



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 24, 2017, AT VIVA BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	John Barnett	Stardream/Radio Wave
Michelle Riley	Illuminate Training Solutions	Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Freeport
Kila Redfearn	Blue Skies Hospital Fund	Matthew Burrow	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Andrew Sowden	NEDWOS
Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom	Robert Owen	Pleasure Beach
Phillip Parramore	Guidedotyou	Cara Prewett, James Gibson	The Gym Group
Andrew Heydeman	Inspira	Paul Frickay, Andrew Green	Future Focus Energy
David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Chris Calvert, Michael Muschamp	Rushton's Accountants	Samantha Bell, Aishley Doherty	Skoof of Street
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Suzanne Williams, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures	Chris Oxley	Danbro
Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance	David McGing, Angelique Gonzales	Ibis Styles
Krisztina Sziget	Happy Creative	Beverley Smith	Hampton by Hilton
Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	John Child	Sandcastle
Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador	Kim Heubner	PSG
Paul Wilcock	Montpellier Group	Steve Singleton, David Stevenson	Cuadrilla
Joan Blackburn	Spire Healthcare	Nichola Howard	Launch Events N-W
Ian Mallam	Digitav	Janine Marshall	Genting Casino
David Worsfold	Stimson Barfield	Gary Edwards	Lateo Global Solutions
Rachel Riches	Village Hotels	Carley Harrison	Skpton Building Society
Julie Casson	Jobcentre Plus	Rachel Lambert, Andrea Smith	Young Carers
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Michael Vincent	MJV & Co Solicitors
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Lynne Whittaker	Air Ambulance
Kerry Higginson	GP Strategies	Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel
Mike Lovell	Cheetham Jackson	Tom Metcalf	Little Touches
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design	Nicky Speakman, Mary Speakman	Code Galaxy
Jane Hugo	Streetlife	Paul Isherwood	Stressbuster Works
Karen Cooper	Blackpool Transport	Pam Isherwood	Renaissance
Linda Palentine, Elena Vasilieva	UCLAN	Michael Hyman	Leonard Dews
Steve Swallow	Portal Security	John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W
Sam Whitear	Samuel James Group	Amy Jackson	Maris & Spencer
Paul Hardy, James Gilbert	Napthens	Julie Holland	Viva Blackpool
Neil Reid	Blackpool Food Bank	Richard Champion, Matt Lonsdale	Property Investment Network
Carmen Parkinson	The Business Clinic	Chris Maine	DPA Packaging
Andrew Hamilton, Geoff Mason	Chamber of Commerce	Colin Wood	Bae Systems
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Melanie Whitehead	The Electric Sunshine Project
Nicola Atanassova	VisitBlackpool	Paul Darlow	Hounds Hill
Ron Bell	Abbey Bell Consultants	Elaine Smith	Friends of Stanley Park
Andrew Mellor	Primary Futures	Tracy Hopkins	Citizens Advice Bureau
Steve Burns	Think Forward	Simon Smith	Natwest
Peter Rawlings	Tower Employment Services	Jake Adams	Creative Print
Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken	Michael Pickthall	Pinpoint Management
Pamela Isles	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Dave Preston, Dave Hargreaves	Offigo
Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth	Lynn Saggerson	Blackpool Volunteers
Tom Hutton, Linus Welsh	AFC Fylde Community Trust	Frank Heald	Voiteq
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Steve Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Susanne Johnson	Johnsons Emporium	Barrie Thompson	China UK Business Centre
Mike Hardaker	Moore and Smalley	Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre
Lucy Barnwell	Rossall School	Steve Walmsley	Starboard Hotels
Yusuf Musa	Enterprise 4 All	Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool
Graham Cowley	Opportunity Areas	Deborah Terras	UR Potential
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, John Blackledge, Ian Large, Nick Gerrard	Blackpool Council	Peter Legg, Lucy Gregson, Rebecca Edwards, Deborah Makin	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Jonathan Barnes	Santander	John Keen	RKMS
Phillip Owen	Consultant	Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside
Pauline Lai	Mandarin	Greg Myerscough	RBS
Jill Gray	Blackpool Sixth	Victoria Ivanov	Candy House
Vito Cinardi		Michael Cuddy	Michael Cuddy Chartered Surveyors
Janet Atkins	Trinity Hospice	Tom Willcox	Willcox PR
John Salisbury	RBS	Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles
Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro	Wendy Swift	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group	Steve Godfrey	UK Fujitsu
Rob Green	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC	Belinda Shore	Santander
David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare	Helen Livesey	The Business Clinic
Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Paul Crossley	Kenrick & Co
Andrew Wareing	Voucher Packs	Phil McVan	Energy Insights
Katherine O'Connor	BIS	Louise Cardwell	Shorrock Trichem

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair) welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Minutes noted, no matters arising.

3. Blackpool Town Centre Improvement Programme

John Blackledge, Director of Community & Environmental Services (Blackpool Council) gave a presentation on the current programme of works being undertaken in Blackpool Town centre in preparation for a number of large-scale capital projects including the new tramway extension to North Station, the conference centre development at the Winter Gardens and phase two of the Houndshill Shopping Centre.

He emphasised that the timing of the road works was in most cases linked to funding requirements. He set out the proposed timescales for work between now and the first quarter of next year.

A number of questions were raised by businesses concerned about the impact of the works on footfall in the run-up to Christmas. Michael Hyman (Leonard Dews) said that while new investment was great news for Blackpool, the weeks leading up to Christmas represented the most critical trading period for many retailers.

Colin Johnson (Blackpool Grand Theatre) said the first few days of the works had impacted negatively on walk-up sales and some people had struggled to get to shows on time. He also suggested that street lighting in the town centre area should be addressed as some areas seemed dark and uninviting.

A number of businesses asked whether free parking could be provided between now and Christmas, and whether additional communication could be undertaken to drive home the message that the town centre was open for business as normal.

Jane Hugo (Streetlife) praised the arrangements that had been put in place by Northern Rail and Blackpool Transport for passengers to get bus connections from Preston to Blackpool during the rail blockades.

It was agreed that Mr Blackledge would consider some of the requests put forward during the business and feed back to the group.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

4. Art B&B

Helen Clay (LeftCoast) presented on the proposed Art B&B project in which the former Ocean Hotel on the Promenade will be converted into an art-themed hotel. She said the building would be fully refurbished and would incorporate pay-per-minute workspace, meeting rooms, event and performance space, café and bar, and 17 art-themed bedrooms.

She said the hotel was being set up as a Community Interest Company and had already secured £1.3m of capital and revenue funding. It was intended to create an innovative new business model for high-quality visitor accommodation. It would also create training opportunities, talent and skills development for local residents.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

5. **Third Sector Leaders**

Tracy Hopkins (Citizen's Advice Bureau) gave an insight into the Third Sector Leaders Group, which comprises 45 organisations and continues to grow. She said the group had helped put millions of pounds back into the local economy by helping to write off debts and uplift benefits.

Key aims of the group are:

- ❖ Raise the awareness of the value of the offer the Third Sector has
- ❖ Provide the means for a Third Sector collective to collaborate and work more effectively together
- ❖ Share resources and intelligence

Tracy then introduced colleagues who further emphasised the scope of the group's activities and related stories of how people had helped been able to transform their lives.

6. **Chamber of Commerce Update**

Andrew Hamilton and Geoff Mason (North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce) gave an update on the chamber's activities, with particular focus on the training centre in their offices at Blackpool Business Park.

They said that the Chamber was committed to supporting Blackpool and its business community. They had already established Coastal Connect, a monthly business networking meeting for businesses in Blackpool and the Fylde Coast.

Further plans include a hotelier network and a Community Connect programme.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

7. **Opportunity Areas**

Graham Cowley (chair of the Blackpool Opportunity Area Board) gave the group a presentation on this Government-led initiative aimed at improving social mobility among young people.

He said that Blackpool was one of six areas designated for Opportunity Area status and would benefit from £6m of funding over three years.

He said that the main aims were to:

- ❖ Raise attainment and progress in Blackpool's schools
- ❖ Provide support for vulnerable children and families to improve attendance and outcomes and reduce school exclusions
- ❖ Improve advice and support for young people when moving from schools and colleges into work
- ❖ Build local capacity to co-ordinate and manage initiatives

Andrew Heydeman then gave a brief overview of the Enterprise Adviser Network which was working with businesses to provide volunteers to work on business-related activities in schools. Further information: Andrew.Heydeman@inspira.org.uk

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

8. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He highlighted the following items:

Airport Enterprise Zone Masterplan

Nick Gerrard (Blackpool Council) gave the group a brief outline of the draft Airport Enterprise Zone masterplan and encouraged people to participate in the consultation. He said that a consultation “drop in” event was being planned at the Lancashire Energy College the following Friday, December 1 between 12 noon and 4.30pm.

Strictly Sequence

Philip Welsh showed the group the opening sequences of the Strictly Come Dancing shows held at Blackpool Tower Ballroom over the previous weekend. He said the amount of publicity generated for the resort on prime time television before, during and after the show had reached unprecedented levels.

9. Any Other Business

Viva Partner Programme

Julie Holland (Viva Blackpool) gave the group an insight into the venue’s partner programme. Any businesses interested in getting more information, email: julie@vivablackpool.com

Vote of Thanks

The chair thanked Martin Heywood and the Viva team for hosting the event and also the speakers for their presentations.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 26 January, 2018, at The Hilton Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool.