

Home > Your Council > Creating a better Blackpool > Business growth

# Business growth

Last Modified July 15, 2024



## Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone

The Enterprise Zone spans land at Squires Gate, Blackpool Business Park and Blackpool Airport. The vision is to attract more than 180 new businesses, help create up to 5000 new jobs and securing over £300m private sector investment. Since April 2016, it's attracted 145 new companies and more than 2500 new jobs for the area.

A new sports village has opened at Common Edge Road playing fields allowing for work to start on a new access road and space for commercial units to create new jobs. Plans for a new technology park - Silicon Sands - are also taking place.

[Find out more](#)



## Digital vision

Blackpool is undergoing a digital transformation and is at the forefront of new generation digital connectivity.

Whether this is making sure that residents and businesses have access to the latest full fibre gigabit connectivity, or split second internet speeds across the Atlantic and to northern Europe.

Blackpool is driving forward with a new digital strategy for the town.

[Find out more](#)



## Conference centre

The state-of-the-art £30m conference and exhibition centre at the Blackpool Winter Gardens is now open.

The purpose-built events venue links to the refurbished Empress Ballroom and Opera House increasing the Winter Gardens overall capacity to 7,000 delegates.

The eye-catching development is equipped with the most advanced audio and visual technology and provides an impressive 2,400sq metres of dedicated space.

[More information](#)



## Shared Prosperity Fund

Blackpool Council had the opportunity to submit its Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan by the 1 August 2022, to secure essential resources to support investment in the town.

The SPF investment plan outlined 13 capital and revenue projects under the themes of:

- Communities and place
- Local business
- People and skills

Combined, these schemes will provides a wide range of support from physical town centre regeneration, through to direct business support encouraging existing and new business development, low carbon schemes and community skills and improved learning projects for residents The proposals will be led by the council departments and other organisations such as Blackpool & The Fylde College, BITC and VCFSE organisations subject to procurement rules.

On the 5 December 2022 Blackpool received confirmation that its investment plan had been approved for £5,114,423 from approval to the end of March 2025 and the council has now moved into the implementation stage with the investment plan.

[More information on the SPF investment plan](#)



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