



Blackpool Business Leadership Group

Business Partnerships Report – 2 October 2026

Top News

STANLEY PARK PREPARES FOR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY



Stanley Park is celebrating its 100th birthday this weekend. For a century, it has been an important place for the people of Blackpool, offering space to relax, play and enjoy nature.

Opening back in 1926 and Grade II listed, the park has twice been voted the UK's Best Park, standing out among more than 360 green spaces nationwide.

Stanley Park officially turns 100 on Friday 2 October, marking a century since the much-loved park first opened.

The centenary will be celebrated with a big public event on Saturday 3 October, when visitors are invited to come along and enjoy a special day of family-friendly events and entertainment.

Blackpool Council, together with Friends of Stanley Park, Envenco and other partners, has created a programme celebrating the park's heritage and the important part it continues to play in local life.

A special 100 drone show will take place at 8.00pm on Saturday 3 October.

Activities planned for the main public centenary celebration also include:

- Blackpool Makers Market with local makers, bakers, artists, creators and independent businesses 11.00am - 5.00pm
- Family-friendly fairground rides
- A youth-led mini festival from House of Wingz and Creative Blackpool, featuring music, dance, skateboarding, art and more 12.00noon - 4.00pm
- Dedicated walks, talks and opportunities to see the park's rich history in photos
- Live entertainment from local acts including local singer and entertainer Emma Jackson BEM, Jason Fubar, Waterloo Ladies Choir and pop-up performances for all ages to enjoy
- Community and local organisations stalls
- Free sporting activities with Active Blackpool
- BMX sessions and activities
- Spectacular drone show, by Britain's Got Talent stars Celestial, to end the evening - starting at approx. 8.00pm

DUKE OF EDINBURGH VISITS STANLEY PARK



The Duke of Edinburgh visited Blackpool's award-winning Stanley Park on Tuesday 15 September as the Grade II-listed park celebrates its centenary year.

His Royal Highness attended an event at the park, where The Duke toured the grounds, saw some of the recent improvements and met local schoolchildren, community groups and organisation representatives.

The Duke took in some of the park's recently completed improvements and refurbishment work, including the Cocker Clock Memorial Tower and Italian Gardens.

During the visit, His Royal Highness also saw recently refurbished Cocker Clock Memorial Tower, where The Duke was invited to unveil a blue plaque commemorating Dr William Henry Cocker, Blackpool's first Mayor.

Local schoolchildren lined Cocker Walk to welcome The Duke of Edinburgh, before His Royal Highness continued through the Italian Gardens and met representatives of local community groups and organisations.

The Duke also watched performances from local community groups, including choirs and young people involved in music and dance, before visiting the recently refurbished Art Deco Café. His Royal Highness also signed the park's visitor book before departing.

BLACKPOOL CENTRAL MOVING TOWARDS NEXT PHASE



A procurement exercise to find a developer/investor for the Blackpool Central site will begin next month.

The recommendations follow the decision to appoint leading marketing consultants Newmark HDH and theleisureway in October 2025, who have been working with the council to promote the development potential for the site both nationally and internationally at major property events, including MIPIM and UKREiF.

If approved, the procurement process is expected to appoint the successful development partner in spring 2027.

The development of the Blackpool Central site also supports the council's wider ambitions to make Central Drive better, including a major housing-led regeneration scheme to improve housing quality and create stronger communities, building more social housing at Foxhall Village, a new community sports village at Blackpool Football Club and improvements to Revue Park.

20,000 SUPPORT BLACKPOOL'S AIM TO BE UK CITY OF CULTURE 2029 AS BID SUBMITTED



It comes as the town formally submits its bid to the government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport for the prestigious accolade

If successful, Blackpool would receive £10m from the government towards a year-long celebration of arts and culture, to be enjoyed by local people as well as increasing the tourism economy. As well as the grant, the title of City of Culture also brings additional funding, sponsorship and investment to support regeneration and events.

The bid has been backed by local, national and internationally recognised artists, businesses, performers, political leaders and celebrities, all asking the government to bring the accolade to Blackpool.

Successful local celebrities including the Pet Shop Boys' Chris Lowe, punk star John Robb, explorer and author Jordan Wylie MBE and Blackpool's most famous British export, Sooty, joined Blackpool fans such as Stephen Mulhern, Toyah Wilcox, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Laurence Llewellyn Bowen to throw their support behind the bid.

Blackpool Council has worked closely with local cultural organisations and creatives, including Creative Blackpool, LeftCoast, Aunty Social, House of Wingz, Bootleg Social, The Old Electric, Abingdon Studios and Blackpool and the Fylde College to develop the incredible programme of events and projects presented in the bid. Over the last few months, those conversations have opened up amazing ideas about how to accelerate Blackpool's cultural future, shaped both from

within the town and through a wide network of regional and national partners, including Factory International, Opera North and Marlborough Productions.

Blackpool Council has also been working with local businesses and attractions, such as Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Grand Theatre, Showtown, Blackpool Tourism Ltd, Blackpool BID, Business in the Community and Cuffe and Taylor to highlight the opportunities that City of Culture could bring to Blackpool.

Over 60 organisations, including membership bodies acting on behalf of other groups, have signed or submitted their own letters of support for the bid, including the leaders of Fylde and Wyre councils, the Lancashire Combined County Authority, many of our Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprises, Blackpool Heritage Forum, health bodies, business organisations, educational institutions, plus significant cultural organisations including Factory International, the V&A, Southbank Centre, British Esports Federation, the Crafts Council and Arts Lancashire on behalf of Lancashire's National Portfolio Organisations and others.

The bid culminated in a major concert at Blackpool's Opera House – The People's Stage – where the esteemed Hallé Orchestra performed alongside famous artists including KT Tunstall, Jack Savoretti, Joe Duddell, Tom Burke, Darrell Smith and an All-Star House Band featuring members of iconic northern bands James, The Stone Roses and The Courteeners. Sharing that same stage were local talents Little Boots, Rae Morris, Harry Clayton-Wright, Nathan Parker and Blackpool's Electric Pink Voices choir, proving that Blackpool already has the creativity, ambition and talent to take its place as UK City of Culture.

Following the submission of the bid, the final four shortlisted places will be announced in the autumn, with a final winner selected in the new year.

Regeneration News

PLANS FOR FIRST ENERGY-EFFICIENT DATA CENTRE AS PART OF SILICON SANDS MOVING FORWARD



A procurement process has completed for the development of the first energy-efficient data centre, which will bring up to £300m of investment into the Fylde coast.

HOCHTIEF Data Centre Partner UK Ltd (HOCHTIEF DCPUK) are now working towards submitting final planning documents later this year.

The provisional agreement would mean that the investment, construction and running costs would be entirely met by the private sector, following Blackpool Council and Lancashire Combined County Authority's previous work and funding to assemble the land.

The new data centre will form the first phase of Silicon Sands, a new business park designed to attract technology and digital companies to the area, creating new, well-paid jobs for residents.

Outline planning permission has already been granted for the sustainability-focussed data centre along with a 20,000sqft office and research space, with a 6MW electrical supply offer from SP Electricity North West.

Silicon Sands has the potential to support thousands of high-value jobs across the region both directly and indirectly, through investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI) data infrastructure, renewable energy and innovation led growth.

Silicon Sands will also lead the way in making the entire data industry more environmentally friendly. The data centres will be powered by renewable energy, use closed-loop liquid cooling to improve efficiency and create a local heating network to re-use the heat as an energy source for other properties.

For more information about Silicon Sands, visit www.siliconsands.co.uk

NEW CONTRACTOR SIGNED FOR BLACKPOOL COURT



Plans for a new multi-million pound magistrates' court building in Blackpool are moving forward again after the appointment of a replacement contractor.

The new courthouse will be built at the junction of Devonshire Road and Talbot Road, replacing facilities lost after the closure of the Lancashire town's previous court.

His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Services have appointed Morgan Sindall Construction to start work on the new courthouse.

The former court building and the old Bonny Street police station were demolished in March 2025.

The clearance of the site paved the way for the wider £300m Blackpool Central regeneration scheme, a major leisure-led development in the town centre.

Funding for the new courthouse includes £40m from the Levelling Up Fund and £8m from the Town Deal.

BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE SET FOR NEXT PHASE OF GROWTH



The next phase of investment would see the development of new units to the east of Blackpool Airport. A detailed planning application for the new units will be submitted later in the year, which if approved will unlock land for future phases of Silicon Sands.

This year has already seen major infrastructure projects complete. Vickers Way, the new access road linking Common Edge Road to Amy Johnson Way, opened in May 2026, unlocking prime development land and providing space for businesses to grow and create more jobs in the area. Improvements on Amy Johnson Way have also enabled better access and improved traffic flow to the Enterprise Zone and surrounding areas.

The new road is already helping local businesses, with Lancashire company Natures Aid recently relocating their dispatch operations to a new facility on the Enterprise Zone to accommodate growing demands. This further adds to the economic impact the Enterprise Zone is already delivering, with 2,700 jobs created so far across the development.

There has already been significant interest in the development land, with two plots already under offer and strong interest in additional commercial, residential and retail sites. Three additional development plots have also been released for sale last month, ranging from 3,488 sqm to 7,318 sqm.

GREAT PLACES CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF 88 NEW HOMES AT FOXHALL VILLAGE



Great Places Housing Group welcomed partners and stakeholders to Foxhall Village to celebrate the completion of the next phase of the flagship Blackpool development, which has delivered 88 more affordable homes for local people.

The development has helped transform a former brownfield site close to Blackpool town centre and seafront into a new neighbourhood for local families.

It is a major part of Blackpool Council's plan to restore central Blackpool back to its heyday as an area where families want to raise their children.

Since plans for the scheme were first developed in 2011, 282 new homes have been built at Foxhall Village, including a mix of market sale, social housing and shared ownership properties, all playing an important role in bringing much-needed family housing back into the area, alongside new public spaces and improvements to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Foxhall Village is a major part of Blackpool Council's housing led regeneration around central Blackpool and across the town. The new housing has replaced old industrial units, as well as run down B&Bs, when the first phase started in 2014.

The regeneration is having an impact, with the phase one area improving by 52 places in the government's recent deprivation rankings.

In the last ten years, almost 700 new social homes have been built across Blackpool, including fresh development at Foxhall Village and Grange Park, as well as improved replacement housing at Queens Park and Mereside.

Blackpool Council's own housing company has also purchased over 700 properties in the private rented sector and transformed them into quality accommodation.

SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN CENTRAL BLACKPOOL STRENGTHENED



As Blackpool Council's central housing regeneration project progresses, the local authority has bolstered its support offering for people affected.

The central housing regeneration project is part of Blackpool's wider ambition to improve housing quality and life chances for residents living in the town's inner area. The project is supported by £90.4 million of funding secured through Homes England and

aims to create high-quality homes and new public spaces.

To date, the council has acquired 56 properties, exchanged contracts on a further six, and has another 99 purchases either agreed or progressing through the legal process. Engagement with property owners has been ongoing since March 2025, with contact made with around 97 per cent of identified legal interests in the project area.

Visitor Economy Updates

BBC RADIO 2'S PADDY MCGUINNESS HAS OFFICIALLY LIT UP BLACKPOOL!



Blackpool's world-famous Illuminations were officially switched on by comedian and presenter Paddy McGuinness, marking the start of another dazzling season for one of the UK's most iconic attractions.

In a 25,000-capacity arena on the Tower Festival Headland, visitors and residents gathered to witness performances from Lucy Spraggan, The Feeling and Five before the famous Switch-On moment illuminated six miles of spectacular light installations stretching along Blackpool's Promenade.

Paddy McGuinness said: "It's a huge honour to be here in Blackpool to switch on the world-famous

Illuminations. Growing up in the North West, I spent many happy days here with family and friends, and some of my favourite childhood memories are of walking through the lights with a bag of chips in hand."

"To be asked to perform the Switch-On in front of 25,000 people is an incredible privilege and a moment I'll never forget. It's a night that means so much to so many people, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

FORMER CHAMPIONS RETURN AS WORLD FIREWORKS CHAMPIONSHIP BLACKPOOL GETS UNDERWAY



Blackpool burst into colour again last weekend as the first heat of the World Fireworks Championship Blackpool lights up the skies above the seafront.

The three teams competing in this year's championship, Wales, South Africa and Germany are all returning to the resort to battle it out for the prestigious title.

Each of this year's competitors has previously claimed victory in Blackpool, setting the stage for three spectacular evenings of world-class pyrotechnic entertainment set against the backdrop of the famous Blackpool Illuminations.

The final weekend takes place on Saturday 10 October, with Haupt Feuerwerke from Germany. Originally invited to compete in 2020, Haupt Feuerwerke's debut was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. When the team finally took to the skies above Blackpool in 2021, they delivered a dazzling display that secured first place.

SIR KEN DODD AVENUE

There's a new name on the Blackpool street map that's fit for a King of Comedy... and it leads to a whole lot of Happiness!

Adelaide St West sits right at the heart of the resort's glorious Golden Mile, and has just been renamed Sir Ken Dodd Avenue as a lasting tribute to one of the resort's most treasured entertainers. And it's all thanks to Showtown's award-winning museum of fun and entertainment!



Sir Ken Dodd Avenue, which travels from Bank Hey Street and past Showtown's famous front doors down to the Promenade, was officially unveiled by Ken's beloved wife Anne, Lady Dodd, on Monday 21 September, and follows the museum's official opening of Happiness! The Ken Dodd Exhibition in June.

Lady Dodd said of Blackpool's homage to Ken: "I was so delighted and thrilled when I first heard that there would be a street called Sir Ken Dodd Avenue after my wonderful husband. I know he would say he was immensely

discomknockerated at this tattyfilarious and plumpshus honour! He always said Blackpool was the 'Showtown' of Britain - so it is especially appropriate that the street on which it stands should be renamed after him!

"And of course, it's just around the corner from his particularly beloved theatres The Opera House and The Grand! This is all a very thoughtful act of 'Happiness' to me. Thank you so much!"

LIGHTPOOL RETURNS THIS OCTOBER



Blackpool's award-winning and renowned public light-art festival, Lightpool Festival returns this October half term (Wednesday 21st - Saturday 31st October 2026) - and celebrates its ten-year anniversary.

Staged across the town at a diverse range of indoor and outdoor venues, the magic of light becomes accessible to all.

Bringing together both local and international artists, community members and local organisations, Lightpool Festival lowers barriers to art and creativity for visitors and residents alike. It builds on Blackpool's world-renowned Illuminations heritage which has become a key part of the town's identity and appeal.

Featuring extraordinary installations, 3D projection shows, interactive and learning opportunities, and even premieres by some of the world's leading artists, this year's Lightpool Festival sees a total of 30 artworks create a magical experience at the iconic seaside town.

At Friday's meeting, Philip Holmes will talk us through the various installations.

SPLASHTASTIC SUCCESS FOR SANDCASTLE



Blackpool's Sandcastle Waterpark has been crowned Waterpark of the Year at the prestigious UK Theme Park Awards, marking another major milestone in a landmark year for the attraction as it celebrates its 40th birthday.

The award recognises the continued success of the UK's largest indoor waterpark, which has welcomed millions of visitors since opening its doors in 1986. Guests can enjoy a subtropical 84-degree environment while enjoying 18 slides and attractions ranging from white-knuckle rides to family-friendly chutes.

The UK Theme Park Awards celebrate excellence across the attractions industry, recognising the UK's best rides, parks and visitor experiences as voted for by the public and industry experts.

The accolade comes during a year of significant investment for Sandcastle Waterpark, with more than £500,000 invested into enhancing the guest experience including a brand-new changing village featuring upgraded cubicles and lockers.

BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH NAMED WORLD'S BEST THEME PARK FOR 2026



Pleasure Beach Resort in Blackpool has been crowned “Best of the Best” at the 2026 Park World Excellence Awards, becoming the first UK theme park to receive the accolade. The award recognises parks, rides and attractions for outstanding achievements within the amusement industry.

Founded in 1896, the Lancashire attraction was recognised for its sustained success and contribution to the theme park industry over more than a century. Previous recipients of the award include Germany’s Europa-Park, Sweden’s Liseberg and Siam Park in Tenerife.

The Blackpool resort is home to around 30 attractions, combining historic rides with more recent additions. Among its best-known attractions is The Big One, a hypercoaster that was once the tallest and steepest rollercoaster in the world. The park also includes the UK’s only Nickelodeon Land, which features SpongeBob SquarePants and PAW Patrol-themed rides.

Pleasure Beach Resort picked up a second major prize at this year’s awards, with its newest attraction, Aviktas, named “Best Ride of the Year”.

“To be named Best of the Best is a massive achievement for our park,” said Amanda Thompson OBE, CEO of Pleasure Beach Resort. “Our industry is full of so much talent, so to be recognised among the best speaks volumes on the dedication and hard work that has kept us moving forward for 130 years.”

It has been a summer of accolades, as Pleasure Beach Resort also scooped eight awards at the UK Theme Park Awards - including wins for its newly introduced rides and shows.

Heritage trams set for seafront return during Lightpool Festival



Blackpool Heritage Trams aim to feature in this year's Lightpool Festival, with static displays of two of the best-known trams planned for the October light show.

Blackpool Transport is currently restoring and upgrading the much-loved Western Train and Rocket trams, with support from local transport groups and a team of volunteers.

The iconic Western Train tram - the illuminated twin-car tram, based on a Santa Fe train - is perhaps the most iconic of Blackpool Transport's heritage fleet. The unique Rocket tram had passengers travelling at a 30-degree elevation when it ran through the 80s and 90s. It is hoped the pair will be able to be viewed up close by visitors to Lightpool – a 10-day, free festival of light-based art installations.

Works are also underway to return operational heritage trams to the tracks, however, structural welding, electrical systems and axle repairs are all required before any can be safely and reliably returned for passenger tours.

The update comes as Blackpool Transport is planning to restore the original tram shed at the Rigby Road depot, creating a refurbished home for the heritage fleet.

This will house operational trams and static displays in the original tramway workshop. Work has also begun reconfiguring overhead line equipment (OLE) in the area in preparation for the demolition of the old workshop and refurbishment of the original tram shed.



Blackpool Transport is paying tribute to its rich heritage with the unveiling of an eye-catching 'new' look for one of its modern, second-generation trams.

Tram 012 first entered service in April 2012, but it's now been wrapped in a green and cream livery reminiscent of the single-deck trams that were a common sight on the seafront during the 1950s.

Lea Harrison, Blackpool Transport Managing Director, explained: "While we're on track to have some static displays ready for next month's Lightpool Festival, in the meantime we want to ensure our heritage plans remain in the public eye.

"Our engineers and volunteers are also doing all they can to restore some of our best-loved trams and bring others up to modern-day operating standards, and this nostalgic makeover aims to remind everyone of their efforts behind the scenes."

MINISTERS VISIT BLACKPOOL



Tourism Minister Stephanie Peacock has visited Blackpool's iconic Winter Gardens and Pleasure Beach to see how the town's visitor economy is supporting local jobs, businesses and communities, as we head into the bank holiday weekend.

Blackpool is one of the UK's best-known and much-loved seaside destinations, with tourism playing a vital role in the town's economy. In 2024, Blackpool welcomed 23.2 million tourists, a 7.7% increase from the previous year, supporting more than 23,000 full-time jobs and generating £2.15 billion in visitor and tourism business expenditure.

She was also followed swiftly by Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy, who attended the Blackpool Illuminations switch-on a few days later.

STAY BLACKPOOL TRADE SHOW

StayBlackpool Trade Show 2027 will take place at Norcalympia Exhibition Suite, Norbreck Castle on 9 March.

This is where Lancashire's tourism and hospitality industry comes together to do business ready for the 2027 season.

Whether you sell to the tourism and hospitality sector or you're part of it and looking for new suppliers, this show is for you. Generate leads, meet other businesses, and catch up face to face with the customers and partners who already trust you.

Key partners are Trevors Food serve and Primo Drinks with stand prices held at 2026 prices.

[Find out more](#)

TONY & DOUBLE AWARD WINNING OPERATION MINCEMEAT IS COMING TO BLACKPOOL



Blackpool grand theatre welcomes Tony® and double Olivier award®-winning Operation Mincemeat as the hit musical extends its UK tour due to phenomenal demand.

Critically acclaimed global phenomenon heads to Blackpool Grand Theatre from 15 – 19 June 2027.

Blackpool Grand Theatre is delighted to announce that the Tony® and double Olivier Award®-winning smash hit musical

Operation Mincemeat will visit the theatre from 15 – 19 June 2027, as part of an extended UK leg of its acclaimed world tour.

Following more than 290,000 tickets sold and over 20 weeks of sold-out performances on its first UK tour, the production has confirmed a second national tour due to phenomenal demand, with Blackpool among the newly announced destinations.

The second UK leg will begin in Dartford on 23 February 2027 and tour for 36 weeks, calling at cities across the UK and Ireland including Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool, Leicester and Blackpool, alongside a much-anticipated return to The Lowry in Salford.

The announcement comes as Operation Mincemeat continues its extraordinary global success. Alongside its record-breaking West End run at London's Fortune Theatre, now extended into its fifth year, the production is also enjoying a hugely successful Broadway engagement following its Tony Award® win, with productions touring across North America and plans spanning four continents including Australia, China, Mexico and New Zealand.

The Grand Theatre also welcomes a major new production of The King's Speech by David Seidler from Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 February 2027, as part of its UK tour. Directed by Loveday Ingram, the production is presented by the Barn Theatre in Cirencester in partnership with Tiny Giant Entertainment.

Casting includes Stefan Dennis (Neighbours, River City) as Lionel Logue, George Rainsford (Casualty, BBC; Dear England, National Theatre) as Bertie King George VI, Rosanna Miles (Haywire; What the Butler Saw) as Queen Elizabeth, Lucy Bromilow (Glengarry Glen Ross, The Old Vic; Mary Page Marlowe, The Old Vic) as Myrtle Logue/ Wallis Simpson, Tim Hudson.

Business News

THE ROBINSON WELCOMES TWO MORE BUSINESSES INTO BLACKPOOL OFFICES



European Consumer Claims (ECC) and energy and sustainability consultancy Optimised are the latest businesses to choose The Robinson, a newly refurbished, award winning business hub, for their Blackpool offices.

ECC's Senior Account Manager, Steve Walsh said: "Having grown up here, I can genuinely say I've never seen office space quite like this in Blackpool. The quality of the facilities, the central location and the professionalism of the team really stand out."

Optimised has also made The Robinson its new Blackpool base, moving into the building's largest private office. The energy and sustainability consultancy works with organisations across the UK and was looking for a modern office that better reflected their flexible way of working.

Optimised senior energy analyst James Stoker-Talbot said: "The Robinson straight away ticked all the boxes. It's in a fantastic town centre location with great transport links, it has a fresh and modern feel and, importantly for us, it has sustainability credentials that align with us as a net zero business."

The Robinson has undergone a refurbishment to create a modern business hub in Blackpool town centre, offering 44 private offices alongside co-working space and 6 private meeting rooms.

The arrival of ECC and Optimised follows a growing number of businesses and professionals choosing to work from the building. Private office space is still available for businesses looking to establish a presence in Blackpool, relocate within the town or find a workspace with room to grow.

General news

BLACKPOOL CHOSEN TO CREATE NEW YOUNG FUTURES HUB



Programme.

Blackpool will be one of 25 areas nationally to benefit from £70m government funding for additional youth provision.

Young people in Blackpool are set to benefit from a new Young Futures Hub – offering a one-stop hub for activities, mental health support and employment opportunities.

Blackpool Council has been allocated a share of £70m government funding as part of the Young Futures Hubs and Transformation

The town will be home to one of 42 new hubs nationally, planned as part of the government's National Youth Strategy, Youth Matters – a 10-year plan to improve local youth offers.

The Young Futures Hub will be open to 10-18-year-olds, with additional provision available up to 25 for some cohorts. Activities in the Blackpool hub are likely to include arts, sports, volunteering, and skills-based projects led by youth workers, encompassing universal access provision and targeted one-to-one support where needed. Mental health and wellbeing activities and interventions will be embedded across the offer.

ACTIVE BLACKPOOL UNVEILS £482,000 INVESTMENT IN GYM



Active Blackpool has officially opened Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre's new gym space following a 12-week refurbishment, adding 20 new machines, including kit proven to vastly improve strength and reduce members' bio age.

The refurb, led by Evolution Limited, has included adding six new EGYM machines, 14 pieces of Matrix Kit, and increasing floor space by 52sqm. The Centre has also added new consultation areas for members to discuss their fitness journey with an instructor.

The refurbishment comes as Active Blackpool saw more than a 50% increase in memberships over the last three years. Now around 3,000 of its current 7,000-strong membership class the centre on Bristol Avenue as their 'home site'.

CONTRACTORS WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE NEW COMMUNITY HUB IN SOUTH SHORE

Contractors working with Blackpool Council have joined forces to create a new community space in South Shore, aiming to upskill residents and help create a more resilient community.

Working in collaboration with Community First Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, ten Blackpool Council contractors are delivering the project through their social value commitments.



The council asks all contractors it works with to deliver social value by giving something back to local communities.

A variety of businesses are working on the project, all of whom work with Blackpool Council on both regeneration schemes taking place across the town and everyday services that are provided. Working together they're bringing their own specialist skills to the renovation, including:

- **Morgan Sindall** – providing project management and construction, also delivering the construction of the Multiversity
- **I&R Demolition** – providing demolition and site clearance, also supporting the Revue Community Sports Pitches site clearance
- **Sam** - providing waste removal, also providing cleaning and property clearance services across a number of Blackpool Council projects
- **Ameon** - providing plumbing and electrical expertise, also helping deliver the MOD and Multiversity developments
- **Chartrange** - carrying out brickwork repair and level access to each unit, also providing groundworks on the Multiversity development
- **VINCI** – providing plastering and flooring, delivering the construction of the MOD Offices
- **JCS Interiors** – replacing ceiling tiles & providing plastering, also helping deliver the MOD Offices
- **Active Flooring** – replacing vinyl flooring, also helping deliver the MOD Offices
- **MJS Joinery** – providing new fire doors, also helping deliver the MOD Offices
- **Prodec Painters & Decorators** – providing painting and decorating, also helping deliver the MOD Offices

As part of Community First's 'Borrow IT' project, the contractors are all working together to renovate three adjoining empty properties on Lytham Road. The properties, owned by Blackpool Council, are being converted into a larger community space to be used by residents to learn new skills and access household equipment. Once complete, the renovated community space will run a variety of workshops, including DIY, to help residents wanting to make small improvements around their properties by providing them with the skills and confidence to carry out the work. The sessions will be run by Community First and will include a variety of other useful skills including sewing and decorating.

INCUBATE – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CREATIVES



INCUBATE is a new programme of professional development support for creatives working in Blackpool facilitated by The Old Electric as part of Creative Blackpool's Sector Development activity. This schedule of training workshops, skills-sharing opportunities and chances to gain deeper insight to specific project models, has been designed based on feedback from the sector and is offered on the basis that those who attend are PAID for their time as much as possible.

Offering a pick-n-mix style approach to building confidence and expertise in taking your creative career to the next stages alongside inspiration from artists and peers for you to consider how to scale up your practice.

[Find out more](#)

WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS?



Now in its eighth year, What About the Boys? returns on 19 November with an exciting next step: the official launch of the Fylde Coast Boys Impact Hub.

Over the past seven years, boys and young men have consistently told us about the challenges they face around mental health, identity, belonging, education, stereotypes, social media, crime, opportunity and access to positive male role models.

In 2026, we want to build on what we've heard.

Through the Fylde Coast Boys Impact Hub, organisations from across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre will come together to develop, test and share new approaches to improving outcomes for boys and young men - with their voices at the heart of the process.

This isn't just another conference. It's the beginning of a collaborative programme of action for boys and young men across the Fylde Coast.

[Find out more](#)

VACANCY: BOARD DIRECTOR AT BLACKPOOL BIDS LTD



Blackpool BIDs is looking for a new Director to make sure the voice of smaller businesses is heard at Board level.

If you pay the BID levy, or have a strong connection to a levy-paying business, and you come from the independent or SME sector, we'd like to hear from you.

We're particularly interested in people who:

- Work in independent retail, hospitality, leisure, services or another SME sector
- Can speak credibly and authentically for smaller businesses
- Care about the success of Blackpool's business community
- Can bring strategic thinking, constructive challenge and good governance

As a Director, you'll help make sure the views of independent and smaller businesses shape decisions across both the Town Centre BID and the Tourism BID.

The role is voluntary. The Board meets quarterly, and the expected commitment is around half a day a month.

For more information and an application pack, email admin@blackpoolbid.org

Closing date: 5pm, Wednesday 21 October 2026.

SAFER BUSINESS BREAKFAST

A Safer Business Breakfast Event, an exclusive session for businesses across West Division (Blackpool, Lancaster, Fylde and Wyre).

The event will take place on Wednesday 4th November, from 8:00am to 10:00am, at the Village Hotel, Blackpool, where complimentary breakfast refreshments will be provided.

Hosted by Lancashire Constabulary, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, and the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC), the event aims to strengthen engagement with local businesses.

Attendees will hear from Chief Superintendent James Black, Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw, and the LANPAC team, who will provide insights into local policing priorities, emerging challenges, and opportunities for businesses to build on their social value contributions. There will also be a Q&A session, giving attendees the opportunity to put questions directly to the panel of speakers.

[Register](#)

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