

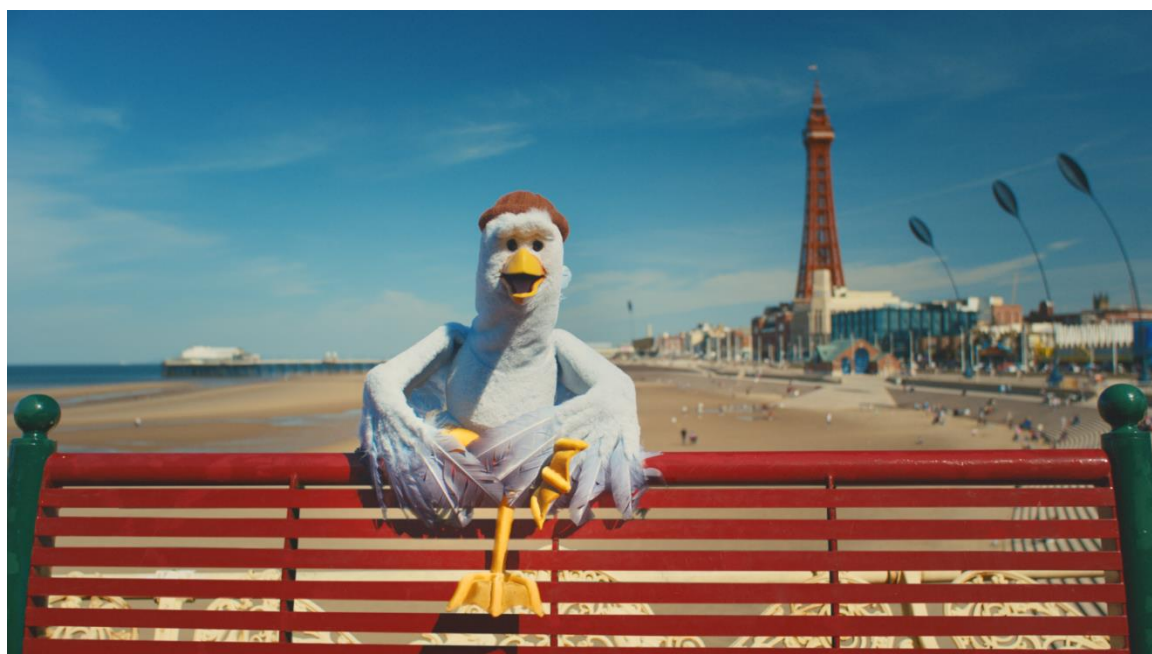


Blackpool Business Leadership Group

Business Partnerships Report – May 27, 2022

1. Visitor Economy Update

INTRODUCING NIGEL...



Blackpool has launched its biggest ever marketing campaign *Only in Blackpool* – spearheaded by a new “spokesbird” Nigel C Gull.

The £1.3 million partnership between Merlin Entertainments, Blackpool Council, Blackpool Tourism Business Improvement District and other partners features a specially-created seagull puppet called Nigel, voiced by legendary actor and comedian Johnny Vegas.

The campaign seeks to showcase the resort’s wide range of attractions and reaffirm its position as the UK’s capital of fun and ultimate destination for families.

In the new adverts, started airing across TV, radio, social media and video-on-demand from May 23, Nigel visits iconic attractions including Blackpool Tower, the Pleasure Beach, Madame Tussauds, Sandcastle Water Park and SEA LIFE.

Nigel was created by award-winning puppeteer Andy Heath, who has worked with the BBC, The Jim Henson Company and Disney, with the campaign produced by the Creature London agency.

Note: A presentation on the *Only In Blackpool* campaign and the making of Nigel will be made at the BBLG meeting on May 27

FOURTH FIREWORK DISPLAY LINED UP

A fourth fireworks event has been added to Blackpool's spectacular autumn events programme – thanks to a new sponsorship deal with Coral Island.

The seafront family entertainment centre will put its name to the three World Fireworks Championship Blackpool events that were announced earlier this year – and also to a new UK showcase display in October half-term.

Three countries will participate over alternate Saturdays on September 17, October 1 and October 15, with the showcase event taking place on Friday 28 October.



The stunning displays, which are set to music, will be staged over the beach in front of The Blackpool Tower and just a stone's throw away from Coral Island. All of the displays are free to access. Over the years, the firework events have become one of the resort's biggest draws. Details of this year's competing countries will be announced over the coming weeks.

COMMONWEALTH BATON RELAY HEADING TO BLACKPOOL

Blackpool has been selected as one of the places to host the Queen's Baton Relay ahead of this year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The relay begins with a five-day tour of London during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It will then resume an international journey taking in the Falkland Islands, Channel Islands, the Isle Of Man and the UK home nations

The relay returns to England on July 4 to commence a 25-day tour of the regions with planned visits to the Eden Project in Cornwall, the Lake District and venues from the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games.

On Saturday 16 July, the relay will arrive in Blackpool for a special event where the baton will be paraded on the Comedy Carpet and in The Blackpool Tower. The relay will then move on to other parts of England before finishing its journey in Birmingham for the Games Opening Ceremony on July 28.

Thousands of people have been invited to take it in turns to carry the baton, with between 40 and 130 individuals each day. Baton-bearers have been picked to represent the country's diversity.

SEASIDE AWARDS

Four of Blackpool's beaches have been granted Seaside Awards.

The national awards, announced by Keep Britain Tidy, have rewarded Blackpool South, Blackpool Central, Blackpool North and Bispham for their high standards of beach management, as well as their nearby facilities and water quality.

Blackpool is part of Turning Tides the cross-agency partnership working together in North West England to do everything possible to improve the quality of our bathing waters.

SONIA JOINS THE JUBILEE PARTY



The chart-topping singer Sonia is headlining a programme of free entertainment on Blackpool seafront as part of the resort's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The entertainment will take place on the Comedy Carpet on Thursday 2 June as Blackpool marks the first day of the extended holiday with a grand parade of heritage trams, a giant outdoor picnic, a light and laser show and a burst of fireworks from the top of The Blackpool Tower.

Sonia, who became the first female UK artist to achieve five top 20 hit singles from one album and who finished runner-up in the 1993 Eurovision Song Contest, will be joined by X-Factor contestants Sami Brookes and Ella Grace, and Britain's Got Talent finalists, Richard and Adam.

The programme will also include excerpts from some of Blackpool's leading summer season venues including Pleasure Beach, the Tower Circus and Jersey Beats, as well as performances by home-grown talent.

Staged in association with Blackpool Transport and the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), the parade will see around a dozen trams from the heritage fleet travel in convoy from the Pleasure Beach to Little Bispham, creating one of the largest tram parades the resort has seen.

The convoy, which sets off at 2.30pm, will pause at the Tower Festival Headland for a unique photo opportunity.

Between 3pm and 7pm, people will be able to relax at The Big Comedy Picnic, an al fresco eating out area opposite The Blackpool Tower, with free live entertainment.

Then, between 9pm and 9.45pm, there will be further entertainment before the resort joins the Queen's Platinum national Jubilee Beacons lighting ceremony, followed by a light show and a burst of fireworks on The Blackpool Tower. Check out the [visitblackpool.com/jubilee](https://www.visitblackpool.com/jubilee) website for further updates on the resort's Jubilee celebrations

NOTE: A presentation on Blackpool's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be made at the BBLG meeting on May 27.

NEW HOME FOR ZOO'S BIG CATS

Work to build a new £1.5m home for big cats at Blackpool Zoo has got underway.

The Pride of Blackpool exhibition, which currently houses Amur tigers and African lions, will be extended and renovated to create a state-of-the-art facility designed around the specific needs of each species.

Increased indoor space and a larger off-show management area will be complemented by extended external paddocks and improved keeper facilities, which will enable the best possible care for the magnificent and endangered animals.



Works are expected to be complete in time for spring 2023. The development is the latest in a series of significant investments at the zoo over the last decade.

VIVA 10 YEARS ON

Blackpool's Viva Showroom is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an action-packed calendar of brand new shows, including its first ever West End musical.

Opened in 2012, the promenade venue has welcomed around 150,000 visitors each year with a top-class programme of live entertainment produced in house by owners Martin Heywood and Leye D Johns.



This summer season sees the most exciting new line up of shows ever produced in its unique cabaret style theatre with a different attraction every night from June through to November.

For the first time, Viva will stage a full West End musical, Boogie Nights The 70's Musical, featuring Shane Nolan as the lead. Other season highlights include Viva The Show, Viva Country Legends, Oh What A Night, and Voulez-Vous, a tribute to the music of Abba.

Viva will also become the home of family entertainment as part of its 10th anniversary celebration welcoming the Crazy Comedy Company, a new teatime show which has been a hit at Butlin's resorts for the last two years and the Edinburgh Festival.

There will also be regular performances by comedians Joe Pasquale, Billy Pearce and Joey Blower, as well as Bingo Loco party nights.

Viva will stage a celebratory 10th anniversary command performance on August 12, welcoming a star-studded line up 10-years to the day since opening its doors for the first time.

For full details of the new season, go to: www.vivablackpool.com.

BRITISH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The British Country Music Festival returns to the Winter Gardens this autumn.

It will see performances across four stages from September 2-4 with the multi award-winning singer-songwriter Tom Odell headlining on the Saturday night.



The festival, now in its third year, provides a platform for grassroots artists to perform alongside established singer-songwriters of country music, Americana and folk.

The opening Friday night will see a rare live performance by Amy Wadge, writer of this year's Eurovision second-placed song, Space Man, performed by Sam Ryder. She has a long-established partnership with Ed Sheeran and won the Grammy for Song Of The Year in 2016 for the hit, Thinking Out Loud. She has co-written for various artists including Keith Urban, Dua Lipa and LeAnn Rimes.

The Sunday night, which traditionally welcomes an international artist to the festival, will see Canadian country singer, Jess Moskaluke, take the guest spot.

HOLE IN WAND OPENING DATE

Blackpool's newest attraction the "Hole in Wand" located on the famous promenade will open on Saturday 4 June.

The wizard-themed, nine-hole mini golf course features an ancient castle, mysterious forest, magical train station and a replica of the Potions Cauldron shop based on the Shambles in York. The operators already have a similar attraction in the city.

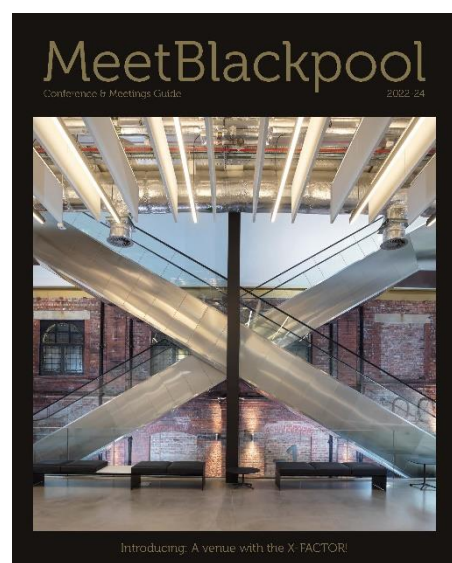
Prices for the golf start at £6.99 and every player gets a magical potion bottled drink worth £2.99 to take away. For Further details on the attraction and to book tickets or view job opportunities go to: www.theholeinwand.com/blackpool/

NEW CONFERENCE GUIDE

A new conference and business tourism guide has been produced to mark the opening of the Blackpool Conference & Exhibition Centre at the Winter Gardens.

The MeetBlackpool guide features extensive photography of the conference centre as well as featuring the historic Winter Gardens and other business tourism venues across the resort.

It also showcases the wider resort offer including accommodation, food and beverage, and some of the unique experiences on offer to conference organisers and delegates.



BECCA RETURNS FOR SWITCH-ON

MTV's lead presenter, Becca Dudley, is returning to The Blackpool Tower Ballroom to host this year's Illuminations Switch-On concert.

Becca, who hosts numerous shows across MTV, was the presenter for last year's show, which was streamed to a worldwide audience.

This year's event on Friday 2 September will be staged in association with MTV and will feature live music performances in the iconic ballroom with an audience made up of more than 2,000 winners of a free-to-enter ballot. It will trigger four months of Illuminations in the resort.



The concert and Switch-On moment will once again be live streamed across MTV and VisitBlackpool channels, and event organisers are also exploring the possibility of streaming the event to an outdoor audience on the Tower Festival Headland.

The annual Switch-On event moved indoors during 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic restrictions, but has proved so successful that it is being repeated for a third successive year – although this time with a full-capacity audience in the ballroom.

Last year's Switch-On celebration saw Shirley Ballas, head judge of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing, pull the famous switch, watched by a worldwide audience with more than 160,000 views from as far afield as Australia, Canada and the United States.

Full details of the acts that will perform at this year's event will be revealed over the coming weeks along with the identity of the Switch-On star. The ballot for free tickets is now open with an initial allocation of 2,000 tickets to be split equally between Blackpool residents and visitors. There is a maximum of four tickets per person.

RUPAUL AT TUSSAUDS

Madame Tussauds Blackpool has just become a whole lot more glamorous as it unveils its first ever UK drag queen figure – RuPaul!

Standing just over 7ft tall, Mama Ru is the tallest human wax figure ever to be unveiled at Madame Tussauds on Blackpool's Golden Mile.

The famous drag queen's figure is situated at the end of a runway, which pays homage to RuPaul's Drag Race reality competition series, and features some of the star's famous quotes.

With more than 80 famous faces, Madame Tussauds Blackpool gives visitors the chance to get up close with their heroes, from sporting stars to TV favourites, movie icons, and music stars.

The attraction recently unveiled a new figure of Boris Johnson, complete with the Prime Minister's trademark hair, and a figure of the Queen, ahead of her Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It has also revamped the Doctor Who set with the addition of the thirteenth Doctor's on-screen friend, Dan Lewis, played by actor and comedian, John Bishop, and an original and terrifying Weeping Angel.

BLACKPOOL CUP TOURNAMENT RETURNS



Blackpool welcomed more than 300 youth football teams and 10,000 attendees over Easter and May Day bank holiday weekends as The Blackpool Cup, one of the UK's biggest tournaments, returned.

At the start of this year, Blackpool Council and VisitBlackpool agreed a three-year partnership with Euro-Sporting, Europe's largest international youth football tournament organiser.

The tournaments are intended to bring a major boost to the local economy as well as showcasing Blackpool's excellent credentials as a family-friendly resort, capable of hosting a major international sporting event.

Teams travelled from all over England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland together with more than 70 local teams for the tournaments.

Both weekends kicked off with an official opening ceremony at the Blackpool Tower Circus, with many of the matches played over both weekends at the excellent new facilities on Common Edge Road at the Airport Enterprise Zone.

Plans are already underway for next year's tournament which is likely to see another significant growth in the number of participating teams from the UK and Europe.

ARMED FORCES WEEK, JUNE 20-26

Blackpool's Armed Forces Week is an opportunity for the whole resort to come together to welcome serving military personnel, veterans and cadets, with a wide range of activities targeted at them and their families, as well as the many thousands of people visiting Blackpool. The highlights include:

- Flag-Raising Ceremony at Blackpool Town Hall at 10.30am on Sunday 20 June
- Service of dedication at Fylde Memorial Arboretum, Millennium Grove, Moor Park at 11am on Friday 25 June
- National Armed Forces Day event between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 26 June at Hangar 42 Spitfire Visitor Centre at Blackpool Airport with a rare opportunity to get up close to a Spitfire from the Polish Heritage Flight. **Note:** There are stand opportunities for any businesses that offer family-friendly activities, vehicle displays, educational or historical displays preferably with a link to Armed Force. Email: kerry@visitblackpool.com for details. For full details of the Armed Forces Week programme go to: [Armed Forces Week | VisitBlackpool | Visit Blackpool](#)

ALE ON A TRAM

A new Heritage Tram experience is bringing history and real ale together for a unique cultural experience.

The Real Ale Tour means visitors to Blackpool can now enjoy local craft ale in the most unique, memorable setting, on board an iconic Blackpool tram!

Guests will enjoy a scenic ride on board a heritage tram whilst enjoying two bottles of ale brewed locally at Blackpool's West Coast Rock Brewery.

One of the two ales served is Crafty Conductor, an exclusive ale brewed and bottled especially for Blackpool Heritage Tram Tours.



West Coast Rock Brewery is the only brewery pub of its kind in Blackpool. Customers have the option to visit the brewery after their Heritage Tram ride for a behind the scenes look at how the ales are made.

Customers can book online now for tours starting from June onwards at blackpoolheritage.com

WELCOME TO THE UPPER DECK

A stylish new bar and grill has opened at the Grosvenor Casino at South Beach.

Named by Blackpool residents after a social media competition, The Upper Deck features Art Deco inspired interiors and sumptuous furnishings to create a new dining and entertainment destination.

Alongside the new restaurant, the refurbishment of the venue features improved gaming areas as well as a new sports lounge. The casino will host an official relaunch celebration party on Saturday 28 May with a screening of the Champions League Final and live entertainment from Shane Nolan.



2. Town Centre Update

BLACKPOOL TOWN CENTRE VACANCIES

The latest town centre vacancy report carried out at the start of May shows a net decrease of one vacant unit in the town centre compared to February 2022. This brings the overall total down to 144 and reduces the vacancy rate from 23.1% to 22.9% – the lowest vacancy rate since August 2019.

The vacancy rate reduction is due to a net decrease of two vacant units in the core retail area, which includes one unit within the principal retail core. This decrease was partially offset by an increase of one vacant unit in the periphery town centre area over the same period respectively.

The newly-vacant units include: Flame Chilli Bar (Victoria Street); No 1 CBN, Church Street Corner Shop (Church Street); Pilkington's Sandwich Shop (Birley Street); Uniform & Leisurewear (Clifton Street); Café-Tiere (Topping Street) and King Street Dental Surgery (King Street).

Encouragingly since February a number of businesses have occupied previously vacant units. These include: Leading Labels (Houndshell); Job Centre Plus (Albert Road); House of Fashion (Victoria Street); Russ Browns House of Secrets (Church Street); Merkor Slots (Abingdon Street); Infused (Queen Street); Black & Gold (Dickson Road) and Cassandra's (Topping Street).

King Street Dental Surgery has relocated to temporary accommodation on King Street in order to facilitate Phase 3 of the Talbot Gateway Regeneration Scheme, whilst work to their new premises is completed.

May 2022: Vacant Units

Area	Total Units ¹	Total Vacant Units	Vacancy Rate
Principal Retail Core (Local Plan boundary based around Houndshell, Victoria Street, Bank Hey Street, Church Street, Corporation Street and Adelaide Street West)	160	28	17.5%
Core Retail Area (as above but also including Topping Street, Queen Street, Clifton Street, Birley Street, Market Street, Talbot Road, Abingdon Street and Cedar Square)	463	90	19.4%
Town Centre Boundary – this relates to the Core Strategy found in the Local Plan but it excludes the Central Station site and Coral Island (as above but also including the Promenade, Springfield Road, Dickson Road, King Street, Cookson Street, Caunce Street and the new Talbot Gateway area)	629	144	22.9%
Periphery Town Centre Area (the Town Centre Boundary area excluding the units contained within the Core Retail Area)	166	54	32.5%

¹ Excluding the properties to the south of the Palatine Buildings; development sites (Sands Hotel); units within Blackpool North Station & Sainsbury's; community sites (e.g. churches, libraries, schools etc.) and civic sites (e.g. Town Hall).

SHOWTOWN POP-UP AT HOUNDSHILL

The team from Showtown, Blackpool's planned new museum of fun and entertainment, have opened a pop-up activity hub in the Houndshill Shopping Centre.

The hub will be used to host a range of family-based activities and heritage talks over the coming months ahead of the museum opening next year on the first floor of the Sands Venue Resort Hotel.



3. General News

NEW SKATE PARK OPENS



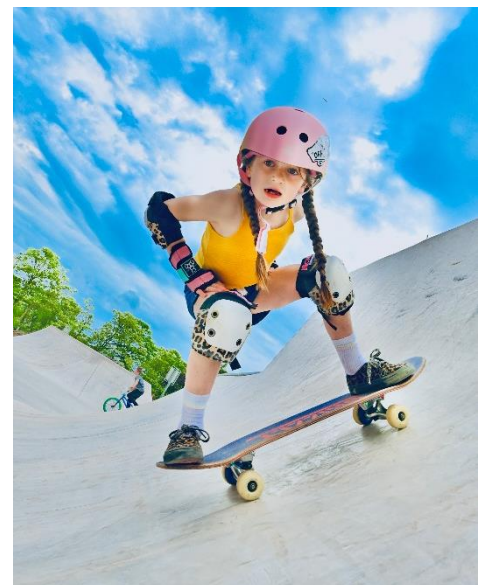
A new £220,000 skate park has been opened in Blackpool's Stanley Park – much to the delight of an army of skateboarders, scooter and BMX riders.

Two local skateboarders have masterminded the redevelopment which has seen a 4,000sq metre, purpose-built concrete park installed, featuring stairs, ledges, rails, curbs, quarter pipes and a mini ramp.

Simon Bennet from Stanley Park Skate Park Development Group and Woody's Skate Shop have been the driving force behind securing funding for the revamped park.

It was then designed and built by a team of specialists from Mind Work Ramps based in Latvia who are also skaters and BMX riders in their spare time. The end result is one of the best skate parks in the North West, providing facilities for people of all ages and ability.

Funding for the scheme came from Sport England, Suez, Blackpool Council and fundraising bids by the skate park development group.



NEW BLACKPOOL FC TRAINING FACILITY ANNOUNCED

Blackpool Football Club has announced that it has exchanged contracts to secure nearly 100 acres of land for a new training facility.

The club has been working behind the scenes to identify a suitable site for an elite training facility to house the first team and Academy ever since its change of ownership in June 2019.

Throughout the process, the Club has been supported by Blackpool Council and instructed its own specialists, led by AFL Architects, to ensure a comprehensive search of suitable sites was conducted, with more than 30 considered.

The chosen site connects Blackpool and Poulton-le-Fylde along Garstang Road, bordered by the Grange Park estate and Baines School.

The planned new facility will house a bespoke building with changing rooms, medical, coaching, fitness and education areas. Initially with six grass pitches, one full-size artificial pitch and a covered artificial area, the site will be designed for one of the pitches to be deemed a show pitch for development and Under-18 games.

When appropriate to do so, this facility will enable the club to progress from a Category 3 to Category 2 Academy.

Note: Ben Mansford, chief executive of Blackpool FC, will give a brief presentation at the BBLG meeting on Friday 27 May on the club's future plans.

COMMUNITY SPORTS VILLAGE

Land which originally formed part of the Foxhall Village housing scheme is due to be cleared to enable the development of the proposed Revoe Community Sports Village.

The land (off Central Drive adjacent to Blackpool Football Club) had previously been used by developer Hollinwood Homes, to stockpile surplus waste materials, including excess spoil.

In October 2019, when half of the new homes were completed at Foxhall Village, construction firm Marcus Worthington Ltd went into administration, shortly followed by Hollinwood Homes. At that point all works to the site were halted.

In September last year, following lengthy legal negotiations, Blackpool Council managed to obtain full control of the site.

The Council has since has been working with Blackpool Football Club, Blackpool FC Community Trust and the Football Foundation to determine the long-term potential of the site.

It is now proposed that the area could be developed to provide a number of community accessible sports pitches as well as supporting the club's ambitions for redevelopment of Bloomfield Road's existing East Stand (see artist impression above)

In advance of finalising plans for future development, work will be undertaken to clear the site. Enabling works are due to start on site in early June and are expected to last 12 weeks.



BLACKPOOL CENTRAL CAR PARK ACCESS



The main access route to Central Car Park via Seaside's Way is now closed to traffic for construction of a new multi-storey car park.

The 1300-space car park forms part of the first phase of development at the £300m Blackpool Central leisure scheme.

It will ensure essential car parking spaces aren't lost in the town and that future stages of the development can go ahead on the site of the existing surface car park.

During the development period, Central Car Park will remain open but parking will be reduced to approximately 800 spaces with access via the main entrance on Central Drive. The link to Chapel Street will remain closed.

Diversions are signposted, with traffic diverted via routes at Parkinson Way/Waterloo Road and Bloomfield Road. For more information on the plans for Blackpool Central please visit www.blackpool.gov.uk/BetterBlackpool

BLACKPOOL'S HAT-TRICK OF HOUSING AWARDS

Blackpool came out on top at the Northern Housing Awards after scooping three awards.

Blackpool Council received the top honour being named Council of the Year. The award recognises the council's proven track record in delivering new homes, finding new and innovative ways to release land for development and tackling homelessness.

Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH) received the award for Best Approach to Diversity and Inclusion. This award recognised the way BCH creates a diverse workforce, their openness and promotion of mental health and wellbeing issues, the creation of new services and the partnership with LeftCoast to meet the needs of tenants and customers.

BCH also came away as winners in the category of Best Approach to Employee Wellbeing. This included signing up to the Time to Change programme as well as staff undertaking mental health first aid training.

BCH was also shortlisted in the categories of Best Initiative for Tackling Homelessness and Resident Support/Advice Programme of the Year.

ENTERPRISE ZONE PLANS

Updated plans for the third stage of Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone's Phase One regeneration have been submitted. They include the creation of new business and industrial units, a multi-purpose local hub and a new eastern gateway access road.

This third application works in conjunction with the two planning approvals already granted for new grass pitches and new sports facilities as the next step towards the completion of Phase One.

The new grass pitches, relocated south of the area are now in use, with the new sports facilities, including changing facilities and a spectator pavilion and reconfigured car parking due to be completed for the start of the 2022-23 season.

The updated proposals seek to redevelop the original playing fields for commercial development. Covering approximately 13.55 hectares, it includes plans for 8.97 hectares of office and industrial floor-space for employment use and a local hub comprising a day nursery, retail outlets and a café.

A new access road is outlined in the plans, linking Amy Johnson Way on the existing business park to provide access from Common Edge Road. The updated plans also incorporate ancillary elements including an electric vehicle charging hub, junction and highway improvement works, drainage works, car parking and an electricity sub-station.

GRAHAM STEPS UP TO THE MARK

Construction contractor GRAHAM has donated a set of tools and appliances to the team at the Blackpool Centre for Independent Living (BCIL), replacing vital equipment that was stolen from the centre's premises last year.

BCIL supports local disabled communities and assists a host of volunteer projects across Blackpool including the creation of wooden planters and bird houses to be installed in community spaces.

The team's workshop, which provided a place to learn new skills, was broken into earlier last year, with thieves stealing the collection of tools that the team had been using for their community work.

Blackpool Council and the Blackpool Business Leadership Group were among those organisations who sent out appeals for benefactors who might be able to offer a helping hand by donating individual pieces of equipment.

As a result, GRAHAM, the lead contractor for Phase 2 of the ongoing Houndhill extension, offered to replace all of the stolen items, donating more than 100 tools worth £7,000.

The full set of equipment was handed over by representatives from GRAHAM to the New Langdale Green Team and other BCIL representatives at the centre's premises on Whitegate Drive.

Plans for the workshop include working with Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH) to produce planters of all sizes, wall boxes and floral features that will be distributed to many houses in the scheme.

Additional plans are also in place to help the Council's Growth & Prosperity Team adhere to new planning rules that have special scientific interest or environmental requirements. For example, new-build developments or landscaping that must provide for natural habitats of the local wildlife.

One of the first projects to be undertaken is to design and build a series of bird boxes, bat boxes and bee hotels that will feature on the new Common Edge sports changing room facilities at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

BLACKPOOL SEA DEFENCES £60M BOOST

More than 4,000 properties are set to be better protected from flooding in Blackpool thanks to a new, large-scale investment to replace and upgrade the existing coastal defences.

Following submission of an outline business case to the Environment Agency, Blackpool Council has been allocated £61.2m to replace and upgrade the sea defences in Bispham. The scheme will see two sections of the sea defences refurbished: 1.5km from Princes Way at Little Bispham to Red Bank Road, Bispham and 1.3 km from Gynn Square to Cocker Square.

Over the past 30 years, Blackpool Council has successfully delivered over £150m of coastal infrastructure. This scheme will reduce the risk of erosion to 3,631 households, 380 non-residential properties and also protect important infrastructure that is vital to Blackpool including the tramway.

The existing defences, which were constructed in the 1980s, have been regularly maintained but are now life-expired and in need of replacement.

By replacing the defences now before any erosion of the steep cliffs takes place, this will avoid the need for expensive emergency works. Both schemes will see improvements to access steps and slipways, replacement of the crest wall and the introduction of new fishtail rock headlands and groynes. Work is due to start on site early 2023.

HELP TO UPSKILL YOUR STAFF

A new three-year funded project has been announced in Blackpool as part of a range of initiatives that aim to boost adult skills. The Multiply programme, which was announced in the Government's Levelling Up White Paper, is for adults aged 19 who do not have a GCSE at Grade 4 (or equivalent).

It seeks to improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home and work, from managing household finances to helping children with homework, making more sense of facts in media and improving their employability/job prospects.

Advantages for businesses in improving numeracy skills:

- Businesses that develop their employees' numeracy skills can boost productivity and improve employee retention
- People with improved numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages and better wellbeing
- A Level 2 numeracy qualification can help people progress to higher level training, education or better skilled jobs

What the Multiply project can offer you:

- Free training in maths to support your workforce in one of our centres or your workplace
- Flexible courses that fit around people's lives and are tailored to specific needs, circumstances, sectors and industries
- Maths qualifications up to and including Level 2 (GCSE equivalent)

To find out more about how Multiply can support your business, contact Donna Clayton, Blackpool Council's Head of Adult Community and Family Learning on 01253 478131 or email

Donna.clayton@blackpool.gov.uk

Philip Welsh
Head of Tourism & Communications