

Our Corporate Plan

Blackburn with Darwen
Council, Working with you

Our Priorities and Pledges
2013-2015

Our priorities

Commitment to Community Voice – to ensure that residents are able to help shape local services and that we continue to work with the hundreds of volunteers helping to deliver our leisure and cultural offer

- Volunteering target in 12/13 was 9500 hours, achieved over 19,000 hours of voluntary work. Examples include:
 - Library services housebound service
 - cotton town
 - Friends Of Darwen Library
 - Friends of Turton Tower (and volunteers at the tower)
 - Community sports network - 42 sports clubs
 - Blackburn sports council

Our priorities

Review of our Leisure and Culture Assets – looking at all our leisure services and supporting the on-going regeneration of Blackburn and Darwen town centre

- Witton Park athletic and leisure development – building work to commence in 2013 and new facility to be open 2014
- Blackburn Leisure Centre – building works to commence Autumn 2013 and facility to be fully open early 2015
- BRSA – surplus to requirements since opening of facilities at Darwen Vale HS. Proposal to develop a BM,X/Skate park facility

Our priorities

Culture and Creativity - Developing a vision for Blackburn with Darwen as part of a creative and cultural Pennine Lancashire. Promoting culture's contribution to social regeneration and community cohesion within the borough

- King George's Hall, largest performance venue in Pennine Lancs, broader programme of shows over next 2 years.
- Blackburn Festival to take place on 15th June - Annual cultural event at Witton Park
- £85k Arts Council funding to produce arts programme in Blackburn town centre
- £2M Arts Council funding for cultural activity in Blackburn, Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle over 3 year period

Our pledges

By 2015, we will have - Delivered a new, state of the art, athletics facility at Witton Park:

- Tenders received from six building contractors
- Initial tenders received - clarifications process underway to reduce costs and achieve best value
- Indoor sprint track and leisure facilities – estimated to start in June 2013 (subject to affordability gap) and will be completed by February 2014
- Possibility that outdoor track and floodlighting will have to be funded separately via UK athletics and Sport England in 2014

Our pledges

By 2015, we will have - Continued to provide and secure attendances at a large number of shows at King Georges Hall and Darwen Library Theatre

- In 2012/13 – 271 shows against target of 225 shows
- KGH review completed – number of lessons learnt from other theatre operators
- Less risk averse approach to programming shows
- Broader programme of shows (more music)
- More private hire and events – working closely with registrars
- More lunchtime and pre-show business in Blakey's – new head chef post
- More effective marketing and promotions for all KGH services

Our pledges

By 2015, we will have - Delivered a new, state of the art, leisure facility in Blackburn town centre in partnership with Blackburn College

- Stage C Design and cost plan will be available on 24 May
- Member reference group meeting planned for w/c 27 May to discuss design and costs
- Planning application to Planning committee on 12 September (possibly earlier)
- Building works programmed to commence in Autumn 2013
- New sports halls to be open by September 2014
- Swimming pools and the health and fitness facilities to be open by January 2015