



Emergency Powers Executive Decisions Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 20/08/2020
Please ask for: Democratic Services
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**Emergency Powers Executive Decisions meeting on Thursday, 20
August 2020 at 12.30 pm in the Chief Executive's Office**

1. **Proposal for Infrastructure Funding at Hillhouse Enterprise Zone** (Pages 3 - 12)

Report of Corporate Director Communities.

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Report of:	Meeting	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities	Delegated to Chief Executive under emergency powers	20 August 2020

Proposal for Infrastructure Funding at Hillhouse EZ

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To approve funding for the delivery of improved infrastructure at the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (EZ).

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Delivery of a full fibre network, known as the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) SPR-2 extension, to the EZ with associated benefits to the businesses and residents along the route.
- 2.2 Improved road access, improved water supply and distribution, improved electrical supply and distribution and a new gatehouse to open up access to the site not within a secured area.
- 2.3 Support businesses to grow and prosper.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Approve the release of up to £320,000 from the EZ Growth Reserve (created from retained business rates on the EZ) for the purpose of providing funding to improve the infrastructure serving the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone.
- 3.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Communities to enter into any and all necessary documents and agreements to implement the project and to make any funding of works conditional on suitable further agreement(s) being reached with NPL Estates (majority landowner within the Enterprise Zone) and other land owner(s) or related companies to provide complimentary infrastructure investment, as necessary, to make full use of this infrastructure investment by the council;

- 3.3** Authorise the Corporate Director Communities to enter into a grant funding agreement with Blackpool Council to use the contractor currently delivering the Local Full Fibre Network throughout Blackpool; to which these works would be an extension. Wyre Council will make a grant payment from the EZ Business Rates Growth Reserve to Blackpool Council with an estimated value of up to £250,000.
- 3.4** Authorise the Corporate Director Communities to enter into a grant funding agreement with NPL Estates (or related company) so that they may implement infrastructure improvements throughout the EZ. Wyre Council will make a grant payment from the EZ Business Rates Growth Reserve to NPL Estates (or related company) with an estimated value of up to £70,000.

4. Background

- 4.1** Wyre Council is the accountable body for the EZ and as such entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government, Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership in 2016. Provisions within this MoU saw the council retain business rates income from the EZ for investment in infrastructure and to support the delivery of ambitious economic objectives as set out in the approved Masterplan.
- 4.2** As at 31 March 2020 the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Growth Reserve had a balance of £1,160,907.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** SPR-2 is an extension to the Full Fibre Network currently being delivered across the Fylde Coast by Blackpool Council; shown at appendix 1 and referred to as phase 1. Phase 1 will provide a full fibre network to the northern extent of the EZ; shown in yellow at appendix 2. To provide greater connectivity for the EZ an extension is needed to Bourne Road and the surrounding areas. This extension will ensure maximum benefit for the businesses within the EZ and the wider area locally including residential properties nearby.
- 5.2** If the council were to undertake this infrastructure investment 'on its own' it would need to be in accordance with the council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules which would involve officer time and other costs associated with the procurement of the works. In order to meet these requirements more efficiently, agreement has been reached with Blackpool Council to extend their existing contract (with TNP Limited) to include the SPR-2 extension. This provision was already included in their procurement exercise and so would involve no additional changes. SPR-2 would represent a very small extension to their existing contract and would result in a much simpler arrangement for the council. The existing Blackpool Council contract has been the subject of a fully compliant procurement exercise. Wyre Council will make a grant payment from the EZ Business Rates Growth Reserve to Blackpool Council, relying on a grant funding

agreement between the two parties, and Blackpool Council will deliver the project using their existing contract.

- 5.3** Whilst the SPR-2 extension will bring the Local Full Fibre Network to the ‘doorstep’ of the EZ, it will require further investment on the part of NPL Estates (and other land owners and businesses on the site) to make full use of this new piece of infrastructure throughout the site. Discussions have been ongoing between the council and all stakeholders. However further, formal agreements may need to be reached once the council has confirmed the funding of SPR-2. Delegation to achieve this outcome is sought.
- 5.4** NPL Estates have been successful in achieving an allocation of funding under the ‘Getting Building Fund’ from UK Government for a project titled ‘*Hillhouse EZ Infrastructure Investment*’. This grant allocation is for approximately £504,000 and relies upon successful match funding from Wyre Council, as holder of the EZ Business Rates Growth Reserve, of £70,000 and NPL Estates of £63,000. This funding is not linked to the LFFN SPR-2 extension, but the two projects will complement each other. Both schemes (LFFN SPR-2 extension and Hillhouse EZ Infrastructure Investment) could be undertaken separately and at different times. However both projects require funding from the EZ Business Rates Growth Reserve fund and grant funding agreements.
- 5.5** A funding breakdown of the two projects is shown in the table below.

Table 1 – Funding Breakdown

Project	EZ Business Rates Growth Reserve	Other Public Funding	Other Private Funding	Total Project Cost
LFFN SPR-2	£250,000	-	-	£250,000
Hillhouse EZ Infrastructure Investment	£70,000	£504,000	£63,000	£637,000
Total	£320,000	£504,000	£63,000	£887,000

- 5.6** As at 31 March 2020, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Growth Reserve had a balance of £1,160,907. This level of investment would represent just over a quarter of the fund. When balanced against the benefits of the infrastructure investment to the wider business community and surrounding residential properties, this investment is considered to be value for money.
- 5.7** Investment by the council in this infrastructure should act as a catalyst for the wider development of the EZ in-line with the Masterplan and help to fulfil the council’s obligations under the MoU.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	As at 31 March 2020, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Growth Reserve had a balance of £1,160,907. It is proposed that the reserve fund the investments in infrastructure of £70,000 to NPL and £250,000 to Blackpool Council, subject to appropriate commitments being obtained from the major landowners at the site to then roll out the improvements within the EZ.
Legal	The arrangements outlines in this report comply with council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedures Rules and European procurement regulations. The council will make any funding of works conditional on suitable further agreement(s) being reached with NPL Estates and with Blackpool Council.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Steve Smith	01253 887243	Steve.smith@wyre.gov.uk	18/08/2020

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

None	-	-
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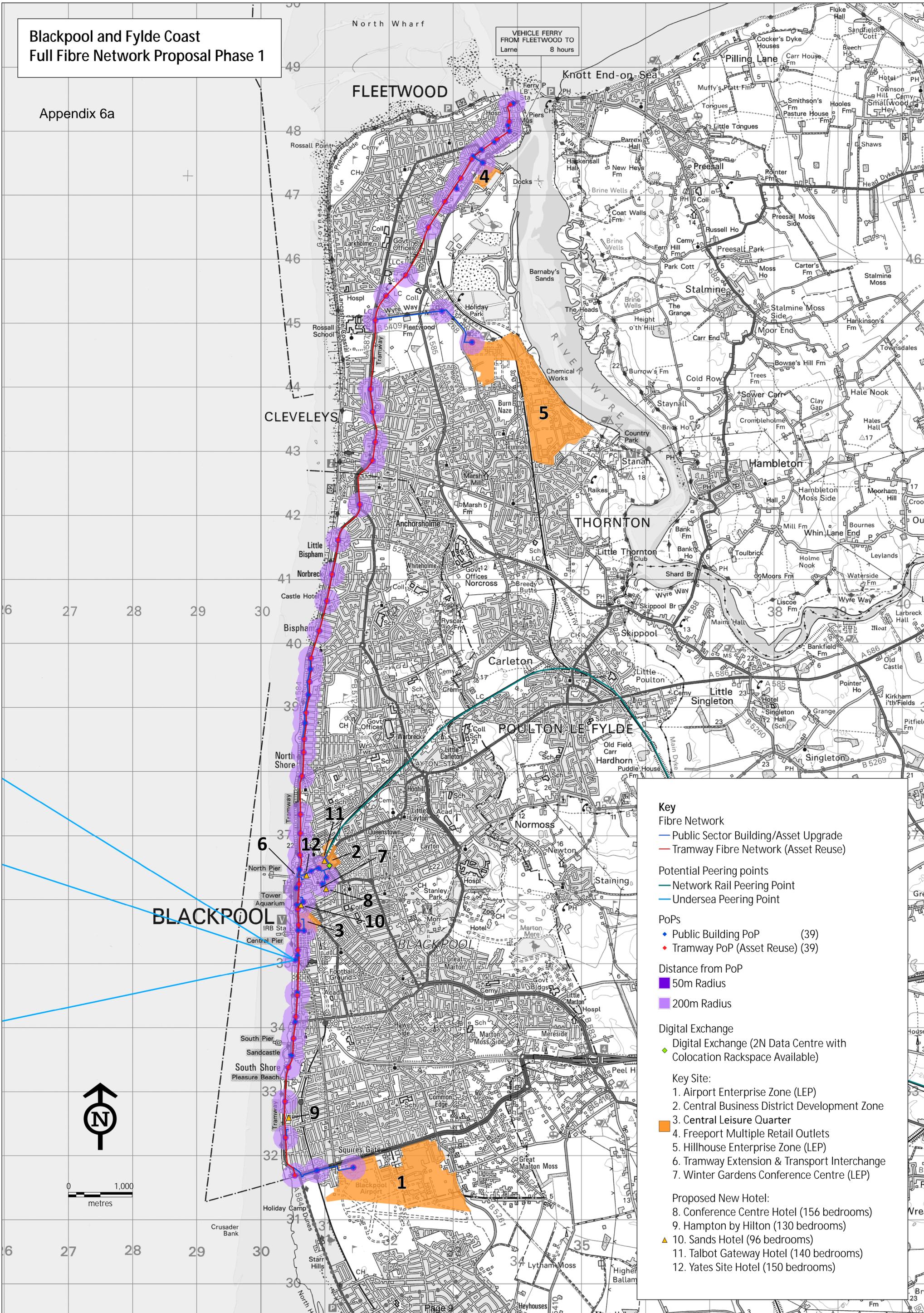
List of appendices

1. Blackpool and Fylde Coast Full Fibre Network Route Map – Phase 1
2. SPR-2 Route Map (shown in blue)

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Blackpool and Fylde Coast Full Fibre Network Proposal Phase 1

Appendix 6a



VEHICLE FERRY FROM FLEETWOOD TO LARNE
8 hours

- Key**
- Fibre Network
 - Public Sector Building/Asset Upgrade
 - Tramway Fibre Network (Asset Reuse)
 - Potential Peering points
 - Network Rail Peering Point
 - Undersea Peering Point
 - PoPs
 - Public Building PoP (39)
 - Tramway PoP (Asset Reuse) (39)
 - Distance from PoP
 - 50m Radius
 - 200m Radius
 - Digital Exchange
 - Digital Exchange (2N Data Centre with Colocation Rackspace Available)
 - Key Site:
 - Airport Enterprise Zone (LEP)
 - Central Business District Development Zone
 - Central Leisure Quarter
 - Freeport Multiple Retail Outlets
 - Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (LEP)
 - Tramway Extension & Transport Interchange
 - Winter Gardens Conference Centre (LEP)
 - Proposed New Hotel:
 - Conference Centre Hotel (156 bedrooms)
 - Hampton by Hilton (130 bedrooms)
 - Sands Hotel (96 bedrooms)
 - Talbot Gateway Hotel (140 bedrooms)
 - Yates Site Hotel (150 bedrooms)

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