



Blackpool Business Leadership Group

Business Partnerships Report – 25 July 2025

Regeneration News

GOING, GOING GONE – BLACKPOOL POLICE STATION DEMOLISHED



Demolition is almost complete on the old police station on Bonny Street, marking an important step in preparing the Blackpool Central site for redevelopment.

The land is being marketed to private sector investors to bring forward proposals for a new leisure attraction.

The full programme of demolition has already cleared the former Magistrates' court, Chapel Street car park and the old joke shop on Central Drive.

The cost for the demolition is met from funding allocated by the UK Government as part of the Blackpool Town Deal.

Global property marketing consultants are currently being selected to bring the site forward for future investment.

WORK TO START ON MULTIVERSITY



Work to build a new world class higher education campus is set to start.

The Multiversity campus for Blackpool and The Fylde College will bring up to 3,000 students and staff into an inspiring and aspirational new learning environment on Cookson Street.

Demolition and clearance of the site will take place in phases over the next nine months, preparing it for construction to start next year.

Demolition of the first houses at the corner of Grosvenor Street, Milbourne Street and Charles Street will start in late July, with Charles Street closed to through traffic, before closing fully between Cookson Street and Grosvenor Street towards the end of the year.

George Street will remain open in both directions, however lane closures will be required later in the year. When construction work starts, George Street will close permanently.

To aid traffic flow and provide safer routes around the Talbot Gateway, a number of improvements will be installed over the next 12 months, through the £5.6m Town Centre Access Scheme.

These works will include:

- Improving the traffic light signal junctions on Counce Street
- Updating the road layout on Grosvenor Street to enable two-way traffic flow
- Installing new pedestrian crossings on Cookson Street and Grosvenor Street
- Creating a lay-by on Cookson Street for drop offs/pick ups
- Introducing a right turn from Cookson Street onto Deansgate

DWP OFFICE AWARDED BEST NEW BUILDING IN LANCASHIRE

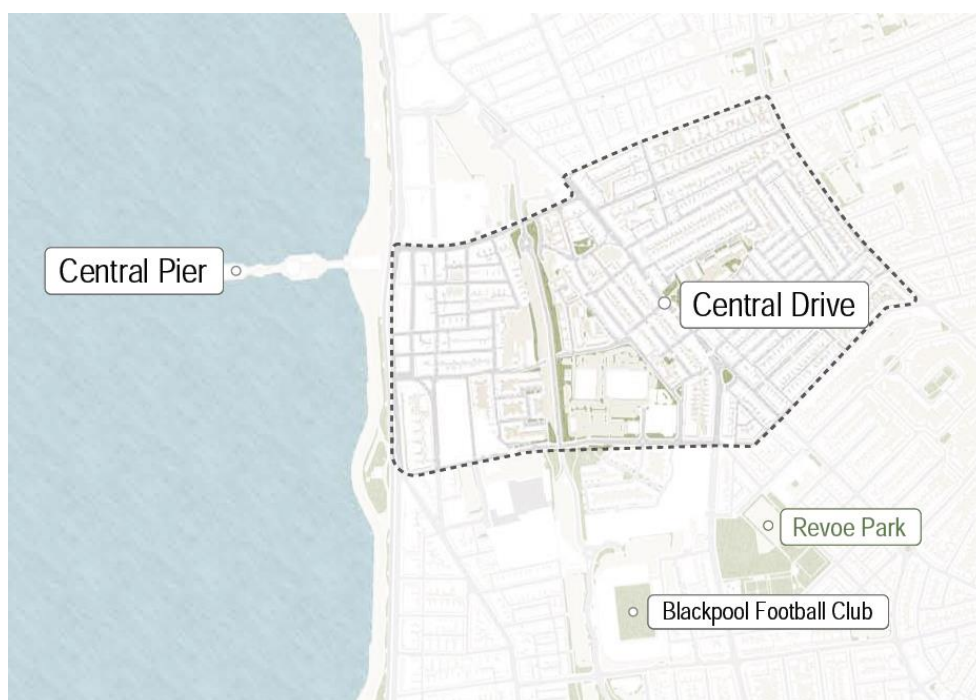


A new office for Department of Work and Pensions has been named as the best new building in Lancashire.

The office, which opened this spring, was awarded the sub-regional project of the year award – Lancashire at the prestigious North West Regional Construction Awards last month.

As well as bringing 3,000 DWP workers into the town centre, the build was completed on time and on budget, as well as creating 223 jobs, with 60 people taken out of unemployment by the scheme, £25m spent with local SMEs and 12 young people trained up through an on-site skills centre.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON CENTRAL HOUSING REGENERATION



Blackpool Council was awarded £90million in March 2024 to spend on the Central Housing Regeneration area of Blackpool (around Revoe).

A regeneration framework which outlines the principles around the type of things the regeneration work will achieve and what it will look like has been created.

We think residents need better housing, more green spaces, better transport infrastructure but we want to know what you think.

[Complete the survey here](#)

BLACKPOOL VISION BREAKFAST PROMOTES TOWN'S REGENERATION



Over 150 business leaders from across the North West have been hearing about Blackpool's potential for growth and investment.

Hosted by North West Business Insider at Backlot Cinema and Diner, the Blackpool Vision event invited businesses, investors and developers from across the North West to look at the town's growth and prosperity programme and show the potential to invest and get involved.

The event is part of the Blackpool Makes It Work campaign aimed to showcase Blackpool as an attractive location for investment, which also includes appearances at major investor conferences UK REiF and MIPIM.

[Read the full event write up](#)

BUSINESS EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Blackpool Unlimited is hosting a series of business events in the next few months, listed below. More information on these events can be found at www.blackpoolunlimited.com

July
30 th - Meta (Facebook) Ads Masterclass
August
5 th – AI Masterclass
7 th – Canva for your Business
13 th - How to Use QuickBooks
14 th - Leadership and Management for Growth
September
2 nd - Starting a business
16 th - Introduction to Basic Accountancy and Cashflow

Visitor Economy Updates

THIS IS BLACKPOOL – NEW TV ADVERT



A new TV advert promoting all the amazing things Blackpool has to offer is set to hit our TV screens.

'This is Blackpool': is VisitBlackpool's brand-new destination marketing campaign designed to challenge visitor's perceptions of our wonderful resort and encourage them to rediscover everything it has to offer.

Kyle Murray, marketing director of Blackpool Tourism Limited, the council owned tourism arm, said: "We're excited to introduce you to VisitBlackpool's brand-new destination marketing campaign, This is Blackpool.

"This is where families come to laugh, explore and reconnect. Where every visit becomes a tradition worth repeating. It's for the thrill-seekers, the weekend wanderers, the foodies, the culture lovers, and the selfie-snappers. For live shows, headline events, welcoming accommodation, world-class attractions and non-stop action."

The advert will run on TV screens in Scotland with Out-of-Home, paid social and radio adverts across strategic locations and will be mirrored across in strategic locations across England and Wales, with targeting centric to driving overnight stays and daytrips.

[Watch the new advert](#)

OLLY MURS TO LIGHT UP BLACKPOOL



Pop superstar Olly Murs is set to light up Blackpool this August as the headline performer for the world-famous Blackpool Illuminations Switch-On event on the evening of Friday 29 August.

Fresh from his UK-wide arena tour, Olly will take to the stage on Blackpool's Tower Festival Headland to deliver an hour-long show-stopping set, completely free, with fans, locals and visitors invited to join in the fun.

Olly Murs will be joined by X Factor winner Louisa Johnson for an evening of free, unmissable live entertainment, and will write his name into history alongside an esteemed list of high-profile celebrities, performers and personalities who have held the honour of switching on the world-famous Blackpool Illuminations. The Friday night celebration will once again start with a 'Blackpool Introduces' showcase featuring the best of local talent. Further announcements on the line-up will be announced shortly.

24,000 free tickets have been made available for those wishing to attend, with the ballot for tickets now live exclusively on the [VisitBlackpool website](#). A set allocation has been made exclusively available for local residents, with tourists, music lovers and entertainment fans also invited to enter for their chance to win free tickets to this year's Switch-On event. Allocation is restricted to four tickets per household. The ballot closes at 10am on Monday 11 August.

WAVE RIDER TICKET ANNOUNCED



Two of Blackpool's biggest attractions are joining forces to launch a brand-new joint ticket this summer, providing endless fun for one unbeatable price.

The Sandcastle Waterpark and Pleasure Beach Resort have teamed up to give families, friends and thrill-seekers the ultimate summer experience with the new Wave Rider ticket, priced at just £50!

This offer will be available throughout the summer holidays, giving guests the chance to enjoy both wave and ride experiences. Guests can book their visit to the Sandcastle Waterpark, and then book a visit to Pleasure Beach Resort at any point throughout the 2025 season.

Kate Shane, Managing Director, Blackpool Tourism Limited said: "The Wave Rider ticket is designed to provide the ultimate fun-filled day out for all the family. It's great to see two of Blackpool's major

attractions working together to provide world class experiences for our visitors as we start the 2025 summer season, creating more reasons to visit Blackpool, the UK's favourite seaside destination”.

[Read more](#)

VISITBLACKPOOL RETURNS TO BLACKPOOL FC SHIRTS



Blackpool Football Club is delighted to announce that Blackpool Tourism Ltd has agreed to become the Club's principal sponsor for the new away shirt for the 2025/26 campaign.

Blackpool Tourism Limited is Blackpool Council's wholly-owned tourism company, with an overarching strategy and aligned goal to deliver an ambitious, must-visit resort that punches above its weight. A place where locals and visitors come alive, enjoying world class, year-round experiences in a friendly, safe and sustainable environment, delivered by tourism businesses working together.

The new away shirt will see VisitBlackpool.com feature proudly on front of the shirt for the 2025/26 campaign.

NORTHERN TEAMS UP WITH BLACKPOOL TRANSPORT TO OFFER COMBINED TRAIN, TRAM AND BUS TICKETS

Train operator Northern is teaming up with Blackpool Transport to offer a new combined train, tram and bus ticket, offering seamless onward travel opportunities to and from Blackpool's main stations.

Rail users can now travel on Blackpool's buses and trams simply by buying an add-on alongside their train ticket on Northern's app, website, at ticket machines and from ticket offices across the Northern network.



The add-on tickets can be bought online or on the Northern app by entering 'Blackpool North Bus/Tram' or 'Blackpool South Bus/Tram' as the destination or starting point.

The tickets can be bought for onward travel from most places on Northern's network, including from Preston, across Lancashire, Manchester, Leeds, York and beyond.

PHASED PLAN FOR THE RETURN OF BLACKPOOL'S HISTORIC TRAMS



© 2024 Gary Mitchell

Blackpool's iconic heritage trams are on track for a return to service on the seafront this autumn as the operator Blackpool Transport undertakes work to get the trams and track ready.

An important step will see an independent expert assessing the operational worthiness of the vehicles, with a view to having them running for October half term.

Martin Gurr, Heritage Operations Manager at Blackpool Trams, explained: "Inspections are set to start in the next few weeks and the resulting technical reports will give us a clear idea of how many trams we can bring back into service.

"We will then carry out the additional work, including fitting them with the latest speed restriction technology and a programme of intensive driver and conductor training.

"In terms of infrastructure, we also need to inspect and clean tracks outside the Rigby Road depot before the trams can be moved to our Starr Gate depot, where they will be stored and maintained alongside the second-generation fleet."

"Everyone at Blackpool Transport is committed to bringing back our iconic trams to the seafront, and we'll be working tirelessly to achieve this in time for the Lightpool Festival in October," Martin said.

FULL LINE UP AND TIMINGS FOR BLACKPOOL AIR SHOW

Blackpool Air Show will return on the 9 - 10 August 2025 with some of the world's finest military and civilian aircraft performing over the iconic seafront.

The programme will showcase the very best in British aviation with an incredible line-up of amazing flying machines and some of the country's most talented pilots.

The Red Devils Army Parachute Display Team have also confirmed they will be touching down at Blackpool Air Show on 9 and 10 August.

As the official parachute display team of the British Army since 1979, the Red Devils are known for their jaw-dropping jumps, daring freefalls and precision landings.

They made their exhilarating entrance at the two-day free event in 2023 and now they're set to do it all over again!

[See the full line up](#)



BLACKPOOL NORTH PIER FOR SALE

Blackpool's iconic North Pier, which is the oldest of the three piers in the world-famous seaside resort, has been brought to market.

Real estate advisory firm Avison Young has been appointed to market the pier, which is situated on Blackpool's promenade, adjacent to Blackpool Tower.

North Pier was the first pier built in Blackpool in 1863 and has been under the same family ownership for the past 14 years.

[Read more](#)

NEW RIDE ADDITIONS ANNOUNCED FOR WALLACE AND GROMIT



Blackpool's Pleasure Beach Resort is introducing five new additions to its Wallace & Gromit's Thrill-O-Matic ride.

The additions will include fan-favourite characters from the BAFTA-winning film, including Norbot and new interpretations of Feathers McGraw, alongside the dynamic duo.

Pleasure Beach also confirmed there will be additional updates to the ride's queue-line and has already introduced exclusive new merchandise, including Norbot toys and gifts, at its dedicated Wallace & Gromit shop.

Currently, the four-minute Thrill-O-Matic ride sees guests climb aboard a giant slipper and be transported into the colourful world of Wallace & Gromit, travelling through scenes from A Grand Day Out, The Wrong Trousers, A Close Shave, A Matter of Loaf and Death and The Curse of the Were Rabbit.

The new additions from Vengeance Most Fowl will debut this summer, and will include the same minute detail and effects that bring Wallace's cracking contraptions to life in the existing ride.

SHOWTOWN BLACKPOOL EARNS GLOBAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Showtown Blackpool is celebrating yet another incredible milestone – having just been shortlisted for two prestigious awards that place it firmly on both the national and international map.

Hot off the heels of winning Permanent Exhibition of the Year at the Museums + Heritage Awards, Blackpool's first and only museum – designed in collaboration with visionary architects Casson Mann – has now been named a finalist for the 2025 Children in Museums Award and shortlisted for Best Small Museum in the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award.

GRUNDY ART GALLERY LAUNCHES ITS SUMMER 2025 PROGRAMME



This summer, Grundy Art Gallery presents **DONKEY WORK** and **HORSE POWER**, two exhibitions that examine how artists past and present have used the donkey and the horse as symbols of labour, leisure, value and wealth.

Bringing together works by internationally recognised contemporary artists such as Marina Abramović and Lubaina Himid, art historical works on loan from regional and national institutions, and rarely seen works from The Grundy Art Gallery's own collection, **DONKEY WORK** and **HORSE POWER** will invite our visitors to see our equine companions in a new light.

From love, loss and hardship – to the celebration of the lives of working people and their relationship to the land, **DONKEY WORK** and **HORSE POWER** present stories that are thought provoking and uplifting in equal measure.

The exhibitions run until 20 September.

WINTER GARDENS BLACKPOOL ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW 2026 SHOWS

Winter Gardens Blackpool has announced three major shows for 2026.

Mamma Mia!, Miss Saigon, Barnum and Mean Girls will all perform next year.

Set on a Greek island paradise, Mamma Mia! Is a story of love, friendship and identity cleverly told through the timeless songs of ABBA. It runs 28 April to 3 May 2026.

West End favourite and TV star Lee Mead will take centre stage as the legendary 19th century showman P.T. Barnum. Hand in hand with wife Charity, Barnum's life and career twists and turns as he schemes and dreams his way to headier heights. The show runs from 9-13 June.



Embarking on a major UK and Ireland Tour, Miss Saigon arrives at Blackpool Opera House from 30 June to 4 July 2026. In the last days of the Vietnam War, 17 year-old Kim is forced to work in a Saigon bar run by a notorious character known as The Engineer. There she meets and falls in love with an American GI named Chris but they are torn apart by the fall of Saigon.

Finally, Mean Girls, will run from 18-22 August as the Plastics – Regina, Gretchen and Karen - rule North Shore High and will burn anyone who gets in their way. Expect iconic characters, razor-sharp wit, and killer songs.

[Book tickets](#)

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW RETURNS TO GRAND THEATRE



Richard O'Brien's THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW will roar back into Blackpool Grand Theatre from Monday 11 May to Saturday 16 May 2026 for a fabulous night of fun, frolics and frivolity that's NOT to be missed.

Bursting at the seams with timeless classics, including Sweet Transvestite, Damn it Janet and of course, the pelvic-thrusting, floor-filler Time Warp; The Rocky Horror Show is a guaranteed non-stop party that's ready to delight you once again with its frothy, fun and naughty moments, much-encouraged audience participation and, of course, outrageous outfits!

[Book tickets](#)

Business News

BLACKPOOL RANKED THIRD MOST AFFORDABLE UK CITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Blackpool has been named the third most affordable city in the UK for small businesses, according to a major new report by BusinessPrices.co.uk comparing business operating costs in 30 of the country's largest urban centres.

The UK Business Affordability Index 2025, evaluated key overheads that affect small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including office rent, business energy bills, broadband, insurance premiums, and local business rates.

Blackpool secured its top-three ranking thanks to a strong performance across all six categories, especially low commercial property costs and competitive broadband prices. Businesses in the town benefit from office space that is well below the national average, allowing local firms to reduce fixed costs and improve long-term sustainability.

CARBON REDUCTION SUPPORT TAKES THOMPSONS BEYOND SOLAR

Thompsons Solar Installations is part of Thompsons Contracts, the Red Rose Award-winning business which, for almost 20 years, has been growing from its Blackpool base on Clifton Road.

A family of complementary businesses comprising the original shopfitting and building contracts service, together with later service additions including bespoke manufacturing, electrical installation and solar, the group's expanded capabilities have led it to work with a client base that includes M&S, Starbucks, Savoy, Malmaison and Gordon Ramsay.



For any business in the construction sector, sustainability is a commercial imperative and part of every tendering exercise. But for Thompsons, with its own solar division, it was something more.

When Lucy connected with Caitlin Sanderson of the Blackpool Net Zero Business Academy at a local event, she saw an opportunity to do just that.

“We installed solar photovoltaics when Thompsons Solar first launched, but we knew that there was lots more we could be doing. I asked Caitlin to complete an assessment for us and that became the bedrock of our decarbonisation plan.”

The first project completed was the installation of PIR (passive infrared) motion sensors in communal areas of the Thompsons building. Each year, this single improvement is set to save 1,739kWh of energy, reduce the business’ energy bill by £552, and save 478kg of carbon.

[Find out more](#)

‘BE YOU’ INITIATIVE EXPANDS WITH NEW BRANDING AND COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENTS



Blackpool's commitment as a welcoming and inclusive town took another major step forward this week with the unveiling of new branding for its growing LGBTQ+ initiative, now known as 'Be You'.

Developed by Blackpool Council in partnership with local community organisations, the initiative focuses on nine key areas vital to LGBTQ+ inclusion and community development. The themes are public realm, safety and security, arts, heritage and culture, young people, health and wellbeing, business support, marketing and communications, and governance.

In just one year, the number of LGBTQ+ venues in Blackpool has increased by 12 making a total of 25 venues. These include a variety of LGBTQ+-friendly bars, cafés, and accommodation providers – growth driven by confidence in the town's inclusive vision and proactive community support.

Major investments in public realm improvements have reshaped the identity of the area. Vibrant rainbow crossings, progress-flag-themed street signs, and colourful planters designed by House of Wingz now brighten Lord Street, Queen Street, Dickson Road, and Springfield Road.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT HUB REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE



Blackpool Council's youth employment hub, The Platform, has officially reached a major milestone-achieving over 1,000 positive outcomes by supporting local young people into employment, training or education.

Since opening in January 2022, The Platform has played a key role in improving career prospects for young people across the town.

Through partnerships with local colleges, employers and training providers, the youth hub has hosted job fairs, delivered targeted programmes and created hundreds of tailored development opportunities for local 16–24-year-olds.

Since opening in January 2022, The Platform has played a key role in improving career prospects for young people across the town.

FYLDE COAST WOMEN'S SCALE PROGRAMME

This intensive and innovative programme will challenge your leadership, vision and forward implementation of how you scale your business.

Women Scaling Up is a unique business support programme for female entrepreneurs in Blackpool looking to scale and take their business and career to new heights.

- > Must be a female founder or a female decision maker (Director level)
- > Operating within Wyre, Fylde or Blackpool

- > Must have at least ONE employee and/or business premises
- > Must have a genuine commitment to scaling your business – lifestyle businesses are not eligible for this programme.

[Find out more](#)

HEALTHIER CHOICES AWARD SCHEME NEARS 200 PARTICIPANTS

Food businesses across Blackpool are being invited to sign up to the Healthier Choices Award scheme and join the almost 200 participating venues that are already part of the initiative.

The award, developed by Blackpool Council's Public Health team, is designed to encourage and celebrate local food establishments that provide healthier food preparation and menu options to residents and visitors alike.

The initiative is open to cafés, takeaways, and other food outlets with a food hygiene rating of 3 or above and recognises establishments that are committed to making simple but impactful changes, such as reducing salt and oil levels or increasing vegetable portions – with an overall goal to offer healthier meals to their customers.

Since January this year:

- 28 venues have earned the Healthier Choices Award
- 14 are new awardees
- 14 are renewals



New recipients include Efe's Turkish Restaurant on Foxhall Road. Huso Kaplan, Efe's Turkish Restaurant, said: "We are honoured to have received the Healthier Choice and Junior Healthier Choices awards, recognising our commitment to serving nutritious, freshly prepared meals to both residents and visitors. "Promoting healthy living is at the heart of what we do, and it brings us immense pride to see the positive impact our efforts have on our community and our own team."

MULTI-MILLION POUND RENOVATION PLAN FOR ICONIC BLACKPOOL HOTEL



A major multimillion-pound renovation is proposed for one of Blackpool's most iconic seafront hotels.

The former Royal Carlton Hotel on Blackpool's Promenade is the subject of an ambitious renovation and transformation project, led by experienced hoteliers John and Elishar Westhead.

Subject to final planning approval, the newly refurbished Carlton Hotel is expected to reopen early next year, with new jobs being created and an expectation of increased footfall.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR-BASED WORK ACADEMY PROGRAMME

Hospitality Sector-Based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) is a pre-employment training scheme developed in partnership with UK Hospitality, the Department for Work & Pensions, and Jobcentre Plus. The programme is launching in 26 regions across the UK, including right here in Blackpool

Locally delivered by Blackpool Learning Rooms, the programme runs for 20 days and includes:

- Classroom-based or on-site training led by an industry tutor, during which DWP is encouraging employers to get involved to showcase your business and opportunities
- 5 days of work experience with an employer who has entry-level or apprenticeship vacancies

The aim is to help jobseekers gain the skills and experience they need to start a career in hospitality while connecting employers with potential new recruits who are job-ready and motivated.

If you'd like to learn more or register your interest, [visit the programme page](#).

General Blackpool News

THE WORLD OF WASTE IS CHANGING

Transformational changes to Blackpool's waste collection service will come in next year.

The government has introduced new legislation called Simpler Recycling. They want to see all local authorities simplify the way that waste is collected. Simpler Recycling will enable consistent, more streamlined collections from all households, businesses and relevant non-domestic premises (such as schools and hospitals).

Changes include:

- Three-weekly domestic waste collections
- Weekly food waste collections
- Brown bags replaced with brown bins
- Green waste subscription reduced by £15 to £30
- Communal bin hubs in inner wards
- Ten waste amnesties per year in inner wards
- Increased capacity of blue bins

Once Simpler Recycling is implemented in April 2026, all local authorities will collect the same set of materials for recycling.

SEVEN PARKS AWARDED GREEN FLAG

Seven parks across Blackpool have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award, a national benchmark for well-managed parks and green spaces, presented by Keep Britain Tidy.

The sites are among 2,250 across the UK to receive the Green Flag Award, the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

This outstanding achievement - with all seven of Blackpool's entries receiving awards - highlights the dedication and hard work invested into maintaining the town's green spaces.





New for 2025, five parks received Green Flag Awards, including Stanley Park, Anchorsholme Park, Crossland Road Park, Kingscote Park and Watson Road Park. Devonshire Road Rock Gardens and Highfield Road retained their awards from the previous year.

Judges praised the newly awarded parks for their strong community focus and excellent management.

SAFER STREETS SUMMER INITIATIVE LAUNCHES



The Safer Streets Summer Initiative, led by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Chief Constables with support from the Home Office, will run from 30 June to 30 September.

This programme brings together police and partner agencies to focus on crime prevention, community engagement, and high-visibility policing in areas where it is needed most.

Residents will soon be able to connect directly with their local Neighbourhood Officers and report incidents through Lancashire Constabulary's new website, launching later this month.

For more information or to report antisocial behaviour, visit: [LancashireTacklingASB.co.uk](https://lancashiretacklingasb.co.uk)

FISHING RETURNS TO STANLEY PARK LAKE



Blackpool Council has agreed that fishing can return to Stanley Park lake with new restrictions in place.

Fishing is now allowed on the lake but only within a designated area which will be clearly signposted. This will help minimise the risk to wildlife and allow fishing activity to be managed more effectively.

The council has also committed to working with the Friends of Stanley Park, the Angling Trust and the angling community to establish a Stanley Park Fishing Club, who will

ultimately manage fishing on the lake.

A public consultation was carried out between 31 March and 11 May 2025, and received more than 1,000 submissions. The responses were considered and the following proposals have been made:

- Fishing will be permitted in a designated area
- Enforcement action will taken if anyone is found to be fishing outside of the designated area or without a rod licence
- Council to work with Friends of Stanley Park, the Angling Trust and volunteers to establish a formal fishing club
- Appointment of a Wildlife Officer
- Explore use of volunteer bailiffs

'PROJECT SEARCH' INTERNS CELEBRATE GRADUATING



18 young people recently celebrated their intern graduation success at a ceremony held in Blackpool.

The young people are part of Blackpool Council's local DFN Project SEARCH scheme which is part of a national charity that supports young adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to secure meaningful permanent employment.

Through Project SEARCH young adults develop key employability skills by experiencing three work placements at a variety of local businesses across Blackpool.

Over 100 people have been supported in Blackpool since Project SEARCH started in the town in 2014.

THE BATON OF HOPE 2025 TOUR LAUNCHES IN BLACKPOOL

The Baton of Hope UK tour 2025 was officially launched in Blackpool in June in front of the Tower – with the powerful and poignant announcement that the national tour will begin right here in Blackpool on Monday 1 September.

Baton of Hope founder and former TV broadcaster Mike McCarthy, the Solace Suicide Prevention & Bereavement Manager of Blackpool's Empowerment Charity Samantha Southern, and local celebrity Charlotte Dawson were among the key figures and famous faces who have been instrumental in bringing this year's Baton of Hope tour to take its very first steps in the resort this September, marking the beginning of a national movement to highlight suicide awareness and prevention.



This year, one hundred local people will be walking with courage and love for those lost and those left behind as they carry the famous Baton throughout the inaugural Blackpool leg of the 2025 UK tour route, which will set off from the Village Hotel on Monday 1 September at 8.30am before being walked/driven/sailed and maybe even horseback ridden all the way through the resort, as well as through Fylde and Wyre.

The Baton will stop at local landmarks on the way – including Blackpool Football Club, the piers, Blackpool Zoo and top spots in Lytham and Fleetwood, before travelling to the top of Blackpool Tower and finishing the day on Blackpool Grand Theatre's famous stage. An evening celebration event will then take place at Viva Blackpool hosted by Charlotte Dawson and local radio star Hayley Kay.

YOUTH CENTRE DOUBLES IN SIZE AFTER £500K MAKEOVER



A busy Blackpool youth centre has doubled in size after a £500,000 makeover.

The extension and refurbishment of the Grange Park Youth Centre is part of a £2.2m capital investment in The Boathouse Youth centres across the area which began last year.

The local charity said it offers children and young people in the seaside town access to experiences, support, and opportunities that they may not otherwise have.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY - LUMEN HOUSING

Lumen Housing, a subsidiary association of Blackpool Housing Company, is looking to appoint a board member .

Lumen Housing Limited is an association established in Blackpool in 2020 and formed as a not for profit community benefit society with exempt charitable status.

[Find out more](#)

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY – BLACKPOOL TOURISM LTD / Showtown

Blackpool Tourism Ltd and Blackpool Heritage and Museum Trust are seeking a Non-Executive Director and Finance Lead/Chair of Audit Committee.

[Find Out More](#)

And finally

As always, I would like to know your thoughts on the membership and events.

Please do contact me on my email address with any comments, or please complete the post-event feedback form: <https://forms.office.com/e/TuwuUZbdXN>

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday.

Adam Ogden
Head of Communications
Blackpool Council
adam.ogden@blackpool.gov.uk