



# BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

## Business Partnerships Report – January 27, 2017

### Section 1: Visitor Economy

#### **RETURN OF SHOWZAM!**

Showzam!, Blackpool's annual festival of circus, variety and live performance, will be staged over the February half-term holiday.

This year's festival will be the 10<sup>th</sup> and is being held from February 11-14 by VisitBlackpool in partnership with the Blackpool BID company.

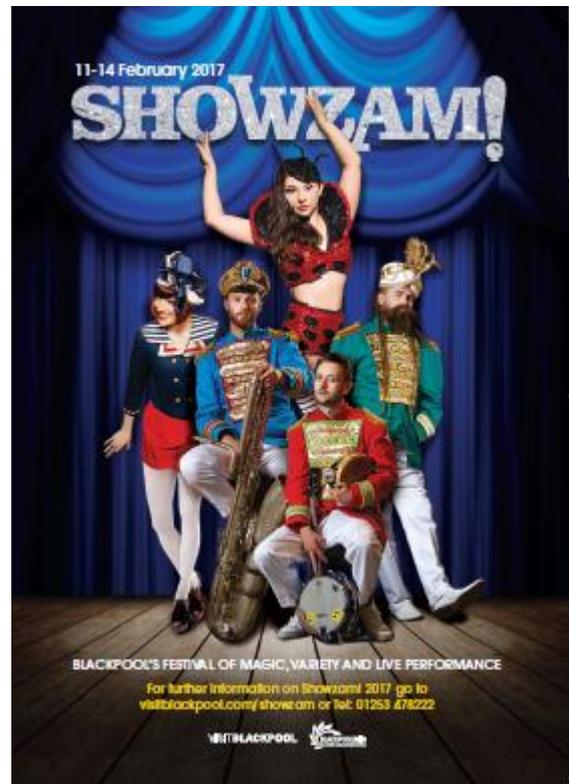
The Magic Carpet Theatre returns to Showzam! Central in the Winter Gardens with some weird and wonderful sideshows including The Girl In The Goldfish Bowl, The Headless Lady and the Incredible 10-in-1 Show.

Throughout the festival there will be street theatre around the town centre including hula-hooping, daredevil antics, comedy and bags of audience participation.

A Mardi Gras-themed Carnival Ball will be staged at the Tower Ballroom on Saturday 11 February with music by Mr Wilson's Second Liners and the hugely talented contortionist, Pixie Le Knot, fresh from her appearance in Game Of Thrones.

There will also be family magic with Michael Jordan's High Jinx magic and illusion show at Viva Blackpool, behind-the-scenes tours at some of our key heritage venues as well as fun workshops and tours at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

For full details, go to [www.visitblackpool.com/showzam](http://www.visitblackpool.com/showzam)



## **SANDS HOTEL APPROVED**

Work on the new five-star Sands Hotel on Blackpool seafront is expected to start during the next few weeks after a revised planning application was approved.



Businessman Peter Swann intends to develop the 96-room destination hotel as an extension of the Sands Venue on Central Promenade.

The plans incorporate a three-storey extension to the existing venue, with glazed walls wrapped around the existing concrete and brick frontage. The design features large penthouse suites overlooking the Irish Sea as well as a basement car park for 55 cars. The plans also include demolition of the existing footbridge over Bank Hey Street.

The above photograph shows how the Bank Hey Street entrance to the hotel will look.

## **BLACKPOOL HAS IT ALL**

A new destination marketing campaign is being planned for 2017. Last year, the campaign changed from a theme of “Blackpool’s Back” to “Blackpool Has It All”, incorporating PR, digital activity and primetime TV advertising in the north of England and Scotland.

The details of the 2017 campaign are yet to be revealed, but it will again feature a strong element of TV advertising.

This year, Blackpool Pleasure Beach has stepped in as a senior partner, joining Visit Blackpool and Merlin Entertainments who have led the campaign since its inception. Other partners within the visitor economy will be invited to join during the coming weeks.

## **BLACKPOOL ZOO INVESTMENT**

A multi-million pound project is taking shape at Blackpool Zoo. Dubbed “Project Elephant” it is the Zoo’s most ambitious and biggest single investment to date. When completed later this year, it will be one of the UK’s largest indoor elephant facilities. The grand opening will take place as part of the Zoo’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The Zoo enjoyed a record-breaking performance in 2016 with a seven per cent increase in visitor numbers and a 10% increase in revenue.

### **BLACKPOOL'S GOT BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT**

The Britain's Got Talent roadshow rolled into Blackpool for the first round of public auditions.

They were staged over several days at the Winter Gardens in front of judging panel Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams.



Presenters Ant and Dec also joined the line-up for the auditions which attracted hundreds of people to the venue on the first day.

The celebrity cast flew into Blackpool Airport by private jet before posing for photographs outside the Winter Gardens, with David Walliams choosing a more traditional form of seaside transport (pictured).

The shows are expected to be screened on ITV from April onwards.

### **WRESTLE MANIA HITS BLACKPOOL**

Blackpool's Empress Ballroom took centre-stage as the first ever American-style WWE wrestling championship tournament was staged in the resort.

Thousands of fans turned up to enjoy the two-day competition and millions more throughout the world watched on Sky TV. The event attracted 16 of the UK's best wrestlers in a straight knock-out competition.

The sport is enjoying a huge upsurge in interest. The organisers chose to stage the first UK championship in the resort where wrestling found a mass TV audience decades ago when professional bouts were filmed from venues such as the Tower Circus and Pleasure Beach.

### **HAMPTONS BY HILTON**

Demolition of three derelict hotels at South Beach is progressing apace in preparation for the development of a new Hamptons By Hilton hotel, due to open in 2018. The Bourne and Palm Beach Hotels have already been flattened and the demolition of The Warwick is well advanced.

The project is being led by Blackpool-based Create Construction. The new 130-bedroom hotel will occupy the footprint of the Bourne and Palm Beach Hotels. The Warwick site will be operated as a temporary car park until a development plan is put forward by the owners.

### **PEREGRINE DVD RELEASE**

Blackpool's starring role in Tim Burton's movie, Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children, will get a second airing when the DVD is released in February. After a worldwide release in the cinemas at the end of September, the DVD is out on February 6.



The film, based on a best-selling children's book in America, includes substantial footage of Blackpool including The Tower and Circus, North Pier, the tramway and promenade.

### **CONSTRUCTION 2018 UNDERWAY**

Groundworks have been taking place at Blackpool Pleasure Beach throughout the winter months in preparation for the construction of the park's new £16m rollercoaster.

Codenamed "Construction 2018", the ride will be the UK's first ever double launch coaster when it opens in the spring of next year. The Pleasure Beach has been working on the concept for more than five years. It is being manufactured by Mack Rides in Germany, utilising the latest state-of-the-art engineering.

### **HOME SWEET HOME**

One of Blackpool's longest-running exhibitions was staged at the Winter Gardens over the weekend of January 21 and 22.

The annual British Homing World Show brings more than 15,000 visitors and 2,000 homing pigeons into the resort. It is the largest event of its kind in Europe.

This year celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association holding the event at the Winter Gardens.

To mark the occasion, the town centre was adorned with special banners and a giant pigeon flag was flown from the top of The Blackpool Tower.

Each year visitors to the show have helped to raise money for various charities, with nearly £3 million raised to date.



## 2017 SHOW UPDATES

The Winter Gardens has announced further shows for the 2017 season.



Following its smash-hit run at London's Dominion Theatre, **Evita** will run for one week at the Opera House between June 20 and 24.

The iconic role of Eva Peron will be taken by Emma Hatton (left), who has recently finished a hugely-successful leading lady run as Elphaba in the West End production of **Wicked**.

The Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber production features some of the best-loved songs in musical theatre and has more than 20 major awards to its credit.

**Flashdance – The Musical** returns to the UK for the first time since 2011, with a two-week run at the Opera House over the October half-term between October 23 and November 4. The musical is based on the Paramount Pictures film, which remained in the US Box Office top 10 for 15 weeks after release. Shows already announced at the Winter Gardens include:

La Cage Aux Folles, Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 February

Cirque Berserk, Wednesday 8 to Sunday 12 March

Wonderland, Monday 10 to Saturday 15 April

The Wedding Singer, Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 July

Sister Act, Tuesday 22 to Saturday 27 August

Dirty Dancing, Tuesday 29 August to Saturday 2 September

Hairspray, Monday 18 to Saturday 23 September

Our House, Monday 9 to Saturday 14 October



In a separate announcement, West End leading lady and Britain's Got Talent finalist Rachael Wooding will guest star as Alice in the production of **Wonderland** in April.

Rachael's West End credits include *We Will Rock You*, *Hairspray* and *Jersey Boys*, as well as playing the title role in a UK touring production of *Evita*.

## GRAND THEATRE SEASON LAUNCH

The Grand Theatre unveiled a rich and varied programme of drama, dance, musicals and children's shows at its Spring/Summer launch. Among the highlights are:

- Olivier award-winning comedy, *Nell Gwynn*, from April 11-15 in its first UK tour
- Northern Ballet's production of *Goldilocks And The Three Bears* on March 30
- Return of Sadler's Wells' *Breakin' Convention* hip-hop dance production on May 27
- The acclaimed stage production of *Babe The Sheep Pig* from July 6-9
- Return of *Walk Like A Man*, the story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, for an extended run from July 25 to August 27

## RECORD NUMBERS

Blackpool ended 2016 with record numbers of tram and train passengers.

The volume of inbound rail passengers into Blackpool between April and November has risen to more than 950,000. Once the December figures are added, the total is set to become one of the busiest on record with more than a million inbound journeys - almost 100,000 ahead of the same period in the previous year.

Blackpool Transport Services also recorded a big increase in usage between April and December, with 4.4m passengers compared to 4.3m in 2015. Record figures were recorded in November and December.

## NUMBER ONE DESTINATION

The latest day visitor figures from VisitBritain confirm Blackpool's status as the most visited seaside destination in the UK. The three-year average figure for 2013-2015 shows the resort significantly ahead of its nearest rivals, Scarborough and Brighton.

Local Authority	Visits (millions)	Spend (millions)
Blackpool	8.65	£406.74
Scarborough	8.05	£309.47
Brighton and Hove	7.6	£317.51
Bournemouth	6.92	£208.04
Torbay	5.9	£131.83
Great Yarmouth	4.98	£125.96
Eastbourne	3.96	£192.37
Southend-on-Sea	3.19	£102.33

## LYTHAM FESTIVAL LINE-UP

Details of the 2017 Lytham Festival have been unveiled. Events in the main proms arena on Lytham Green will take place from Wednesday 2 to Sunday 6 August. The line-up features:

- **Wednesday:** An extra night of music has been added with Olly Murs taking the stage.
- **Thursday:** The Hacienda and Manchester Camerata experimental orchestra perform Hacienda Classical.
- **Friday:** Will again feature an 80s/90s celebration night with music from The Human League, Midge Ure, Johnny Hates Jazz, Dodgy, and rap artist Betty Boo.
- **Saturday:** Headlined by Madness
- **Sunday:** The traditional Last Night Of The Proms on the Sunday will feature Collabro, Ruthie Henshall, Claire Sweeney, Jodie Prenger, Miss Saigon star Lea Salonga and English National Opera soprano Jo Appleby. Up and coming West End star Lucie Mae Sumner, who is from Lytham, joins the line-up.

Tickets for the festival are now on sale at [www.lythamfestival.com](http://www.lythamfestival.com)

- ✨ International events company, Live Nation, has taken a controlling interest in Lytham Festival promoters, Cuffe & Taylor. Founders Peter Taylor and Daniel Cuffe will continue to lead their part of the business and will seek to grow their core brands – Lytham Festival, Greenwich Music Time and Scarborough Open Air Theatre – as well as developing touring operations.

## Section 2: Town Centre Economy

### NEW CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION CENTRE



The Prime Minister, Theresa May, has confirmed funding for a new conference and exhibition centre at Blackpool's Winter Gardens, as part of £500m investment in the Northern Powerhouse.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's overall share of the funding pot is just short of £70m, with around £15.5m allocated to the new centre. A decision on a further funding bid from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) is expected during the next weeks.

Towards the end of last year, the plans for the £25m centre were submitted by architects Bisset Adams showing how the development on the former car park on Leopold Grove would link up with the existing Winter Gardens buildings.

Once the funding is in place, it is hoped that construction work will commence by the end of this year with the new centre open for business in 2019.



- Blackpool Council's Director of Place, Alan Cavill, will give a more detailed presentation on the plans at the BBLG meeting on Friday 27 January.

## **QUALITY CORRIDORS**

A £7m project to give key roads around Blackpool town centre a major facelift is underway.

The Quality Corridors programme, funded by a £6.6m grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal and a £740,000 contribution from Blackpool Council, will improve the look of entrance roads to the town centre.

The programme will take place alongside other regeneration works in the town including the tram extension and the next Central Business District construction phase, which will also upgrade important pedestrian links between bus, tram and rail services at Blackpool North railway station and town centre attractions.

Along with improvements to the roads and pavements, the project will also work with local businesses to create a grant scheme to help improve the look of shop fronts on the entrance to the town centre.

The first road to benefit from a facelift will be Church Street, where improvement work between Leopold Grove and Regent Road is already underway.

The 12 week project will include resurfacing the highway, improving the quality of the pavements on either side, reducing clutter on the road and providing better seating for pedestrians, as well as a designated taxi rank.

Renovation of the footpaths will continue until Sunday 26 March, with work immediately outside St John's School to take place during the February half term.

The resurfacing of the road on Church Street means it will be closed to traffic overnight between 7pm and 6am from Monday 27 March to Sunday 9 April.

During the overnight road closures on Church Street, Topping Street, King Street, South King Street, Alfred Street and Leopold Grove will all be made two-way temporarily.

Other roads that will be included in future elements of the project are Cookson Street, Dickson Road, Deansgate, Edward Street, Topping Street and Talbot Road.

The second stage of the Quality Corridors project will involve working with local traders to help them improve their shop fronts, making both their businesses and the town centre look more appealing.

A grant scheme will allow businesses in certain areas to apply for money to do the work, with more information on the bidding process to be revealed later in the year.

For more information about the work on Church Street, including diversions, visit [www.blackpool.gov.uk/churchstreet](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/churchstreet)

## TOWN CENTRE VACANCIES

The latest survey of vacant retail units in the town centre has seen a slight increase in the overall vacancy rate, but it remains at a record low.

The survey, carried out in November, showed a net increase of two vacant units in the town centre compared to August 2016, bringing the overall total up to 111 and increasing the vacancy rate from its lowest on record (16.8%) to 17.2% - a record low rate for November.

The Principal Retail Core area has a vacancy rate of 11.7%, which has also increased from its record low rate of 10.4% achieved in August, but nonetheless remains the lowest rate recorded during any November survey to date.

The newly vacant units include: BHS, Venom, Mini Mall, Ann Summers, Moments (all on Church Street); Carrington's, Seva Care UK (Topping Street); German Sausage House (Cedar Square); Wilkinson's Florist (Talbot Road); Visitor Information Hub (No. 1 Bickerstaffe Square); Shop for Heroes (Bank Hey Street); Vintage Movie Anime & Comic Store (Birley Street); Ed's Easy Diner, National Citizens Service (Houndshill); Athena (Deansgate); Venom and the Continental Hotel (Queen Street).

Since May 2016 a number of businesses have occupied previously vacant units. These include: Gentleman's Barber Shop, Elizabeth O'Doherty, GoMobile (Church Street); Reilly's, Mobility Café, La Focaccia (Topping Street); Home & HQ, Bucharest (Talbot Road); The Gym Group (Talbot Multi-Storey); Heron Foods (Bank Hey Street); M & M, Jaffy Express (Birley Street); The HealthWorks, De Beaux Cheveux (Clifton Street); Sense (Abingdon Street); Calendar Club and Ann Summers (Victoria Street).

The November 2016 vacancy rates for the three areas identified are as follows:

Area	Total Units <sup>1</sup>	Total Vacant Units	Vacancy Rate
<b>Principle Retail Core</b> (Local Plan boundary based around Houndshill, Victoria Street, Bank Hey Street, Church Street, Corporation Street and Adelaide Street West)	163	19	11.7%
<b>Core Retail Area</b> (as above but also including Topping Street, Queen Street, Clifton Street, Birley Street, Market Street, Talbot Road, Abingdon Street and Cedar Square)	465	68	14.6%
<b>Town Centre Boundary</b> (as above but also including the Promenade, Springfield Road, Dickson Road, King Street, Cookson Street, Counce Street and the new Talbot Gateway area)	647	111	17.2%
<b>Periphery Town Centre Area</b> ( Town Centre Boundary area excluding the units contained within the Core Retail Area)	182	43	23.6%

## WINTER GARDENS FILM FESTIVAL

A celebration of the best of black and white movies will take place in the Opera House from February 3-5. The festival, now in its third year, takes in a range of film genres ranging from classic musical, comedy, horror, silent and contemporary. This year also includes a short film competition where film-makers will compete to win "The Golden Seagull" award. The festival is a partnership between the Winter Gardens and Aunty Social Community Interest Company. Full details, go to: [www.wintergardensfilm.co.uk](http://www.wintergardensfilm.co.uk)

### **ARGOS/SAINSBURY'S**

The Argos store in Blackpool town centre is set to close – and will be replaced by a “digital concession” outlet within the Sainsbury’s supermarket on Talbot Road. The shop, adjacent to the Hounds Hill Centre on Albert Road, is scheduled to close in April.

The concession will offer a range of products for immediate pick-up as well as express ordering service of other products for collection in store or for home delivery.

There will also be an eBay collection point for people to collect their purchases or arrange for Argos to deliver them.

The Argos store on Blackpool Business Park is unaffected by the change.

Sainsbury’s acquired the Argos chain last year.

### **WINTER GARDENS TRUST DONATION**

A £1,000 donation has been made to the Winter Gardens Trust to help raise awareness of the historic building’s significance and preservation.

It was presented by Karen Oldroyd from The Hilton, Blackpool, on behalf of the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People, which supports a wide range of youth projects across the UK through its grants programme.

Since 2000, the Foundation has worked closely with The Hilton to raise funds for disadvantaged children in the community. Each year, staff at The Hilton organise two charity events for the Foundation at the Winter Gardens, including a children’s celebration of music and dance, which sees more than 1,300 local children performing at the venue.

The Winter Gardens Trust is a charitable organisation set up to raise awareness of the significance of the Grade II\* listed entertainment complex and to support its repair and restoration, whilst also maintaining a voice for the public in the ongoing restoration and development work.

### **TOWER COLLECTION**

Blackpool Council has been awarded £97,000 from The Collections Fund to help preserve the Blackpool Tower Circus Collection and make it available to the public.

The two-and-a-half-year project is called Marvels and Mayhem and will contribute to the proposed displays in the planned new Blackpool Museum, which will be based in the Pavilion Theatre within the Winter Gardens.

The project will support the recruitment of volunteers to help create a catalogue and preserve the collection, as well as providing engagement opportunities with the local community.

The aim of the Collections Fund is to develop collections and use them to achieve positive social impact.

Marvels and Mayhem will also work with Blackpool Council Arts and Library Services to produce an imaginative creative writing and storytelling offer for schools.

## Section 3: Enterprise & Economic Development

### **FRACKING UPDATE**

Energy firm Cuadrilla has started work on a controversial shale gas exploration site close to Blackpool.

The company has begun construction work at the Preston New Road site at Little Plumpton between Blackpool and Preston. It is expected to take approximately three months to prepare the surface site before drilling can get underway.

The Communities Secretary Sajid Javid gave Cuadrilla permission to frack for shale gas at the site after overturning a previous refusal by Lancashire County Council's planning committee. At the same time, he deferred a decision on proposals to frack at nearby Roseacre Wood.

Prior to the work starting, the company issued a series of commitments relating to the exploration of shale gas in Lancashire. They include:

- Increased energy security for Lancashire and Britain
- Carrying out its operations to the highest safety and environmental standards, and communicating openly
- Working with local partners to promote Lancashire as a hub for the UK shale gas industry with new jobs and economic growth
- Prioritising Lancashire suppliers and publishing the amounts spent by Cuadrilla
- Supporting local training opportunities for young people including the National Onshore Oil and Gas College based at Blackpool & The Fylde College
- Sharing the benefits of shale gas by sponsoring educational and sporting projects and through a local community benefit scheme

Cuadrilla said an "independently audited tracker" would monitor its pledges to Lancashire.

### **ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Work has started on a new commercial development within the new Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. The first phase of Enterprise Court on Amy Johnson Way will comprise 12 small business units suitable for workshop, warehouse and office use. They should be ready for occupation by May this year. Details from Danny Pinkus, email: [danny@pinkus.co.uk](mailto:danny@pinkus.co.uk)

**Note:** Rob Green, Head of Enterprise at the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Development Company will provide an update on the Enterprise Zone at the January 27 meeting of the BBLG.

### **BABY GROW**

A Blackpool-based investment company has backed the baby clothing specialist behind the bathrobe that Prince George wore when meeting President Obama.

My 1st Years has secured a £5m growth capital investment from Hargreave Hale and London-based private equity firm Beringea.

The company specialises in personalised gifts for babies and children and has attracted celebrity customers including Sir Elton John and Dannii Minogue.

### **POLISH DELI**

A Polish delicatessen has opened in the South Beach area with the support of Blackpool Council's Get Started team. The store on Waterloo Road stocks a variety of food products from Poland including meats, cheese, dumplings and fresh fruit and vegetables. Owner Katarzyna Lukaszewicz was assisted in her new venture by the team based at the Enterprise Centre.

### **INSIDER EVENT**

Insider Magazine is holding an Invest In Blackpool breakfast event at The Hilton Blackpool on Wednesday 15 February.

The event will include a panel of speakers and will focus on some of the key regeneration initiatives in the resort as well as assessing how the town can retain and grow its traditional economies, while allowing new and emerging sectors to thrive.

For enquiries, contact Helen Rendle on 0161-907-9701

## Section 4: General News

### **NEW POLICE STATION**

Building work has started on a new, state-of-the-art police headquarters in Blackpool.



Contractors have moved onto the former Progress House site on Clifton Road (next to Tesco), which will replace Bonny Street Police Station when it is completed in 2018.

The new building will be the headquarters for the county's West Division, which covers Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster and Morecambe.

Close to the M55, the building will provide a base for some of the local policing and immediate response teams as well as a public enquiry desk, investigations hub and 42 custody cells. It will also house a range of specialist teams serving the whole of the division.

## **RAIL UPDATE**

Passengers are being advised to plan their journeys following the commencement of the next phase of the major work to upgrade the railway between Blackpool and Preston.

The next phase of the electrification programme will upgrade the line between Poulton-le-Fylde and Salwick. In order to deliver this major piece of work there will be alterations to train services for 10 weekends from 21 January.

It means that buses will replace trains between Preston and both Blackpool North and Blackpool South stations and passengers are urged to plan ahead and check before travelling.

Once completed, the electrification project will allow electric train services to run between Preston and Blackpool North from May 2018.

For more information and advice on how to plan your journey, go to [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

- The team from Network Rail and Northern will provide a detailed update on the work at the BBLG meeting on Friday 27 January

## **CHILDCARE BOOST**

Blackpool is to benefit from a £50m Government scheme to provide thousands of childcare places for pre-school children in England.

The scheme will help to deliver a government pledge to offer three and four-year-olds in England 30 hours of free care a week in term time. Nearly 9,000 early years places are expected to be created.

The Department for Education says that almost 200 nurseries and pre-schools will benefit from the funding pot, allowing them to invest in new buildings, upgrade old ones and improve facilities.

Initially, £2m of the public money will be invested in six "opportunity areas" - places considered by the government to be falling behind on social mobility.

These are Blackpool, Derby, Norwich, Oldham, Scarborough and West Somerset.

## **CLIP'N'CLIMB**

An exciting new adventure centre is being planned for the outskirts of Blackpool by ice skating stars Dan Whiston and Karen Barber.

Clip'n'Climb Blackpool, which is being developed with their business partners, Anne and Ben Wade, on a site at Whitehills Business Park, will see the Fylde Coast's first dedicated indoor climbing centre. It is expected to create 30 new jobs

- Dan and his partners will give a detailed presentation on the new venture will be made at the March 31 meeting of the BBLG

## Section 5: Requests for private sector support

### **HELP INSPIRE BLACKPOOL'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

Private sector support is required for an event that is being staged in Blackpool to help raise young people's career aspirations.

Blackpool Council, in partnership with Civil Service Local North West, will stage the event at the Winter Gardens on Wednesday 29 March.

The event will see around 700 students from local schools come together to:

- Understand the breadth of employment opportunities offered in the local area;
- Identify and practice the skills required by future employees;
- Interact with local employers, the education sector and role models and spend the day with a "business buddy"
- Find out more about career entry routes, pathways and recruitment opportunities including the new Apprenticeships.

All employers in Blackpool are being invited to take part in the event by showcasing their own organisations and helping inspire some of the young people in the world of work. This could be achieved by:

- Hosting an Interactive activity table for Year 6 children
- Hosting an Interactive activity table for Year 10/11 children
- Holding a market stall as part of the event

There is no charge for any businesses wishing to take part. If you wish to attend or learn more about the event, please contact Andrew Crich before the deadline of **Wednesday 1 February**. Email: [Andrew.Crich@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Crich@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

### **AIMING HIGHER**

The Aiming Higher charity will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising ball at The Hilton, Blackpool, on Saturday 25 March. Tickets are £40 per person, or £450 for a table of 12. The charity is also seeking auction prizes.

Aiming Higher's next venture will see the renovation of the former Hawes Side Library to provide a service for young people with a learning disability.

Further details from: [katy.simister@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katy.simister@hotmail.co.uk)

## **AUNTY SOCIAL**

Aunty Social, a creative community interest company in Blackpool, is looking for at least one new director to join its board.

Aunty was formed in 2011 and provides a range of free or low cost arts activities. Flagship projects include the Winter Gardens Film Festival, online arts and cultural magazine altBlackpool and Charabanc artist shop.

The company is looking to grow its portfolio of projects and also explore how it can be geared up to access larger funding opportunities.

Hence, they are looking for a director or directors with the following skills to join the board:

- Business development
- Commercial business experience (small business retail especially)
- Financial management and/or accountancy
- Human resources and/or legal
- Private sector philanthropy
- Social investment
- Advertising sales

For more information or to download a recruitment pack please visit <http://www.auntysocial.co.uk/aunty-needs-you/>

Applications should be sent to [duncan@auntysocial.co.uk](mailto:duncan@auntysocial.co.uk) no later than Monday 13 February at 5pm.

**Philip Welsh**  
**Head of Visitor Economy**