companies to bring about meaningful impact to how we manage the future health of our region.”



Partnership’s (LEP) Growth Deal Fund and the ERDF’s Structural and Investment Fund.

Local growth minister and minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry, said: “This new Health Innovation Campus will establish Lancaster University as a global player in the prevention and diagnosis of illnesses.

LANCASHIRE **BUSINESS** VIEW

09.08.18

Local growth minister and minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry, said: “This new Health Innovation Campus will establish Lancaster University as a global player in the prevention and diagnosis of illnesses.

“It also boosts Lancashire’s reputation within the Northern Powerhouse as a centre for cutting-edge scientific research and digital innovation.”

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP’s Growth Deal Management Board, said of the university health project: “Healthcare is an emerging economic sector in Lancashire and the Health Innovation Campus is set to act as a dynamic catalyst for the whole region within both health R&D and innovative healthcare practice.

“Further this facility will be accessible to local SMEs who are active within health, wellbeing and related sectors.

“This means smaller firms will be able to tap into the university’s wealth of knowledge and experience to help them accelerate commercial opportunities, become more competitive and add significant value to the wider Lancashire economy.”

Chairman to step down from county's county's economic growth body



Booths supermarket supremo Edwin Booth has announced he will be stepping down from his role as chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

He was appointed its first chairman in 2011, and his leadership has seen it become one of the strongest performing enterprise partnerships in the country which has overseen more than £1bn of investment into Lancashire..

Under his tenure the LEP has secured a raft of inward investment projects including the £320m Growth Deal – the largest secured outside the core city regions, the £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, the Lancashire Enterprise Zone cluster programme, the £20m Growing Places Investment Fund, Boost, Lancashire's business growth hub, which has worked with nearly 5,000 local SMEs and created over 1,500 new jobs.and established Transport for Lancashire.

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Edwin for his contribution and commitment to the Lancashire LEP and for the significant impact his leadership has had on the local area. I wish him well for the future as the leader of one of the most iconic businesses in the Northern Powerhouse – Booths."

Mr Booth, who will stay on to help find a successor, said: "It has been a great honour to lead the LEP, working with a dedicated group of directors, but most of all working on behalf of the people of Lancashire. Some of the most rewarding projects that I have been involved in are those that link businesses with young people to help raise their aspirations.

"I am proud of what we have achieved, but we are now moving into the next phase of local enterprise partnerships, and we need someone to lead the LEP into another phase of success. Much as it is tempting for me to stay and try to do just that, I think it is time to hand the baton on to a new business leader.

"However, I am committed to staying on as chairman until the end of the year and will support the succession process that will begin shortly.

"I am confident that we will find the right person and they, and the rest of the LEP Board, will have my full support as they drive forward the continued growth of Lancashire."

County Councillor Geoff Driver, Leader of Lancashire County Council and also an LEP Director, said: "Edwin is a true Lancastrian. His passion, drive and commitment to the LEP has seen it become one of the most successful and effective in the country.

"We want to thank Edwin for his vision and his collaborative leadership, and we want to celebrate what he has helped to achieve over the last seven years."

The Gazette 

12.09.18

EDWIN BOOTH TO STEP DOWN AS LEP CHAIR

Edwin Booth will step down as chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership after a seven-year tenure which has seen the county draw in more than £1bn of investment.



Edwin, who is also executive chairman of the Booths Supermarket chain, was appointed as the LEP's first chair in 2011.

The organisation's highlights include the formation of Boost, a Growth Deal, a City Deal, three Enterprise Zones and [Transport for Lancashire](#).

Since its creation, Boost has [worked with nearly 5,000 local SMEs](#) and created over 1,500 new jobs.

The [£320m Growth Deal](#) is the largest secured outside the core city regions, and is on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes, and £1.2bn in new private sector investment by 2021.

The [£450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal](#) is set to create 20,000 new jobs and nearly 20,000 new homes.

The [Lancashire Enterprise Zone cluster programme](#), based on three zones across four sites, is focused on creating 10,000 new jobs in the advanced engineering and manufacturing, energy and chemical sectors.

In addition, a £20m Growing Places Investment Fund has supported nine commercial investments across Lancashire, including in some of the most deprived areas. The fund has leveraged £150m in private sector investment, created 200 new homes and almost 500,000 sq ft of commercial floorspace, and generated 3,000 new jobs.

An Employment and Skills Board was created to direct the investment of a £30m Growth Deal Skills Capital Fund.

LANCASHIRE **BUSINESS** VIEW

12.09.18

Edwin Booth passes on the baton after seven successful years as Chair of the LEP

By Philip Ghayour - September 13, 2018



It has been announced that Edwin Booth will be stepping down from his role as Chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) after a highly successful tenure, which has overseen more than £1bn of investment into Lancashire.

Edwin was appointed the first Chair of the LEP in 2011, and his leadership has seen it become recognised as one of the strongest performing enterprise partnerships in the country. The majority of public investment that has been secured by the LEP has been competitively won, creating Lancashire's largest ever growth plan – investment on a level with the elite core cities.

Some of the highlights that have been achieved with the LEP's strategic guidance and support include:

• A £320m Growth Deal, the largest secured outside the core city regions, which is on track to deliver up to 11,000 new jobs, 3,900 new homes, and £1.2bn in new private sector investment by 2021.

• The £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal which will create 20,000 new jobs and nearly 20,000 new homes.

• The Lancashire Enterprise Zone cluster programme, based on three zones across four sites, which is focused on creating 10,000 new jobs in the advanced engineering and manufacturing, energy and chemical sectors.

• Boost, Lancashire's business growth hub, which has worked with nearly 5,000 local SMEs and created over 1,500 new jobs.

**BUSINESS
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• The £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal which will create 20,000 new jobs and nearly 20,000 new homes.

• The Lancashire Enterprise Zone cluster programme, based on three zones across four sites, which is focused on creating 10,000 new jobs in the advanced engineering and manufacturing, energy and chemical sectors.

• Boost, Lancashire's business growth hub, which has worked with nearly 5,000 local SMEs and created over 1,500 new jobs.

• The £20m Growing Places Investment Fund which has supported nine commercial investments across Lancashire, including in some of the most deprived areas. The fund has leveraged £150m in private sector investment, created 200 new homes and almost 500,000 sq ft of commercial floorspace, and generated 3,000 new jobs.

• The establishment of Transport for Lancashire which is delivering the largest ever pan-Lancashire transport infrastructure development plan and has become a key driver for the strategic economic ambitions of Transport for the North.

• An Employment and Skills Board which is directing the investment of a £30m Growth Deal Skills Capital Fund.

£100m regeneration of Blackpool town centre confirmed



TheBusinessDesk

September 12th 2018

The sequence of headline projects that will catalyse the £100m regeneration of Blackpool town centre has been confirmed.

With the traditional retail offer under serious threat on high streets throughout the UK, Blackpool Council said it is committed to focusing large-scale investment in a series of major schemes that will breathe new life into the town centre over the next three years.

These projects include:

- A £26m investment in a new, state-of-the-art conference centre next to the Winter Garden which will open for business in August 2019 attracting visitors throughout the year
- Support for the extension of the Houndshell Shopping Centre to include a new Wilko store, IMAX-style cinema and new restaurant
- A new £23m tram extension from the Promenade to Blackpool North Station, creating a seamless link to the newly-electrified rail line
- A new 144-bedroom, 4-star Holiday Inn and restaurant that will be sited at the North Station transport interchange on the site of the old Wilko building
- A £7m Quality Corridors programme that will see the refurbishment of King Street, Deansgate, Edward Street, Topping Street, Cookson Street and Dickson Road
- The relocation of several hundred private sector office workers into the council's headquarters at Bickerstaffe Square
- Support for the development of Blackpool's first five-star hotel at Sands Venue on Central Promenade
- Development of a museum celebrating Blackpool's unique place in popular culture and creating another year-round visitor attraction in the heart of the resort

Cllr Simon Blackburn, leader of Blackpool Council, said: "The face of retailing is changing more extensively and rapidly than anyone can have expected, resulting in increased levels of high street retail vacancy in town and city centres right across the county.

"We are acutely aware of how these challenges are playing out in Blackpool, where the context of our retailing environment is already somewhat volatile because of the seasonal nature of footfall through the town centre.

"We are also conscious that a number of well-documented, reputable reports have shown that those town centres that are most dependent on retail premises have suffered most badly, and those town centres with less retail, more offices and other forms of leisure activities have fared the best.

The tramway project will see all road closures completed before the end of February 2019 and the new station will then be built once the existing Wilko store is demolished.

"The first passengers will be able to ride up to Talbot Gateway before the end of 2021. The new Holiday Inn and restaurant will also be built once Wilko is demolished, opening pre-Christmas 2021 and employing more than 100 people.

Over the next few weeks the final touches will be put on a complex set of agreement that will result in the relocation of Wilko, the completion of the tramway extension and the development of the new Imax cinema and branded restaurant, the Blackpool museum and two new four and five-star hotels.

The sign-off of the various agreements in October will catalyse a sequence of projects that will see the new Wilko store being completed on Tower Street in late autumn 2019 and opening shortly afterwards, safeguarding 60 jobs and securing the future of a major retailer.

That will be followed by the completion of the IMAX-style cinema in Autumn of the following year, creating 20 new jobs.

A new branded restaurant employing 30 people will also be part of the Tower Street development.

The £20m investment in the new Sands Venue Resort Hotel will see Blackpool's first five-star full service hotel opening around Christmas 2019 and employing more than 100 people.

Graham Cowley, chair of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal management board, said: "The economic regeneration of Blackpool has been one of the LEP's priorities since being established in 2011, and we have worked closely with the council and other partners to bring forward projects which will help drive growth in the town, generate jobs, and attract investment.

"The Growth Deal fund, in particular, has supported the £26m new conference centre being built adjacent to the Winter Gardens complex and has kick-started many of the transport and infrastructure schemes across the resort.

"This includes the £7m Quality Corridors programme, the tramway extension and the bridge improvement works.

"In addition, Blackpool's new museum, set to be dedicated to popular entertainment, was supported by the LEP to help secure government funding as part of the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund."

He added: "It is great to see these investments contributing to such ambitious growth plans, and we look forward to working with partners in Blackpool to bring further prosperity to the town and its residents."

BLACKPOOL UNVEILS £100M REGENERATION TIMELINE

Blackpool Council has confirmed the sequence of projects which will underpin its £100m regeneration programme.



The work, which includes an extension to the tramline, a new conference centre and renovated hotels, comes as high streets throughout the UK fall into decline and the council seeks alternative forms of revenue.

The marquee project in the three-year regeneration plan is the new £26m conference centre adjacent to Winter Gardens, which will open its doors for the first time in August 2019.

There are currently 30 live enquiries for new conferences and events in the new facility, with five bookings already confirmed.



The Houndshell shopping will receive a boost when a sign-off of various agreements, due in October, will catalyse a sequence of projects that will see the new wilko store being completed on Tower Street in late autumn 2019, safeguarding 60 jobs. This will be followed by the completion of an IMAX-style cinema in autumn of the following year, creating 20 new jobs. A new branded restaurant will open, employing 30 people.



King Street, Deansgate, Edward Street, Topping Street, Cookson Street and Dickson Road will all be refurbished by the £7m Quality Corridors programme, and a new museum, celebrating Blackpool's unique place in popular culture, will open to offer a year-round tourist attraction.

Cllr Simon Blackburn, leader of Blackpool Council said: "The face of retailing is changing more extensively and rapidly than anyone can have expected, resulting in increased levels of high street retail vacancy in town and city centres right across the county.

"We are acutely aware of how these challenges are playing out in Blackpool, where the context of our retailing environment is already somewhat volatile because of the seasonal nature of footfall through the town centre.

"We are also conscious that a number of well-documented, reputable reports have shown that those town centres that are most dependent on retail premises have suffered most badly and those town centres with less retail, more offices and other forms of leisure activities have fared the best.

"All of these investments and proposals address that issue and will bring new footfall, spend and life into our town centre. Put together, they will deliver transformational change."

Graham Cowley, chair of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal management board, added: "The economic regeneration of Blackpool has been one of the LEP's priorities since being established in 2011, and we have worked closely with the council and other partners to bring forward projects which will help drive growth in the town, generate jobs, and attract investment.

"It is great to see LEP's investments contributing to such ambitious growth plans, and we look forward to working with partners in Blackpool to bring further prosperity to the town and its residents."

LANCASHIRE BUSINESS VIEW

September 12th 2018



FEATURES REGENERATION

Blackpool confirms £100m town centre regeneration plans

17th September 2018 Thomas Barrett

Blackpool Council has confirmed the details of its £100m project to regenerate the seaside destination's town centre.

In a statement, the local authority said it is committed to 'focusing large-scale investment' in a series of major schemes that will 'breathe new life' into the town centre over the next three years.

The projects include a £26m investment in a new, state-of-the-art conference centre next to the Winter Gardens which will open for business in August 2019 attracting visitors throughout the year.

There will also be a new £23m tram extension from the Promenade to Blackpool North Station, creating a link to the newly-electrified rail line and a new 144-bedroom, 4-star Holiday Inn and restaurant that will be sited at the North Station transport interchange on the site of the old Wilko building.

In addition, a £7m Quality Corridors programme will see the refurbishment of Deansgate, Edward Street, Topping Street, Cookson Street and Dickson Road.

'The face of retailing is changing more extensively and rapidly than anyone can have expected, resulting in increased levels of high street retail vacancy in town and city centres right across the county,' said council leader, Cllr Simon Blackburn.

'We are acutely aware of how these challenges are playing out in Blackpool, where the context of our retailing environment is already somewhat volatile because of the seasonal nature of footfall through the town centre,' added Cllr Blackburn.

'We are also conscious that a number of well-documented, reputable reports have shown that those town centres that are most dependent on retail premises have suffered most badly and those town centres with less retail, more offices and other forms of leisure activities have fared the best.

'All of these investments and proposals address that issue and will bring new footfall, spend and life into our town centre. Put together, they will deliver transformational change,' added the council leader.

The first of the projects, the new Winter Gardens Conference Centre, is now taking shape, with phases 1 and 2 of the structural steelwork in place.

At the end of August, the Winter Gardens switched over to new electricity and gas supplies, increasing capacity and future-proofing the venue.

There are currently 30 live enquiries for new conferences and events in the new facility, with five bookings already confirmed.

The chair of [Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's](#) Growth Deal management board, Graham Cowley, added: 'The economic regeneration of Blackpool has been one of the LEP's priorities since being established in 2011, and we have worked closely with the council and other partners to bring forward projects which will help drive growth in the town, generate jobs, and attract investment.

'The Growth Deal Fund in particular has supported the £26m new conference centre being built adjacent to the Winter Gardens complex and has kick-started many of the transport and infrastructure schemes across the resort.

'This includes the £7m Quality Corridors programme, the tramway extension and the bridge improvement works. In addition Blackpool's new museum, set to be dedicated to popular entertainment, was supported by the LEP to help secure government funding as part of the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund,' added Mr Cowley.

ej environment
journal

September 14th 2018



14.09.18

£100m regeneration investment to 'breathe new life' into Blackpool town centre approved

A series of projects that will catalyse a £100m regeneration of Blackpool town centre has been approved.

Included in Blackpool Council's major investment projects is a £26m state-of-the-art conference centre, a £23m tram extension and the development of Blackpool's first five-star hotel.

Also included in the approved three-year timeline is the development of a Blackpool museum, the extension of the Houndshill Shopping Centre, and a £7m Quality Corridors programme which will see the refurbishment of a host of major roads.

The council say these projects will "breathe new life into the town centre" and attract visitors throughout the year.

Cllr Simon Blackburn, leader of Blackpool Council said: "The face of retailing is changing more extensively and rapidly than anyone can have expected, resulting in increased levels of high street retail vacancy in town and city centres right across the county.

"We are acutely aware of how these challenges are playing out in Blackpool, where the context of our retailing environment is already somewhat volatile because of the seasonal nature of footfall through the town centre.

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"All of these investments and proposals address that issue and will bring new footfall, spend and life into our town centre. Put together, they will deliver transformational change."

Several hundred private sector office workers will also be relocated into the council's headquarters at Bickerstaffe as part of the plans.

The first project on the timeline, the new Winter Gardens Conference Centre, is already taking shape with phases one and two of the structural steelwork in place.

The tramway project will see the new station built after the existing Wilko store is demolished and the extension should be completed by the end of 2020.

A new four-star Holiday Inn and restaurant will also be built in the area, opening pre-Christmas 2021.

Sands Venue Resort Hotel will see Blackpool's first ever five-star hotel opening in Christmas 2019, employing more than 100 people.

Graham Cowley, chair of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal management board, said: "The economic regeneration of Blackpool has been one of the LEP's priorities since being established in 2011, and we have worked closely with the council and other partners to bring forward projects which will help drive growth in the town, generate jobs, and attract investment.

"The Growth Deal fund in particular has supported the £26m new conference centre being built adjacent to the Winter Gardens complex and has kick-started many of the transport and infrastructure schemes across the resort."

Top image: Rept0n1x

PSE
PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVE

September 14th 2018

Blackpool's the new Vegas in £100m deal

BLACKPOOL is tipped to become the "Las Vegas of the North" after a massive £100 million makeover was unveiled yesterday. The huge cash injection from regional and government funds will "breathe new life" into the Lancashire town's shops, hotels and infrastructure.



In April it was revealed the holiday resort had the worst level of heroin and morphine-related deaths in the UK.

Now delighted council and business chiefs hope this week's announced three-year investment will make the town the envy of the nation once again.

The £20 million new Sands Venue Resort Hotel will see Blackpool's first five-star accommodation opening at Christmas 2019, employing over 100 people.

A state-of-the-art IMAX cinema will open, while £26 million is being pumped into a new Winter Gardens conference centre – able to house major political party conferences.

The investment will also fund a £7 million road upgrade, a new museum, and the expansion of the Houndhill Shopping Centre.

And a new 144-bed four-star Holiday Inn and restaurant will be built at the North Station transport interchange. Blackpool Council leader Simon Blackburn said the massive injection of cash will transform the resort. He said the investments would "bring new footfall, spend, and life" into the town centre.

Cinema developer John Sullivan said: "We are excited to be working with the council on this fabulous new development."

Graham Cowley, from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, said: "We have worked closely with the council and other partners to bring forward projects to drive growth in the town, generate jobs, and attract investment."

We are excited to be working with the council on this fabulous new development

John Sullivan



September 15th 2018

Lomeshaye Industrial Estate: "Expansion could create 1,000 jobs"

By Ciaran Duggan



Lomeshaye Industrial Estate

Elected members of Pendle Council approved a compulsory purchase order (CPO) to acquire land to extend the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate at Brierfield.

Council bosses the expansion would help to safeguard present jobs already on the site and could create an additional 1000 jobs.

The leader of Pendle Council, Paul White, said the bigger business park would support economic growth and the long term sustainability of neighbouring towns Brierfield and Nelson as well as the whole of East Lancashire.

The agricultural land which the council want to expand onto is adjacent to the Brierfield industrial estate, which is located at J12 of the M65 corridor between Burnley and Pendle. It extends to 19.19 hectares, of which 9.03 hectares are developable.

Executives set aside £400,000 for investment into the phase two extension last year, which was the required 10 per cent match funding needed to acquire the £4million grant from LEP Local Growth Fund. In order to receive the grant council bosses will need to have acquired the land and serviced it by March 2021.

Former council leader Mohammed Iqbal, of the Labour Group said: "Clearly the businesses are crying out for expansion.

"The idea of expanding Lomeshaye is something that I instigated and the council should look to do this as soon as possible.

"There is a big gap in employment opportunities in the area and this could help to rejuvenate employability in Pendle."

The existing estate started off as sporadic small scale development in the 1980s but is now valued at £40million and presently houses around 100 businesses and employs between 3,500 and 4,000 people.

East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce chief executive Miranda Barker said: "It's very good news for the area.

"Pendle like Burnley is a manufacturing immersed area but unlike its neighbours does not have as high employment rate and there is a need to capitalise on the success of Lomeshaye and what it brings to the local area.

"It's significant in East Lancashire and with planned improvements over the next few years, such as road connectivity towards east and west of the county, it could become a high success."

A GROUNDBREAKING ceremony has taken place to mark the start of building work on the £41M Health Innovation Campus (HIC) at Lancaster University.

The first phase of the new building, adjacent to the main campus, is due to open in autumn 2019.

Health experts will work collaboratively with businesses and the health sector to tackle the biggest challenge in healthcare today – helping people to live as long and as healthily as possible.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark E. Smith, said: "The HIC will drive business innovation, creating new jobs by supporting 300 Lancashire-based small and medium enterprises to develop new and innovative digital and technological solutions and will have wider impact by engaging regionally, nationally and internationally with hundreds of companies. It will allow Lancaster's world-class research to have even greater impact."

The work of the HIC will focus on enabling people to achieve and sustain optimal health and wellbeing, to enable early detection and intervention of disease and access to care.

The new Director of the Health Innovation Campus, Dr Sherry Kothari, said: "This is an exciting initiative focused on providing innovative solutions to addressing the enormous challenges faced by our healthcare system. The HIC will provide a focal point for health care providers to work collaboratively with researchers and

companies to bring about meaningful impact to how we manage the future health of our region."

As well as digital innovation, this will include the design, development and evaluation of healthy places to live and work, improving health systems, and the development of new materials to improve health.

HIC is funded by the University and through the Lancashire

Construction begins on £41M Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University



Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Fund and the ERDF's Structural and Investment Fund.

Local Growth Minister and Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry, added: "With Growth Deal funding, this new Health Innovation Campus will establish Lancaster University as a global player in the prevention and diagnosis of illnesses. It also boosts Lancashire's reputation within the Northern Powerhouse

as a centre for cutting-edge scientific research and digital innovation."

Graham Cowley, chairman of the LEP's Growth Deal Management Board, said: "Healthcare is an emerging economic sector in Lancashire and the Health Innovation Campus is set to act as a dynamic catalyst for the whole region within both health R&D and innovative healthcare practice.

"Furthermore, this facility will be accessible to local SMEs who are active within health, wellbeing and related sectors. This means smaller firms will be able to tap into the University's wealth of knowledge and experience to help them accelerate commercial opportunities, become more competitive and add significant value to the wider Lancashire economy."

WE ARE LANCASHIRE DELEGATION IMPRESSES AT MIPIM

A delegation of private and public sector partners came together under the We Are Lancashire banner to promote the county to potential investors, developers and employers.



The delegation, which was led by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and managed by Marketing Lancashire, exhibited at the two-day MIPIM conference and property expo at London's Olympia.

MIPIM UK regularly attracts over 3,000 delegates from 45 countries. These include investment specialists, local authorities, agents, occupiers, architects, planners and government agencies.

Lancashire's party included Lancashire County Council alongside colleagues from Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancaster, Burnley, Chorley, Preston and South Ribble. Eric Wright Group and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) were also part of the MIPIM delegation.

Some of the main themes highlighted included innovation to drive economic growth, the development of a high-level skills base, and the latest inward investment opportunities across Lancashire.

Key assets linked to these themes included Lancaster University's £41m Health Innovation Campus, and UCLan's £30m Engineering Innovation Centre, and the Energy HQ facility at the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

The role of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone as part of the wider Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster (LAMEC) was also central to the Lancashire pitch. The LAMEC is made up of Lancashire's four Enterprise Zone sites, the largest number of Enterprise Zones awarded to a single Local Enterprise Partnership.

LANCASHIRE BUSINESS VIEW

22.10.18

Situated at Samlesbury, Warton, Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse near Fleetwood, this cluster approach provides a strong industrial focus in world-class development locations, building on Lancashire's national and international strengths in the aerospace, advanced engineering and manufacturing, energy and chemicals industries.

More details were also revealed about the proposed **Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC)** at the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone.

The Lancashire delegation also hosted two special seminars.

On Wednesday a session was held entitled Innovation in Lancashire, which was focussed on Lancashire's innovation assets and how they will drive existing and future industrial strengths.

Speakers included Melissa Conlon, commercial director, AMRC North West, Andy Walker, head of business growth for Lancashire County Council, Peter Thomas from the University of Central Lancashire and Nick King from Lancaster University.

On Thursday a second panel discussed Investing in Lancashire, looking at the potential of Lancashire's strategic employment sites and the next phase of Enterprise Zone development.

Speakers included Stephen Young, executive director of growth for Lancashire County Council, Nick Gerrard, growth and prosperity programme director for Blackpool Council, and Denise Park, deputy chief executive of Blackburn with Darwen Council. They were joined by private sector partners including Simon Towers, group managing director, NPL Developments and Karen Hirst, director, Eric Wright Group.

Andy Walker, head of business growth for Lancashire County Council, said: "Lancashire is speaking with one voice about our economic potential. Inward investment opportunities continue to be very well received by investors, developers and property agents at events like MIPIM, reflecting the government's encouragement for regions to work more closely together, especially with regards to major projects being funded through programmes like the Growth Deal.

"This year we have been very focussed on Lancashire's capacity to drive growth through innovation, highlighting a number of major assets which are now coming out of the ground such as Lancaster's HIC and UCLan's EIC. These will both offer world-class resources and technology that will help put Lancashire at the forefront of fast-growing markets such as health and advanced manufacturing.

"The LAMEC, combining the strengths of our four Enterprise Zone sites, and the proposed AMRC facility at Samlesbury, will help embed innovation across all of our priority industrial sectors. That's a powerful message for both property developers looking to invest, and employers looking to expand their operations, and it's one that has gone down very well at MIPIM this week."

Lancashire takes upbeat innovation, skills and productivity message to MIPIM UK

By Philip Ghayour - October 23, 2018

**BUSINESS
LANCASHIRE**

23.10.18



Frank McKenna hosting MIPIM UK Lancashire panel

A range of private and public sector partners from Lancashire came together this week in London to promote inward investment opportunities across the county to potential investors, developers and employers.

Led by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and managed by Marketing Lancashire, the "We Are Lancashire" partnership exhibited at the two-day MIPIM conference and property exhibition at London's Olympia.

Described as "the leading property summit for all key stakeholders in UK real estate", MIPIM UK regularly attracts over 3,000 delegates from 45 countries. These include investment specialists, local authorities, agents, occupiers, architects, planners and government agencies.

The delegation included Lancashire County Council alongside colleagues from Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancaster, Burnley, Chorley, Preston and South Ribble. Eric Wright Group and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) were also part of the MIPIM delegation.

Some of the main themes highlighted included innovation to drive economic growth, the development of a high-level skills base, and the latest inward investment opportunities across Lancashire.

Key assets linked to these themes included Lancaster University's £41m Health Innovation Campus (HIC), set to drive growth within advanced medical technologies and digital health, and UCLan's £30m Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) in Preston – a state-of-the-art facility which will create an integrated space for advanced manufacturing and engineering teaching, research and knowledge exchange with business.

Lancashire's strengths within the energy sector, and the Energy HQ facility at the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, was also marketed directly to MIPIM visitors.

The role of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone as part of the wider Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Cluster (LAMEC) was also central to the Lancashire pitch. The LAMEC is made up of Lancashire's four Enterprise Zone sites, the largest number of Enterprise Zones awarded to a single Local Enterprise Partnership.

Situated at Samlesbury, Warton, Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse near Fleetwood, this cluster approach provides a strong industrial focus in world-class development locations, building on Lancashire's national and international strengths in the aerospace, advanced engineering and manufacturing, energy and chemicals industries.

More details were also revealed about the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) at the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone.

The initiative is being developed in partnership with the University of Sheffield and was announced in 2017 as part of the government's Growth Deal fund for Lancashire.

The AMRC will work with local, national and international manufacturers to introduce advanced techniques, technologies and processes into their operations to drive innovation and productivity in Lancashire's business base.

Based near to BAE Systems, the North West facility of the AMRC will integrate fully with the world-class aerospace activity already present in the area.

It will also add significant value to the county's other thriving advanced manufacturing, automotive and energy sectors, ensuring Lancashire can capitalise on new and emerging market opportunities.

To reinforce Lancashire's position as one of the UK's leading innovation and investment hotspots, the Lancashire delegation hosted two special seminars.

On Wednesday a session was held entitled *Innovation in Lancashire*, which was focussed on Lancashire's innovation assets and how they will drive existing and future industrial strengths.

Speakers included Melissa Conlon, Commercial Director, AMRC North West, Andy Walker, Head of Business Growth for Lancashire County Council, Peter Thomas from the University of Central Lancashire and Nick King from Lancaster University.

On Thursday a second panel discussed *Investing in Lancashire*, looking at the potential of Lancashire's strategic employment sites and the next phase of Enterprise Zone development.

Speakers included Stephen Young, Executive Director of Growth for Lancashire County Council, Nick Gerrard, Growth & Prosperity Programme Director for Blackpool Council, and Denise Park, Deputy Chief Executive of Blackburn with Darwen Council. They were joined by private sector partners including Simon Towers, Group Managing Director, NPL Developments and Karen Hirst, Director, Eric Wright Group.

Andy Walker, Head of Business Growth for Lancashire County Council, said of the two-day MIPIM expo: "Lancashire is speaking with one voice about our economic potential. Inward investment opportunities continue to be very well received by investors, developers and property agents at events like MIPIM, reflecting the government's encouragement for regions to work more closely together, especially with regards to major projects being funded through programmes like the Growth Deal.

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Lancashire Takes Upbeat Innovation, Skills And Productivity Message To MIPIM UK

October 24, 2018



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**Business
UpNorth**
24.10.18

COLLEGE chiefs in East Lancashire have been told their merger bid will be supported with a £500,000 handout - if a business plan wins approval.



Plans are being progressed to combined Accrington and Rossendale College (AccRoss) with Nelson and Colne College and a public consultation was launched earlier this year.

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership received a funding request from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and Nelson and Colne College, towards the merger, under the umbrella of their government-backed Growth Deal programme.

But according to their minutes, the LEP's Growth Deal board informed Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, who presented a report with the funding request, that they had not seen a business case outlining the proposal's aims.

Later the board agreed to support the proposal in principle, subject to an independent appraisal of their business case and it meeting certain Growth Deal delivery targets.

The board, at a County Hall meeting behind closed doors, resolved to release the £500,000 funding, subject to that being completed successfully.

Enterprise partnership members have also asked extra information from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy about the context for them providing such development funding.

Their resolution must now be passed at a meeting of the full board on November 6.

THIS IS LANCASHIRE

October 23rd 2018

All systems go for new aerospace research hub



By Peter Magill | [@peter_magill](#)
Business Editor



Edwin Booth, LEP chairman and County Cllr Michael Green at the unveiling of the link road to the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone, which will include the advanced manufacturing research centre

A KEY component of East Lancashire's aerospace revolution can slot into place after the green light was signalled by county councillors.

Blueprints for Samlesbury's £15million advanced manufacturing centre (AMRC) have won Lancashire County Council's cabinet's seal of approval.

Work is now expected to begin on the ambitious project, which has been funded by the government's Growth Fund scheme, next year.

And if everything goes according to plan with the facility, a partnership with the University of Sheffield, the AMRC should be operational by 2020.

Edwin Booth, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) chairman, said: "The proposed AMRC at Samlesbury is a very exciting project with the potential to transform the way many Lancashire manufacturers, especially small and medium sized enterprises, approach the way they do business.

"We therefore welcome the fact that with this decision it has taken a further step forward. The LEP will now continue to work closely with the council, local partners, and with the AMRC team in Sheffield, to progress the initiative."

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LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

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All systems go for new aerospace research hub



By Peter Magill | [@peter_magill](#)
Business Editor



Edwin Booth, LEP chairman and County Cllr Michael Green at the unveiling of the link road to the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone, which will include the advanced manufacturing research centre

A KEY component of East Lancashire's aerospace revolution can slot into place after the green light was signalled by county councillors.



Blueprints for Samlesbury's £15million advanced manufacturing centre (AMRC) have won Lancashire County Council's cabinet's seal of approval.

Work is now expected to begin on the ambitious project, which has been funded by the government's Growth Fund scheme, next year.

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*The***Citizen** LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

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LISTENING POST

by Ged Henderson

Edwin Booth says that whoever takes over his role in the hotseat at the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership first and foremost has to be a good listener. Stamina will also be an important quality.

It is what he has needed in his seven and a half years as the first chairman of the organisation.

There have been countless conversations with government ministers, local politicians and the business community. There have been the numerous boards and representative organisations he has had to become involved with.

Then there has been the detailed work to create a growth plan for Lancashire and secure investment on a level with the big cities.

Bringing everyone on board for the journey has not been an easy task. Lancashire has been a far from united county for much of his tenure.

The chairman and chief executive of the Preston-headquartered grocery group that shares his family name has steered the LEP through some challenging times. He's also been head of a body that had secured more than £1bn of investment.

And as he looks to hand over the baton to a

still un-named successor he remains clear about the path the organisation, the county and the Northern Powerhouse need to take to deliver further economic success.

Edwin talks of the importance of creating a combined authority so that 'little Lancashire' becomes 'big Lancashire', urging politicians across the county to take a pragmatic approach and see the bigger picture.

“In becoming ‘big Lancashire’ it’s the constituent parts that create the power; not any one area”

The prize, he believes is huge. It would also see the LEP become the economic growth and development arm of the new, united set-up.

But after so much talk, and so many false-starts, will the many local authorities that exist here actually come together in unity? Edwin replies: “Yes. I wouldn’t like to put a time on it but there is a very strong will to deliver that.

“This is where politicians, in my view, need to

put their pragmatic hats on and then sell the idea of the further potential benefits back to their colleagues.”

Pragmatism, and seeing the bigger picture, is key to taking the county forward, he believes, adding that politicians don’t always see beyond their own areas and constituencies.

He says: “It is about encouraging people to look at the bigger picture. The LEP has to look at the whole of Lancashire not just one part of it.

“Politicians haven’t always had a full understanding of what we are doing. When they get that understanding then we have a partner.”

Edwin adds: “Business doesn’t know any boundaries, and that is the point. In becoming ‘big Lancashire’ it’s the constituent parts that create the power; not any one area.”

He says there is a perception that the county council is in charge of the LEP’s agenda, something he stresses, “is not the case and never has been.”

The combined authority approach would finally dispel that notion he believes. Edwin adds that he has also worked hard to keep politics off the table, while seeking to understand the different agendas at play.

He is excited by the re-boot of the Northern

Powerhouse being led by its minister and Lancashire MP Jake Berry. The county’s LEP chairman now sits with 10 counterparts across the North as part of the newly formed, government-funded group called the ‘NP11’.

The NP11 will act as one voice representing each of their regions to work with and advise the government on issues such as how to increase productivity, overcome regional disparities in economic growth and tackle the historic north-south divide.

Edwin says: “It is fair to say that all 11 areas understand that together we are stronger and that Northern areas can’t work in isolation.

“If there’s one frustration at leaving the LEP it is that I won’t be involved day to day in the development of the Northern Powerhouse.”

There is still much work to do on bridging the skills gap in the county, he adds. Then there is the ongoing work to deliver the £320m Growth Deal, the £450m City Deal and the county’s three enterprise zones.

– all bringing with them the prospect of much new investment and jobs.

He speaks with pride about the level of investment secured by Lancashire during his time in the chairman’s role.

So, given that, what has prompted his decision to depart? He points to his ‘other job’ at the head of the family business and adds: “In fairness to the company I cannot perform the intensity of this task and give everything to the LEP at the same time.”

The job chairing the LEP has certainly grown since its creation. As Edwin says: “It has become a very comprehensive responsibility. To do the job properly demands a great deal of your time.”

He believes now is the time to hand over to someone able to build on the impetus and with a hunger for further success.

And his final words of wisdom for whoever that person might be? “The most important role of the chair is to listen, to assimilate and to deliver. There’s a lot of people to meet and a lot of conversations to have.”

ROAD TO RECOVERY

Recent times have been difficult for Booths, one of Lancashire’s iconic brands. But chairman and chief executive Edwin says its latest figures show that recovery is now underway.

And he describes his return to the leadership of the family-owned business as something of a personal “renaissance”.

The figures show that pre-tax losses were more than halved to £5.5m.

Edwin stepped into the chief executive role last year. The move came amid much-reported difficulties facing the business.

“It has been a tough time for the whole industry. There has been a major seismic change and things are reforming in a different way,” he says.

Edwin adds the 170-year-old business is being transformed – both in terms of the

way it serves its customers and the way its people operate. He points to growing collaborative partnerships, including one with the e-retail giant Amazon.

Booths is also working hard to develop its offering to its customers, particularly in the area of fine food.

“There is much more to come,” Edwin says. Online will play a growing role in that. He adds: “We want to take the Booths brand as many people as we can.”

Looking at what has sparked the internal change, he says: “It is fair to say the family had become frustrated with the performance of the business, both in terms of customer service and the way the business was being run.

“I have had very strong views about the action needed and have been supported by family members in delivering that.”



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