



Lancashire
Enterprise Partnership



LEP GROWTH FUND

BLACKPOOL BRIDGES

APPENDIX J - LETTERS OF SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 2015



Blackpool Borough Council
Layton Depot
Blackpool
FY3 7HW

Square One
4 Travis Street
Manchester
M1 2NY
T 0161 880 3654

30 January 2015

**FAO Will Britain – Principal Engineer and Highways Asset Manager
Re: Blackpool Council Road over Rail Bridges.**

Blackpool Council own and maintain a number of road over rail bridges which have been identified as in need of major maintenance interventions. In order of priority the bridges are:

- PBN 120 Plymouth Road (Blackpool Council);
- KBS1 84 Squire's Gate Lane (Blackpool Council);
- KBS1 85 Harrowside (Blackpool Council);
- PBN 122 Devonshire Road (Blackpool Council);
- KBS1 87 Watson Road (Network Rail – Blackpool Council BG3 Scheme).

All the bridges named above are visually examined by Network Rail annually and comments on their condition have been communicated to Blackpool Council via letter and during regular liaison meetings. The major cause for concern to Network Rail is the condition of the concrete elements of the bridges and the potential for loose concrete to fall on to the operational railway. Where there has been an immediate safety risk, Network Rail Staff or their Contractors have taken a proactive role in dealing with the cause and notifying Blackpool Council of our actions.

Network Rail attend twice yearly liaison meetings with Blackpool Council to discuss the condition of their bridge stock and proposals for maintenance. An example of joint working between Network Rail and Blackpool Council is the recent refurbishment of KBS1 88 Lytham Road Bridge (completed July 2014). The benefit to Blackpool Council was the reopening of the Lytham Road corridor to bus traffic which was welcomed by the local community and bus operators.

Blackpool Council have informed Network Rail of their intention to apply for monies via the DfT Challenge Fund and LEP Growth Fund, which together will provide sufficient funding for the reconstruction of all the bridges listed above.

Network Rail will support Blackpool Council with their applications, as it will allow robust structures to be constructed that comply with current design standards, highway loading



requirements and will provide road over rail crossings that will allow unimpeded operation of the railway network within Blackpool.

The Network Rail contact is Ian Crossland,
tel 0161 880 3654,
email ian.crossland@networkrail.co.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Crossland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yours faithfully
Ian Crossland
SAE (LNW) Lancs. and Cumbria



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

c/o New Blackpool Enterprise Centre,
Lytham Road,
Blackpool FY4 1EW

February 4, 2015

Dear Sirs,

Re: Blackpool bridges: Support for Local Highways Challenge Fund bid

I am writing to you in my capacity as chair of the Blackpool Business Leadership Group, a private sector-led organisation comprising more than 150 business and industry leaders from across Blackpool.

The Group works closely with Blackpool Council in order to help catalyse the regeneration that the destination requires in order to be a sustainable tourism economy, create jobs, attract inward investment and reduce levels of deprivation.

Much progress has been made, with the refurbished promenade and seafront; improvements to the historic Tower and Winter Gardens facilities; the first phase of the Central Business District development; repairs to the vital Yeadon Way road; new town centre focused bus facilities and moves to build on the revitalised tramway by extending it to the Blackpool North railway station.

It is vitally important that this regeneration work continues to gather momentum, particularly as the first fruits of this investment are starting to show.

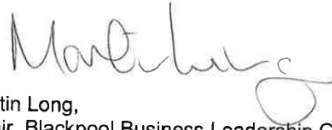
The group is aware that Blackpool's bridges are now in poor condition and in need of major repair, if not complete rebuilding.

These bridges are critical to the Blackpool road system and economy, and their loss would be catastrophic.

The potential loss of the Princess Street bridge is of particular alarm: This would, in effect, sever the Yeadon Way/Seaside's Way link into the town centre, compromising visitor access and nullifying the improvements that repairs to Yeadon Way have achieved.

This letter expresses full support for the council's bid for resources and appeals for grant aid to enable this situation to be remedied before irreparable economic damage is done.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Long'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Martin' being more prominent than the last name 'Long'.

Martin Long,
Chair, Blackpool Business Leadership Group