BLACKPOOL'S £100M BUSINESS LOANS FUND

Ambitious to support growth, Blackpool Council has massively expanded its commercial loan fund to support businesses with growth potential who can create sustainable jobs for Blackpool and the surrounding area. A range of investment will be considered, including property based ventures.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

Electrification of the main railway line from Blackpool North to Preston will be completed in 2018, improving journey times and reliability even further. This will mean faster, more direct routes to London, Manchester and Liverpool, and the potential to open up new links to more destinations in future.



CENTRAL LEISURE QUARTER

The Central Leisure Quarter site sits in the heart of Blackpool just a stone's throw away from the famous Tower and Golden Mile. This 7.15 hectare site presents a fantastic opportunity to expand Blackpool's tourism and leisure offer. Plans are being developed to provide innovative, high-quality attractions and accommodation that provide year-round reasons to visit and broaden the resort's overall appeal. The Council has recently signed an exclusivity agreement with a developer to explore and ultimately bring to life the many exciting opportunities that exist.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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INVEST IN Blackpool





BLACKPOOL IS BEING TRANSFORMED

Blackpool needs little introduction as a mainstream tourist destination. Loved and visited by millions, it occupies a unique place in the hearts and minds of the British people. With a magnificent seafront, the biggest portfolio of visitor attractions outside London, and a hugely-impressive programme of shows and events, it retains its place as the UK's most popular seaside resort with 17m visits a year.

What is less well-known is the wider transformation of Blackpool that is taking place. This has seen some £500 million of investment over the last few years in the first phase of Talbot Gateway Central Business District, the renewal of the Promenade, sea defences, public spaces and the famous tramways as well as Blackpool Tower and the redevelopment of the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre.

But this only represents the beginning as there are many more schemes now being actively developed including the image transforming Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, expansion of the tram network, a new purposebuilt Conference centre, new high quality hotels as well as major leisure developments.

All of this means that a revitalised Blackpool is not just an attractive place to work and visit, but also a great place to invest.

BLACKPOOL AIRPORT ENTERPRISE ZONE

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, one of the largest in the UK, was established in 2016 and over its 25 year life span will transform the Blackpool and the Fylde Coast's economic base with over £300 million of private investment and the creation of 3,000 jobs supported by new infrastructure. This 140 hectare site has already grown with over 35 companies and 450 jobs since 2016 (including the newly constructed Lancashire Energy HQ). It is targeted at the energy, aerospace, food and drink manufacture and digital and creative sectors, but has the capacity to host a wide range of manufacturing and service businesses within the existing Blackpool Business Park and Squires Gate Industrial Estates. The incentives for business include business rates reduction and enhanced capital allowances as well as design and build opportunities.

TALBOT GATEWAY

The first phase of Talbot Gateway Central Business District, completed in 2014, saw £80m of investment with over 1,000 employees brought into the town centre based in Grade A1 office accommodation with accompanying retail units. This transformative scheme is growing the town centre by providing top quality accommodation and facilities and includes a Sainsbury's flagship store surrounded by much improved public spaces and traffic management. Phase 2 is set to commence in 2018 with site clearance and construction of a new 4* hotel, tramway extension, transport interchange (connecting the tram to the rail system) and offices. Phase 3 will then follow.

BLACKPOOL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Work on a new £25m conference centre at the Winter Gardens is set to start in 2017 with a planned completion in 2019. It is a critical component in reinstating Blackpool's status as a major player in the conference market.

The new conference centre, which will take the overall capacity of the Winter Gardens to 7,000 delegates, will be complemented by several top-quality hotel developments which are either underway or in the advanced planning stage.

The dedicated new conference space will provide ultra-modern facilities including breakout rooms and exhibition areas, linking with existing facilities in the Opera House and Empress Ballroom.