

Within this summary we have defined the ambitious targets our Prosperity Plan is aiming to achieve and an outline of the milestones reached so far.

Since 2014 our towns have seen large scale developments completed and we are now looking forward to the opportunities and growth that

these will bring. However, it is not just the skyline of the area that has been transformed.

Since the plan was launched more residents of the borough are in work and unemployment is at a six year low.

This plan represents the vision for the future of Blackburn with Darwen. The gains and successes made so far represent a snapshot view of the achievements made towards our bigger aspirations.



Mo Isap

Chair Blackburn with Darwen Local Strategic Partnership



Councillor Phil Riley

Vice Chair
Blackburn with Darwen
Local Strategic Partnership
&
Blackburn with Darwen
Borough Council
Executive Member for Regeneration

JUR PRIORITIES

To create the environment for a thriving and competitive business base leading to improved prospects for residents, the Plan for Prosperity is underpinned by five key priorities:

Infrastructure and Housing

Business Investment and Innovation

Employability

Quality of Life

Image and Marketing

The Plan for Prosperity was launched in November 2014, setting out the Local Strategic Partnership's (LSP) ambitions for Blackburn with Darwen and its vision to 2020. Below sets out what has been achieved since:

Infrastructure and Housing

CAPITAL PROJECTS Completed Since 2014

- > Cathedral Quarter
- > Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre
- > Pennine Reach
- > Blackburn Library renovation

CAPITAL PROJECTS Completing soon

- > Blackburn Bus Station
- Blackburn Making Rooms including Lancashire's first Fab Lab
- > Wainwright Way and the Freckleton St Link Road

We have set ambitious and challenging targets to build more homes by 2020 and the recently approved local plan supports the drive for development on publicly owned and private sector land and encourage more inward investment. Development is being progressed on sites including Gib Lane and Parsonage Road in Blackburn, Cranberry Lane, Darwen and on the former SAPPI site in Feniscowles.

Business Investment and Innovation

To be prosperous, businesses must be empowered. We have focussed on promoting growth, including creating the 250-strong Hive business leaders' network, which was incorporated as a not-for-profit CIC in 2015 and commended in the Enterprising Britain Awards.

HIVE supports industry through the HIVE Manufacturing Excellence Group, and is building links with education through a unique "business-school" scheme to raise the profile of business in schools and encourage young people to stay, work and innovate here.



Employability

Creating new jobs is a major priority. Since 2014, over 530 jobs have been created through local investment led by Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the employment rate has risen, with over 70% of those aged 16-64 now in a job.

Creating a highly skilled and educated workforce will allow the area to develop, grow and prosper.

Our ambitions for improving education are being

Quality of Life

Volunteers are key to sustaining a good quality of life in our local community. We are working with key partners including the police, health and the community and voluntary sector to encourage and enable communities to do more for themselves. The volunteer strategy recognises formal and informal volunteering and the Council's 'Your Call programme', is being

realised; with 80% of our schools rated good or excellent by OFSTED under the newer, tougher inspection framework.

There have been 710 new apprentices and we will continue to encourage more apprenticeship schemes.



widened to engage with more people.
Businesses are also actively contributing to ensuring Blackburn's town centre is more attractive and safer through the Blackburn Business Improvement District's (BID) 5 year business plan, and Darwen is also seeing something similar through the Darwen Town Centre partnership.

Image and Marketing

Ensuring Blackburn with Darwen is seen positively locally, regionally and nationally will attract investors, visitors and new residents and create prosperity.

The LSP has led the development of a new place marketing strategy, which includes creating The 'Blackburn and Darwen Story' - a narrative that can be shared by all with a stake in the



success of the place. The outcomes of the work already done to improve the image of our place can be seen with the National Festival of Making taking place in Blackburn this October.

OUR 2020 TARGETS

PRIORITY	PI NO.	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	BY 2020 TARGET
Infrastructure and Housing	1	Sqm of new commercial floor space developed	100,000 sqm of new commercial floor space
	2	Number of jobs created from key private and public investment	2,700 new jobs (1500 public sector investment & 1200 private sector investment
	3	Number of new homes built	3,989 new homes
	4	Number of new affordable homes built	600
Business Investment and Innovation	5	Annual % change in BwD GVA levels	To have a higher % increase to that of the wider Lancashire county area
	6	Annual % change in the net businesses growth / decline	To have a higher % increase to that of the wider Lancashire county area
	7	Annual % change in the number of private sector jobs in BwD	To have a higher % increase to that of the wider Lancashire county area
	8	New start-ups in knowledge economy	To be developed
	9	Investment in new products or services	Aim to be the highest performing in the NW for patents granted per 100,000 residents
Employability	10	Employment (economic activity rate) 16-64	Increase BwD rate to Lancashire average
	11	Unemployment rate 16-64	Reduce BwD rate to North West average
	12	Economic inactivity rate 16-64	Reduce BwD rate to Lancashire average
	13	Average Progress 8 performance for children	At least equal to the English and North West Average
	14	Average Attainment 8 performance for children	At least equal to the English and North West Average
	15	% of all schools rated "good" or "excellent"	100%
	16	% of all schools rated "excellent"	30%
	17	Under 19 apprenticeships starts	Increase under 19 apprenticeship take up
	18	% 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	To be below 5% and aspiring to match the English average
	19	% of residents with no formal qualifications	Reduce BwD rate to North West average
	20	% of residents with level 4 or above qualifications	Increase BwD rate to Lancashire average
	21	Graduate retention	To be developed
Quality of Life	22	Life expectancy at birth – males	Reduce the gap to the England average
	23	Life expectancy at birth – females	Reduce the gap to the England average
	24	Resident gross weekly pay	Increase BwD pay to Lancashire level
	25	Participation / volunteered at least once a month	Increase participation in volunteering
	26	Total crime figures	Reduce crime
Image and Marketing	27	Annual % change in BwD visitor economy revenues compared to Lancashire	To have a higher % increase to that of the wider Lancashire county area
	28	% of vacant premises in Blackburn town centre	Reduce vacant premises
	29	% of vacant premises in Darwen town centre	Reduce vacant premises
	30	Internal perceptions – BwD businesses and BwD residents	To be developed
	31	External perceptions	To be developed

COMING UP IN 2016-17

March 5th – April 4th	Giant Easter Egg Hunt in Blackburn Town Centre	
March 22nd	Launch of the Blackburn with Darwen Story	
March 23rd	Testing of the new Blackburn Bus Station	
April 15th	Mayors Ball	
April 23rd	"Here Be Dragons" St Georges Day Celebrations	
May 1st	Opening of the new Blackburn Bus Station	
May 5th	Local and Parish Elections Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner Election	
May 18th	Get Matched apprenticeship event at Blackburn College	
May 22nd	Civic Sunday	
May 26th	Hive Business awards	
May 28th	Fusion Awards	
May 29th – 30th	Darwen Live!	
June 1st – 7th	Volunteers' Week	
June 4th – 19th	Witton Weavers Walking and Cycling Festival	
June 5th	Annual Memorial Day / One Voice Mela	
June 11th	HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations	
June 23rd – 26th	Cathedral Quarter Flower Festival WW1 memorial statue	
June 25th	Countryside comes to town	
July 3rd	Somme Commemorations	
July 4th	Blackburn College New Student Day	
July 23rd – 24th	Blackburn Canal Festival – Celebrating 200 years of the Leeds Liverpool Canal	
August 12th -14th	Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show, Witton Country Park	
August 18th	A – Level results day	
August 25th	GCSE results day	
August 27th	Blackburn College Open Event	
September 8th – 11th	National Heritage Open Days	
October 9th	Steam Sunday	
w/c 10th October	National Festival of Making	
November 2nd -8th	Trustees' Week	
November 5th	Witton Park Community Bonfire	
November 9th	Blackburn College Apprenticeship Event	
November 13th	Remembrance Sunday	
November 15th – 22nd	Global Entrepreneurs week	
November 19th	Darwen Christmas Lights Switch on	
November 26th	Blackburn Christmas Lights Switch on	
December 17th	Blackburn Christmas Lantern parade	
February 2017	One Voice Annual Dinner	

