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

**Report up to end Q3 Oct – Dec 2020**

***BACKGROUND***

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

In April 2016 the Government awarded Enterprise Zone status to the Blackpool Airport site which includes Blackpool International Airport and the surrounding business parks. Blackpool Airport EZ has benefited from public sector investment including acquisition of Blackpool Airport, phase 1 infrastructure works; fencing, taxiway removal, drainage and grass pitches commitment in excess of £1m. Nine new private sector developments have been completed totalling 186,517 sq ft, including Blackpool & The Fylde College’s Lancashire Energy HQ, a 32,000 sq ft flagship training centre for technical and professional education for the energy sector. A further 261,318 sq ft has been refurbished and brought back into the rating list.

Blackpool Council (EZ accountable body) has approved up to £28.8m funding by prudential borrowing for development of Phase 1 Common Edge infrastructure and an overall delivery plan investment of £72 m is anticipated over the lifetime of the EZ. Phase 1 planning application has been approved with completion of 12 no grass sports pitches, which will come into use in autumn 2021 after establishment of the playing surface. Work has commenced on site (Oct 2020) for a 40,000 sq ft manufacturing facility, supported by £800,000 Growth Deal Funding due for completion autumn 2021. Design of new highways and enabling infrastructure is ongoing and negotiations are progressing for acquisition of additional third-party land and property required to support delivery of the masterplan. A planning application for new sports changing facilities is awaiting determination in March with an anticipated investment of £2.27m to follow over the next six months. A provisional allocation of £7.5m from the Towns Fund has been made to support new Highway Infrastructure at the EZ.

***PERFORMANCE***

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Performance Indicators** | **Targets** (over 25-year lifetime of EZ to 2041) | **Actuals up to** **Qtr. 3 20/21** | **RAG** |
| Build, convert or re-purpose potential employment space  | 260,000 sqm | 24,277 sq m  |  |
| Attract Private Sector Investment | £300m | c.£21.69m |  |
| Jobs created | 5,000 | 1599 (gross) |  |
| New Businesses to the area | 140 | 114 |  |
| Develop new infrastructure | £65m | £28.8m \*  |  |

To be prudentially borrowed to cover initial costs of new road and infrastructure. Spend to date on infrastructure, property and land acquisitions = £8,925,000

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Milestones** | **Dates** |
| Changing Rooms and car park/3G pitch planning application decision expected  | Mar 2021 |
| Appoint Common Edge Changing room and 3G pitches contractor | Mar 2021 |
| Head of Terms to be agreed 20,000 sq ft unit | Mar 2021  |
| Fiscal benefit extension decision from HM Treasury  | Mar 2021 |
| Design and outline planning application for eastern gateway access  | Apr 2021 |
| Appoint international marketing agents LAMEC brand  | Apr 2021 |
| Land / property acquisitions x 4  | Q4 2021 |
| Architectural feasibility study & design work for airport complete | May 2021  |
| Marketing of Common Edge phase 1 commences  | Jun 2021 |
| Proposition and identifying opportunities for data centre market  | Ongoing  |
| Design and outline planning application for Common Edge Road | Summer 2021  |
| No. 12 grass football pitches ready for use  | Sep 2021 |
| Release of existing sports pitches and commencement of highway and utility infrastructure  | Oct 2021 |
| 40,000 sq ft devt complete  | Oct 2021 |
| Planning approval for highways  | Dec 2021 |
| 12-month construction contract for access road  | Jan 2022 |
| Airport Control tower, fire station relocation commenced  | Jan 2022  |
| Outline planning app for airport redevelopment | Mar 2022 |
| Delivery of spec dev of 20,000 sq ft commercial unit  | Apr 2022 |
| Replacement hangar development commenced | Sep 2022  |

**Objectives over 2-3 years**

Phase 1 infrastructure complete

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

Commenced relocation of aviation operational infrastructure to enable new development

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

**Objectives over 5 years**

Common Edge Phase 1 development complete – all plots occupied

Residential development underway

Relocation of airport property stock and infrastructure complete

New airport spec development in planning stages

**Objectives over 10 years**

Phase 2 continued spec development of remaining plots airport site

Squires Gate Industrial Estate – spec proposals for future development

***RISKS***

A Single Portfolio Risk Register for the combined programmes is attached to the main report.