



Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 4 October 2022
Please ask for : Marianne Unwin
marianne.unwin@wyre.gov.uk
Tel: 01253 887326

**Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting on
Thursday, 13 October 2022 at 2.00 pm in the Reception Room, Town
Hall, St Annes**

1. **Agenda published by Fylde Council**

(Pages 3 - 34)

This page is intentionally left blank



Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board Agenda

Fylde Council

Date of Publication: 4 October 2022
Please ask for: Lyndsey Lacey-Simone
lyndsey.lacey-simone@fylde.gov.uk

Tel: 01253 658504

**Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting on
Thursday, 13 October 2022 at 14:00 in the Reception Room, Town
Hall, St Annes**

- 1. Apologies and Welcome by the Chairman**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
Members will be invited to disclose any pecuniary and any other significant interests they may have in relation to the matters to be considered at this meeting.
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes** (Pages 3-7)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Review of the Economic Prosperity Board's Priorities** (Pages 8-14)
Report of Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director - Blackpool Council.

6. Presentation - Blackpool Airport

A presentation on this topic will be given by Steve Peters, Managing Director of Blackpool Airport.

7. Economic Opportunities of Climate Mitigation and Adaption (Pages 15 -16) Update

Report of Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager - Blackpool Council.

8. Innovation Catalyst

A presentation on this topic will be given by Tony Doyle, Head of IT - Blackpool Council.

9. Exclusion of Public and Press

If the discussion during items 10 and 11 of this agenda involves the disclosure of "exempt information", as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the board wishes to move to a confidential session, it will need to pass the following resolution:

"That the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst the agenda items are considered, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

10. Blackpool Airport EZ Progress report (standing item) (Pages 17 -24)

Report of Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council.

11. Hillhouse Technology EZ Progress report (standing item) (Pages 25 -31)

Report of Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council.

12. Any Other Business - Update on Investment Zones

13. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 8 December 2022 at 14:00 in the Reception Room at the Town Hall, St Annes.

MINUTES

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

Date:	Thursday, 9 June 2022
Venue:	Reception Room, Town Hall, St Annes.
Economic Prosperity Board Members Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley, Leader - Fylde Council Councillor Mark Smith, Blackpool Council Councillor David Henderson, Leader - Wyre Borough Council
Chief Executive Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, Fylde Council Neil Jack, Chief Executive, Blackpool Council Garry Payne, Chief Executive, Wyre Council
Co-opted private sector representatives Present:	Martin Long (Blackpool), Neil Farley (Fylde)
Other Attendees:	Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy & Research Manager - Blackpool Council Sarah Kemp, Chief Executive of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Nicole Billington, Projects & Comms Manager EZ Tony Doyle, Head of ICT, Blackpool Council Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Paula Huber - Economic Development and Regenerations Manager - Fylde Council Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council. Lyndsey Lacey Simone – Principal Democratic Services Officer
Observers:	Councillor Thomas Threlfall - Chairman of Environment, Health & Housing Committee

Councillor David Henderson (Former Chairman) opened the meeting and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

1. Appointment of Chairman

The Board considered the appointment of a Chairman of the Board for 2022/2022 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Karen Buckley, Leader of Fylde Council be appointed Chairman of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Gerrard.

3. Appointment of Vice - Chairman

The Board considered the appointment of Vice- Chairman of the Board for 2022/2022 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Smith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board for the 2022/2023 municipal year

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on 3rd March 2022.

Variation of Business

The Chairman varied the business as detailed below.

7. Economic Opportunities of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy & Research Manager, Blackpool Council updated the Board on discussions concerning the economic aspects of the climate change mitigation and adaptation agendas. A copy of the report was circulated with the agenda. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation was given at the meeting.

By way of background the report (previously circulated) referred to an earlier report “Addressing Emissions Across the Fylde Coast” considered by the Board on 9th September 2021, as a result of which, the Board had agreed to act as an influencer and enabler regarding the green agenda across the Fylde Coast on issues relating to the economy. It was explained that this role requires a focus on two related concepts: Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation.

Further to the above, the Board had previously requested that green local projects and businesses across the Fylde Coast that need funding be identified in order to match up opportunities and ensure resilience. As a result, a group of officers from Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool Councils covering climate change and economic development was convened to discuss ideas and potential projects. An update on progress was given at the meeting.

The Board was reminded that the overall target of UK government is Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 which in turn needs emissions to have reduced by 78% from 1990-2035, to help limit the global temperature rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. It was explained that “Net Zero” is a more stringent target than “carbon neutral”, as it includes scope 3 emissions from supply chains. It was confirmed that Blackpool, Wyre and Lancashire County Council are all formally committed to targets, with operational work by Fylde to reduce carbon emissions

Some of the key points raised at the meeting were:

- The Fylde Coast needs the equivalent of 2891 “green jobs” by 2030 in areas such as low carbon heat, electricity, alternative fuels, services and infrastructure.
- Greatest proportion of emissions in Fylde and Wyre is from transportation, in Blackpool domestic emissions.
- Adaptation and Mitigation are both needed to ensure the ongoing growth and resilience of our society and economy.

In terms of Fylde Coast activity, the following areas were highlighted:

- Mitigation- few collaborative net zero projects exist at scale. Reducing emissions is only seen as a secondary benefit to some growth projects and is absent from others.

- Adaptation - some aspects of adaptation are well advanced (i.e., coastal defences), and provide positive examples of how to ensure economic continuity.
- Evidence of general commitment from officers, but a lack of resources, time and knowledge, and the opportunity to prioritise net zero.

Details of a shared adaptation project (ECO-CoBS: Environmental Community Owned Coastal Buffers Strips project, led by Wyre Council across the NW) and a shared mitigation project (Ichoosr Solar Together Lancashire" domestic solar panel auction) was given at the meeting.

The significant opportunities for mitigation with direct economic benefits were outlined at the meeting.

In terms of next steps, the following areas were suggested:

- Explore opportunities for collaboration on baseline studies and shared evidence base (e.g. Local Plan Reviews and the Duty to Cooperate)
- Officer group to work with Net Zero Hub on a Fylde Coast basis
- Prepare list of sub-regional projects for consideration
- Share details of internal and external funding opportunities

Following consideration of the above, the Chairman invited questions. Clarification was sought on the roll out of electric charging points across the Fylde Coast area. In response, Mr Butterfield stated that this was the subject of ongoing discussions and that an Electric Vehicle Strategy was currently being written. He stated that Blackpool is currently underserved with charging points and that funding was being accessed to look at key areas including increasing the charging points in public areas. Other practical actions taken were highlighted. Reference was also made to on-going challenges relating to power supply options for residential terraced houses and a potential collaborative working model.

Further to the above, a discussion took place about external funding opportunities including access to the UK Urban Resilience Fund; the insulation of properties (passive houses) and the associated impact on planning/building regulations.

Following detailed consideration of this matter, it was **RESOLVED**: that the Board agree to the following list of prioritised projects:

1. To explore opportunities for collaboration on baseline studies and shared evidence base (e.g., Local Plan Reviews and the Duty to Cooperate)
2. That the Officer group work with the Net Zero Hub on a Fylde Coast basis.
3. To prepare list of sub-regional projects for consideration.
4. To share details of internal and external funding opportunities.

The Chairman thanked Mr Butterfield for his report and contribution.

8. Fibre Network Update and Emerging Digital Opportunities

Mr Tony Doyle, Head of ICT, Blackpool Council provided the Board with an update on the progress of developing digital infrastructure on the Fylde Coast. A copy of the report was circulated with the agenda.

Members were reminded that at a previous meeting, the Board was informed of the development of a Full Fibre network (funded by £3million grant from DCMS) to create fibre backbone along the Fylde Coast using a ducting asset in the Tramway. The grant was also used to extend the Fibre backbone into the two Enterprise Zones on the Fylde Coast and was further supplemented by Wyre Borough Council to ensure the Fibre network reached the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone.

Mr Doyle explained that the Fibre Network enables connectivity to public sector assets along the promenade in Blackpool such as CCTV columns and publicly owned buildings. He added that a plan is also in place to gradually further extend the network using BT Openreach ducting to connect other Council buildings and schools' connectivity and that dialogue is also taking place with the NHS Trust to connect NHS sites.

A discussion took place about how the spare capacity in the Fibre Network is shared with the CNI Co-op (Co-operative Network Infrastructure) made up of both private sector public sector members. In addition, details about the fibre network activity in Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre areas and matters associated with the Blackpool and Lancaster University Catalyst opportunities and Data Centre opportunities were also highlighted.

Mr Doyle added that worthy of note is that there is a free WiFi service available at every tram stop in Blackpool and that the Airport EZ fibre interconnects with the transatlantic fibre.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. These related to the following areas: windfarm infrastructure/ developments; fibre roll out limitations and the requirements for 6G columns.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the progress of the development of full fibre network infrastructure on the Fylde Coast.
2. To note the invitation to learn more about the work of the Blackpool and Lancaster University Innovation Catalyst at a symposium on the 15th September 2022 and that the invitation be extended to relevant officers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Doyle for his report and contribution.

9. Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Update

Sarah Kemp, Chief Executive of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership provided the Board with an update on the work of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP). In doing so, she made reference to the LEP 2020 -201 Annual Report which had previously been circulated with the agenda. A PowerPoint presentation was given at the meeting.

Some of the areas highlighted at the meeting were a reminder about the role and function of the LEP and the associated Government review about revised roles & functions/expectations and future intentions and core funding arrangements of LEPs. In addition, details about other pieces of work/ LEP activity within the Strategic Economic Framework to help shape the arena of drive for economic growth and job creation including the requirement to publish delivery plans were also highlighted at the meeting.

Ms Kemp then went on to outline some of the Economic Challenges/measures for Lancashire. In addition, details of key skills development events taking place in the next few months were highlighted.

Following the presentation questions were invited. These related to the following areas: economic challenges in different parts of Lancashire; impact of Covid; gross weekly pay/ cost of living; hard to fill vacancies; skills and training; Government interventions; travel to work/lost opportunities as a result inaccessible site such as Samlesbury and levelling up matters. In responding to these points, Ms Kemp stated that of 5,000 new National Cyber Security Centre jobs 2,000 of those new jobs would be based in Lancashire.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and ask Ms Kemp to feedback the Board's concerns about the challenges relating to inaccessible sites for jobs as outlined above.

The Chairman thanked Ms Kemp for her report and contribution.

10. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Board decided that the public and press should be excluded for the remaining items on the agenda and passed the following resolution; "that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

11. Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone - Progress Report

Mr Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, presented the Board with an update on the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit. A copy of the report which included an appendix entitled "Blackpool's £1bn+ Growth & Prosperity Programme" was circulated with the agenda.

At the meeting, Mr Green highlighted progress with the Masterplan and delivery and in particular, work currently being undertaken with a company on a Data Centre project. In addition, reference was made to the new football sport pitches and matters associated with the study of jobs growth via the rates relief process. In summary, The Board was advised that some 133 businesses had located to the Enterprise Zone since April 2016 and that a gross cumulative total to date of 2082 jobs had located to the Enterprise Zone. This figure included jobs new to the area, safeguarded jobs within Blackpool and construction full time equivalent jobs.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the updated report.

The Chairman thanked Mr Green for his report and contribution.

12. Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone Progress Report

Mr Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones presented the Board with an update on Hillhouse Enterprise Zone in relation to its future work and priorities against its role and remit. A copy of the report had previously been circulated to the Board.

One of the key areas highlighted at the meeting was an approach from two new companies wanting to relocate and the fact that the outcome of the bid for 200 new jobs/ investments was still awaited. Reference was also made to the residential development / new access road opportunity.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

The Chairman thanked Mr Green for his report and contribution.

13. Any Other Business

An offer was made by Mr Evans to provide any advice/support with regard to matters associated with the EPB investment plans.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

To note the date of next meeting as Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 2pm.

Fylde Borough Council copyright [2022]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context.

The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Borough Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication was also available on our website at www.fylde.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director (Blackpool Council)
Date of Meeting:	13th October 2022

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD'S PRIORITIES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To review the work of the Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) and its future work and priorities against its role and remit.

2.0 Recommendation:

To note the progress made by the Economic Prosperity Board, review priorities and agree items for future agendas

3.0 Background information:

3.1 Purpose of the EPB:

- a) The EPB was established in May 2018 to bring together local authority partners in a robust, formally constituted arrangement to help shape and drive economic development across the Fylde Coast. This would be undertaken by collaboration and mutual co-operation.

3.2 Governance

The approach to Governance was agreed as follows:

- a) The EPB will act as a Joint Committee pursuant to powers under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and under the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.
- b) The EPB will comprise of Blackpool Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council ("constituent authorities") and three co-opted members, one each from each constituent area. Any reference to 'executive', 'executive arrangements', 'executive function' or 'committee system' has the meaning given by Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000.

- c) The EPB is not a self-standing legal entity but is part of its constituent authorities. Any legal commitment entered into pursuant of a decision of the EPB must be made by all constituent authorities.
- d) Political Proportionality rules will not apply to the EPB as so constituted.
- e) The EPB may establish sub-committees or advisory groups, to undertake elements of its work, if required.
- f) The EPB has powers delegated to it by the constituent authorities in the following areas:
 - to review future governance requirements and delivery arrangements and how these can be best achieved on the Fylde Coast;
 - to have direct oversight of key economic growth focussed projects and initiatives that the EPB has influence over the funding of;
 - to have strategic oversight of other key growth focussed projects and initiatives across the Fylde Coast, and;
 - to lobby and carry out other activities that help achieve the promotion or improvement of economic wellbeing on the Fylde coast.
 - The EPB will not hold funds or monies on behalf of the constituent authorities.
- g) Each constituent authority operating executive arrangements will be responsible for considering whether it is necessary [in order to comply with Access to Information legislation regarding the publication of agendas including Forward Plan requirements] to treat prospective decisions as 'key decisions' and/ or have them included in their Forward Plan. A constituent authority operating a committee system will apply its own local statutory procedure

3.3 Remit of the EPB

To provide political and democratic accountability and in doing so:

- a) act as the key strategic forum for economic development issues on the Fylde coast and to make recommendations to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and other bodies on economic development investments and other priorities;
- b) have insight and the opportunity to review the LEP Board's activities and consider any further measures necessary to strengthen the relationship with the LEP Board;
- c) co-ordinate and monitor investment plans of the constituent authorities pertaining to economic growth at the discretion of the individual authorities;
- d) act as the Programme Board for Hillhouse Technology and Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zones (EZ's) and report into the LEP and its EZ Governance Committee as appropriate;
- e) seek to ensure that adequate resources are made available to enable the delivery of Hillhouse Technology and Blackpool Airport EZs and other key Fylde coast economic development priorities and projects;

- f) actively engage with a range of businesses on the Fylde coast in relation to economic development decision making and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;
- g) consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements, and;
- h) co-ordinate and agree wider place-making policy within the Fylde coast economic footprint, wherever possible.

3.4 Priorities

Four priorities for the EPB were agreed at the July 2018 meeting as follows:

a) Accelerated Growth focusing on our Enterprise Zones

Ensure the successful delivery of the Enterprise Zones and identify the skills needed to support meaningful growth for businesses and individuals. Identify and develop supply chain networks via partnerships and educational institutions with particular focus on Research and Development opportunities across Lancashire and the North West. Development to establish best practice, accessibility and promotion of continuing business support initiatives to provide longevity to harness businesses growth aspirations.

b) Connectivity

Develop physical infrastructure, strategic partnerships and digital networks that support growth within and around the Fylde Coast. Connectivity on a Lancashire and North West footprint through the promotion of skills, accessibility and technological provision in comparison to the offer of others. Strengthening partnerships at the regional level to drive forward opportunities developing higher skills in specialist sectors not necessarily within the Fylde Coast.

c) Marketing and Investment

Ensure effective marketing and investment in the Fylde Coast as a business investment location to complement the tourism marketing offer at a local/sub-regional/national/international level. Focusing on our priority sectors (eg including but not limited to the tourism economy) and working with Marketing Lancashire to ensure effective coordination and integration with the Lancashire offer

d) Housing Growth and Quality of Life

Improve the quality of rented housing through new potential flexibilities from Government via the ability to vary Housing Benefit / Local Housing Allowance rates. Include housing growth in the urban areas and on difficult sites, incorporating affordable energy costs, access to health and community provision to establish a destination with a 'sense of place'

3.5 Review of Priorities

The Board last reviewed its priorities in December 2020 and the minutes of that meeting were as follows:

The Board undertook an exercise to review its work since its creation May 2018. Mr Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, presented the item. The report highlighted the four priorities agreed by the Board at its creation namely Accelerated Growth focusing on our Enterprise Zones, Connectivity, Marketing and Investment, and Housing Growth and Quality of Life. The Board noted the agenda tracker and considered that these meant for the past three years the Board had focussed almost exclusively on the first three of these priorities. Members accepted that a large part of the workload of the Board had been the Enterprise Zones as they developed as this was part of its formal governance role through to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. Members of the Board considered that in the future the Board must continue to ensure good corporate governance for the Enterprise Zones but avoid repetition given the zones were now well-established. The Board should look to also focus further on connectivity, and marketing and investment. Further to Item 6 it agreed to ensure where possible that linkages were maintained and strengthened between the Board and partner organisations notably, but not limited to, the Department for International Trade, Marketing Lancashire and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. The Board considered the issue of housing. It agreed that whilst there had been little collective focus it did however consider that with changes in planning proposed by Government it may be that a further changes to the Duty to Cooperate Memorandum of Understanding were now required so that the three Councils could consider how where such issues were best to be considered.

Resolved: To note the progress made by the Economic Prosperity Board and agree that the relevant Councils review the Board's priorities.

3.5 Agenda Tracker

- a) Appendix 1 identifies the range and frequency of issues discussed at the EPB since the last review. These still relate closely to the first 3 priorities agreed by the EPB primarily because the focus of business has been on issues of common interest that affect the whole area but following the last review there has been an increasing focus on climate change and associated matters which is a potential new fourth priority.

These include:

- Regular reviews of both Enterprise Zones
- Review of business investment marketing
- Coordination of funding bids
- Reviewing the opportunities for enhanced fibre connectivity
- Focusing on post-Covid economic and tourism recovery

- Exploring the economic opportunities of climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Reviewing skills needs
 - Joint support to secure a strategic inward investment
- b)** There has, however still been little collective focus on housing through the EPB directly although strategic housing matters in relation to future provision across the Fylde Coast sub-region is a remit of the Duty to Cooperate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Fylde Coast authorities and LCC, alongside other strategic issues in relation to planning and is dealt with through other fora.
- c)** Linkages with partner organisations has been maintained and developed with presentations from the LEP, Lancashire Chamber. Marketing Lancashire and Blackpool and The Fylde College.
- d)** The Board is invited to review its priorities as well as items for future agendas .

APPENDIX 1 EPB AGENDA TRACKER		2022			2021				2020				
Subject	Author	13/10	9/6	3/3	9/12	9/9	10/6	25/3	17/12	16/9	3/6	7/4	7/1
ENTERPRISE ZONES													
Blackpool Enterprise Zone Update	Blackpool												
Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Update	Blackpool												
Blackpool Airport Update	Blackpool Airport												
LEP/LANCASHIRE STRATEGY													
LEP	LEP												
Lancashire Employment Skills Survey results	Lancs Chamber												
Green Job opportunities skills gaps	B&F College												
INFRASTRUCTURE													
Full Fibre Network	Blackpool												
Fylde Coast Rail Loop	Blackpool												
HS 2 and Golborne Link	Blackpool												

BUSINESS INVESTMENT MARKETING													
Business Investment Marketing	Blackpool												
Support for Inward Investment	Joint												
LOW CARBON ECONOMY													
Carbon Emissions on Fylde Coast	Blackpool												
Economic Opportunities of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	Joint												
OTHER													
Future High Streets Fund	Joint												
Covid 19 & Economic Recovery	Joint												
Priorities	Blackpool												
Levelling Up and Community Renewal Fund	Joint												
Future Job Opportunities from a Business Perspective	Neil Farley												
Flood Strategy	Fylde												

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	13th October 2022

Economic Opportunities of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation - Update

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To further update the Board on discussions concerning the economic aspects of the climate change mitigation and adaptation agendas.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To note report.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 The Board received the report “Economic Opportunities of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation” on 9th June 2022, highlighting four key actions:

- Explore opportunities for collaboration on baseline studies and shared evidence base (e.g. Local Plan Reviews and the Duty to Cooperate)
- Officer group to work with Net Zero Hub on a Fylde Coast basis
- Prepare list of sub-regional projects for consideration
- Share details of internal and external funding opportunities

This report updates the Board on progress to date.

- 3.2 In developing their Local Plan, Local Authorities are legally required to maintain effective cooperation with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies – the Duty to Co-operate. Blackpool and Wyre Boroughs are both at early stages in the preparation of their Local Plan Review, which may provide an opportunity to explore the commissioning of a joint evidence base on sustainability issues. Both Councils are exploring the joint commission of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to ensure flood risk issues across boundaries are fully understood. Closer alignment on planning issues is made difficult by viability tests which tend to reduce net zero-related measures in proposed schemes, and which particularly impact on Blackpool given lower property prices in the town.
- 3.3 The Local Energy North West Hub works with public sector organisations to improve the business case for their energy schemes, scaling up investment, providing technical

advice and encouraging collaborations. Lead Climate Officers from the Fylde Coast met with them together in June to discuss individual borough projects, and agreed the principle of joint working and discussions subject to suitable cross-border or pan-area projects being identified and developed.

- 3.4 Projects which would require or benefit from input from the hub or close collaboration include:
- The proposed solar farm at Blackpool Airport, on the Blackpool/Fylde border;
 - Emission reduction through the restoration of functional ecosystems. Although no current collaborations are planned, schemes are underway in individual Council areas which will support this, and there are other examples of pilot schemes which could be rolled out further (for example, Lancashire Wildlife Trust's "Carbon Farm" at Winmarleigh in Wyre). Given the dense, primarily urban form of the Blackpool borough area, work with Fylde and Wyre in this area will be particularly important in addressing Blackpool's climate ambitions;
 - A potential district heating system at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. Launched as a concept at the Innovation Catalyst Symposium on September 15th, the core of the project is to use of hyperfast transatlantic internet links and the renewable energy potential of the area to attract data centres, which would catalyse jobs in data-related fields. The waste heat generated by the new data centres would be used as a heating source for businesses and (dependent on the scale of the data centres) homes in the area.
 - Previous discussions have been held on the potential of various models of tidal barrage at the Wyre estuary. Although wholly situated in Wyre Borough, the scale and innovation of such a project would be likely to require sub-regional collaboration
- 3.5 The Lancashire Climate Officers Group, chaired by the Climate Lead for Blackpool, includes a standing agenda item to share internal and external funding opportunities. Currently, discussions are focused on whether any of the Shared Prosperity Fund projects proposed by the Boroughs could be delivered more efficiently through collaboration, and an update on this will be given at the meeting. Collaboration on an Electric Vehicle Strategy for the County, Districts and Blackburn is underway, with steps being taken to ensure this links to Blackpool's strategy, which has already been produced in a draft form.
- 3.6 Lancashire County Council are leading on a piece of work to produce a Lancashire 2050 plan, which includes Environment and Climate Change as a key theme. This is also likely to lead to collaborative opportunities as detailed work is undertaken on a county-level action plan.

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Title:	Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone: Progress Report
Date of Meeting:	13th October 2022

1.0 Purpose of the report:

To review the work of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Board notes the report.

3.0 Progress

a) Masterplan and Delivery Plan

The refreshed EZ Masterplan was approved by Blackpool’s Executive in December 2020, reflecting the impact of changes in third party ownership across the site, changes required to satisfy Sport England and address highway and transportation concerns. The Masterplan will continue to be reviewed and where appropriate revised, as new developments progress and new opportunities arise, including from potential designation as an Investment Zone. A full review of the Masterplan will be undertaken in 2025/26, following completion of the enabling infrastructure to phase one centred upon Common Edge. However, further minor changes particularly to the proposed airport and knowledge quarter development will be incorporated over coming months as specific design proposals are developed pending planning applications in respect of individual elements required to meet Civil Aviation Authority regulations.

A revised Delivery Plan and annual progress report was approved by Blackpool Executive on 4th February 2022, reflecting updated modelling of the forecast retained business rates income, to pick up changed layouts and delayed delivery dates for built development. The Executive approved an increase in allocated expenditure (via prudential borrowing) of £29.5m to facilitate the planned delivery of enabling infrastructure to the period end of Financial year 2022/23, as planned expenditure was scheduled over a six month period on the highways, drainage and utilities delivery at Common Edge. A further review of the Delivery Plan will be undertaken in November 2022 following receipt of accurate costs estimates for the construction of phase one highways based on detailed design and budget quotes from statutory undertakers for utility diversions and new supply connections. A constant programme of value engineering is underway in respect of the planned infrastructure to mitigate the anticipated impact of high material costs inflation.

The approved marketing strategy will continue to be implemented for the Enterprise Zone and where appropriate will be updated in line with the revised masterplan and emerging opportunities and guidance from Lancashire LEP/Marketing Lancashire and marketing consultants to incorporate LEP priorities.

b) Project Management

The EZ delivery team presently comprises three full time staff, with a fourth vacancy for a project and communications manager having been recently filled and a potential further administration and project support role being considered. Additional support is received from a part time Finance Officer. The core team is supported by other team members of Blackpool Council's Growth and Prosperity team and external consultants Cassidy and Ashton and WSP, who have been appointed as engineering consultants whose commission commenced on 1st July 2022.

c) Fiscal Incentives

Whilst the EZ rates relief fiscal incentive has now drawn to a close from 31st March 2022 – the Enhanced Capital Allowances remain available in designated areas the EZ until November 2023. A national study has identified that Blackpool Airport EZ was one of the top performing of all EZ's in terms of its application of the rates relief benefits a full report detailing the successful utilisation of the EZ rates relief incentive at Blackpool is enclosed as Appendix 1. According to a Government report that records the National Non-Domestic Rates Relief (NDR3) awarded to businesses by Enterprise Zones in England, Blackpool EZ granted a record £689,000, the largest of any single EZ in the financial year 2020/2021. Across all the years where data is available, Blackpool ranks an overall 9th out of 277 in the table, behind some of the larger, more prominent EZs in the UK including: 1) Waterside, 2) West of England, 3) Science Vale UK, 4) Birmingham City Centre, 5) New Anglia, 6) Solent, 7) Sheffield City region and 8) Aire Valley.

Between 2016 and 2022 Blackpool Council (as the accountable body for the EZ and on behalf of Fylde Council) has awarded a total of £2.7m in business rates relief to 75 local Fylde and Blackpool businesses, supporting more long term, sustainable and highly skilled jobs for the local community, and helping businesses to grow and prosper. The Council is committed to awarding a further £1.6m in legacy relief until 2027, taking the estimated total to £4.3m over the lifetime of the scheme.

The emerging potential for the EZ to obtain Investment Zone (IZ) designation either in its own right or as part of a larger IZ, invites the prospect of new, yet to be defined fiscal incentives becoming available, including a return of Business rates relief possibly for a ten year period, extension of Enhanced Capital Allowances and a range of direct investment incentives for business. The EZ team will look to maximise the range of benefits available but at the time of writing there are few details confirmed and the opportunity will be closely monitored.

d) Phase One Current Activity

Conlon's Construction commenced work on construction of the new changing pavilion site in late September 2021, following clearance from the Football Foundation who are providing £250,000 of grant funding. A completion date of October 2022 is programmed, following some delays in programme to connect the utility services and upgrade the access road Division Lane West, and the facility will open early in 2023 following completion of the access junction where planning conditions prevent junction work commencing until the construction of the pavilion was completed. The existing Jepson Way changing facilities will continue in use for the interim period and are likely to close and be demolished in early 2023.

The new grass pitches were utilised for the successful staging of the Blackpool Cup youth football tournaments which took place over Easter and May Bank Holiday weekends with more than 10,000

visitors over the four days. The event was voted the best tournament of its type in Europe and will return to Common Edge in 2023.

Design works for the Floodlit 3G pitch and rugby league facilities, have been completed and following competitive tenders a contract has been awarded, with contractors Carrick commencing work on 26th September with a planned completion and introduction into use in April 2023. A rugby league pitch and training area will be maintained at Common Edge until the new natural grass pitch is ready to play.

Construction of the remodelled junction at Division Lane (for which planning consent was obtained in June 2021 and design was concluded in April 2022) will now commence in November following agreement from Lancashire County Highways that Blackpool can appoint the contractor. The intention that this is completed within 5-6 weeks, subject to completion of a S278 agreement. Planning conditions attached to the consent for the new changing rooms prevent the commencement of the Division lane junction works before completion of the changing room contract.

Further design work has continued for both the Eastern Gateway Access and the Common Edge Road junction upgrade with Wilde Consulting appointed by Blackpool Highways team, making good progress. Initial site investigations were completed in February and further works have been scoped and will commence in October. Discussions are ongoing with the Statutory Undertakers to agree the design and cost for diversions of major existing services and provision of new supplies.

The outline planning application for the new Highways, which was submitted in March, will be subject to a final decision by the Secretary of State given the site's present Greenbelt designation. The Application will be considered by Blackpool (11th October) and Fylde Planning Committees (in November).

The process to approve Part 2 of the Blackpool Local Plan, which will inter alia see the old Common Edge playing pitches removed from the Green belt is presently the subject of an ongoing public consultation, with the overall process due to conclude in the early part of 2023. Once concluded the requirement to secure Secretary of State approval will be removed. The planning consent, which it is hoped will be secured, will have more than 35 conditions which need to be satisfied prior to full commencement of works. Work is already well advanced on the design detail to discharge a majority of the likely conditions and discussions have also begun in respect of the support for eventual reintroduction of public transport services to the Blackpool Business park. The initial start of works on the new Highways at Eastern Gateway, Common Edge and Amy Johnson Way is planned for March 2023

Volunteers at the New Langdale Green Team visited the new Common Edge Sports Changing Facilities recently to help them with an exciting new project. Based on Whitegate Drive at the Blackpool Centre for Independent Living (BCIL), the New Langdale Green Team, made up of passionate volunteers with a range of disabilities, will be working on a project to design and build a range of environmental features such as bird boxes, bat boxes and bee hotels that will be installed on the new changing rooms and spectator pavilion at Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

e) Town Deal

An application as part of the Blackpool Town Deal for £7.5m toward the costs of an overall £18m project to provide new Highways and enabling utility infrastructure and drainage, was approved by

the Town Deal Board and the Council's Executive and also formally signed off by DLUHC in December. The Town Deal project will cover the remodelling of Common Edge Road between School Road and Division Lane incorporating traffic signalled junctions, and the construction of the Eastern Gateway access road to link Amy Johnson Way and Common Edge, opening a further 10.5ha land for commercial development. The project will also enable two new access points to be constructed off Amy Johnson Way to the eastern side of the airport to support development of new aircraft hangars. It is hoped that the planning application for provision of the new access and hangars can be submitted to Fylde BC before the end of 2022.

f) Multiply Development

The development for Multi-Ply has been completed and the company, part of the Swedish Medcap group, has taken possession and commenced production. EZ business rates relief has been awarded up to the maximum of £275,000 over a five year period.

g) Squires Gate Industrial Estate (SQIE)

The owners of Squires Gate Industrial Estate continue subdividing and letting units, whilst progressing the over-cladding of the building to improve appearance the property is substantially let. Fox Brothers who recently secured temporary planning consent for a large haulage yard following a retrospective planning application have now vacated the site. Initial contact has been made with site owners EP properties to discuss the potential for new build development and connection to the Eastern Gateway.

h) Communications Infrastructure

The Aquacomms base station facility is operational. There are presently eight ongoing enquiries for data centres that have been generated as a result of the EZ's enhanced connectivity. The most advanced is for a 4mw facility designed to demonstrate world leading technology which will substantially reduce energy consumption. The potential for surplus heat from a number of planned data centre facilities within the EZ that could enable the construction of a district heating system to support office and commercial development on the Airport Phase 2 site is being explored. Work with Lancaster University via an innovation catalyst, to further enhance the scope to introduce 'greener' data centre opportunities, is now drawing to a conclusion and following a Symposium held at Blackpool Winter Gardens on 15th September a report and action plan is now being drafted to identify the next steps on ensuring the EZ and the wider Fylde Coast are at the centre of the next generation of data facilities making Blackpool the "home of ethically powered data". Work continues to progress design and assess feasibility for providing a holistic sustainable energy provision with a 25MW solar farm, battery storage facility and connectivity to new offshore wind farms.

i) Marketing

Industrial enquiries continue to see a slight upturn in recent months and the EZ team continues to keep dialogue open with interested parties whilst work moves forward to opening up new development land. Several existing EZ occupiers are also looking to move to larger units as they continue to grow.

Overall demand is still far greater than the present availability of stock or development plots whilst financial viability of new development in the current period of rapid inflation remains the greatest barrier to translating enquiries into delivered development.

Work will shortly commence to refresh the existing estate boards with the new branding and work is being undertaken via Marketing Lancashire to update the four websites for the Lancashire Enterprise Zones.

A summer newsletter was issued 5th August 2022 with the autumn edition due in November. A business engagement event for EZ occupiers is in preparation jointly with the North and West Lancashire Chamber of Commerce.

Top enquiries are:

Date of enquiry	Target sector	Size	Type of enquiry	Progress to date
September	ADM	30,000 sqft	Aviation parts manufacture and distribution	Early stage discussions.
September 2022	FM	100,000 sq ft	Food sector manufacturer	Initial discussions on Design and Build options in progress
March 2022	E	16,000 sq ft	Warehousing, manufacturer renewable energy	Initial discussions initiated
Feb 2022	ADM	20,000 sq ft	Furniture manufacturer	Initial discussions
Feb 2022	ADM	7-10,000	Signage manufacturer	Initial discussions
Jan 2022	ADM	20,000 sq ft	Roofing merchants/trade counter	Initial discussions
July 2021	DC	Up to 30,000 sq ft	D&B LH for data centre facility, adjoining tech hub using green energy	Update August 2022: Discussions ongoing and preliminary design commenced pending planning application
Nov 2021	O	20,000 sq ft	Online bank	Discussions ongoing
Sep 2021	ADM	25,000 sq ft	Springs manufacturer and engineering	Discussions ongoing
June 2021	ADM	15,000 sq ft	Engineering	Discussions ongoing
June 2021	ADM	8-12,000 sq ft	Storage and manufacturer of flues	Discussions ongoing
Nov 2020	FM	70,000 sq ft	D&B lease for fast growth, local target sector company	Discussions ongoing
Dec 2020	ADM	50,000 sq ft	D&B sale for established local manufacturers constrained at existing premises	Update August 2022: Contact re-established, discussions ongoing with overseas parent company

SECTORS: ADM - Adv. Manufacturing & engineering, AV - Aviation, OA - Office administration, FM - food manufacturing, E - Energy, DC – digital and creative, O - Other

k) Blackpool Makes It Work

Work has now been completed to update the website www.businessinblackpool.com which went live on 26th August, featuring a strong portfolio of case studies from successful target sector businesses around the Fylde Coast. Online engagement and followers of the campaign continue to increase month on month.

Lancashire Business View ran a five page feature article on Blackpool in the March/April edition with Blackpool Makes It Work as the main sponsor and it can be viewed online here:

[https://content.yudu.com/web/3uxek/OA3uxel/MARCHAPRIL2022/html/index.html?page=68&origin=reader whilst Blackpool Makes it Work sponsored a Built environment conference at Blackpool FC on 29th September](https://content.yudu.com/web/3uxek/OA3uxel/MARCHAPRIL2022/html/index.html?page=68&origin=reader%20whilst%20Blackpool%20Makes%20it%20Work%20sponsored%20a%20Built%20environment%20conference%20at%20Blackpool%20FC%20on%2029th%20September)

The EZ exhibited at the UK REiif Expo in May 2022, a three- day real estate conference in Leeds where development and investment opportunities on the Fylde Coast were promoted. The event was a success with over 4,000 delegates in attendance and both Fylde Coast Enterprise Zones showcased were well received. Post event de-briefing and review of all contacts is ongoing. Following the success of UK REiif 2022, the Fylde Coast EZs will be represented again at next year's event under the Blackpool Makes It Work investment marketing campaign where there will be an opportunity to promote investment, property and land available at each of the sites

A new and updated inward investment marketing brochure, profiling Blackpool's £1bn+ Growth & Prosperity Programme was produced to aid conversations on the stand and will be used across digital and print channels and at future events. .

l) Blackpool Airport

Steve Peters, the new Managing Director has commenced in his role and will be looking at identifying and securing new business opportunities for the airport, which will be subject of his presentation at agenda item No 6. Engagement. Discussions are ongoing with a number of parties interested in constructing and occupying new hangars on the eastern and western flanks of the airport – these proposals are presently being assessed against CAA criteria prior to planning applications being made which are targeted for the end of the year. Contact has also been established with a number of aviation businesses keen to explore Blackpool as a base for aircraft engineering support, which could require the development of several larger hangars capable of accommodating class C aircraft.

Studies are ongoing to determine the best option for a new Air Traffic Control facility. Relocation of the existing physical tower, an onsite digital facility or a hybrid of the two are all being considered.

The Airport which remained fully operational throughout the pandemic and is currently experiencing higher volumes of aircraft movements than before the pandemic, with the more lucrative corporate flights finally growing as international travel restrictions are lifted. A total of more than 45,000 aircraft movements being recorded in the year to 31st March.

m) Business Enquiries and Jobs

To date:



Lancashire
Enterprise Partnership



Blackpool Council

- A review of all live enquiries is ongoing to assess the viability of each requirement. An internal matrix of enquiries has been developed to identify the top enquiries based on potential investment, deliverability, size of development, job creation and strategic implications.
- Some 133 businesses have located to the Enterprise Zone since April 2016.
- A gross cumulative total to date of 2137 jobs have located to the Enterprise Zone, this figure includes jobs new to the area, safeguarded jobs within Blackpool and construction full time equivalent jobs.

n) Project Team

The latest meeting of the Blackpool Airport EZ Project Team was hosted online on 23rd September via MS Teams. The next meeting will take place in person at Lancashire Energy HQ in November.

o) Risk Register

The Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone risk register is reviewed regularly with Blackpool’s corporate risk team, the Project Board and the Programme Board (EPB) every quarter.

Many of the main risks are external and ubiquitous to development in the UK and outside the direct control and influence of the EZ team such as, Brexit, and latterly the conflict in Ukraine which has in recent months seen a significant increase in energy costs and logistical interruptions to supply chains adding inflationary pressure to the cost and availability of materials. Strategy to mitigate impacts from such risks is dependent on specific factors pertaining at any one time and these potential impacts are reviewed in all project meetings. As a standard practice construction contracts now all include clauses relating to delays from pandemics and promised delivery date have to extend to account for this, whilst additional levels of contingency for costs inflation are being built into delivery plan budgets.

Key Risks:

Risk and Issues	Mitigation and Actions
Slight delays to construction due to Covid-19 working restrictions	Safety guidelines in place and work continuing.
After short period of uncertainty, property enquiries are returning but overall lack of market demand due to Covid-19/Brexit/Energy cost uncertainty and the commercial viability of development.	Clear marketing strategy defined and implementation underway with robust delivery schedule for serviced plots with specific emphasis on future data/digital sector opportunities
Increased construction and material costs are affecting viability of development projects	Work with contractors and architects on regular value engineering to ensure viability and ensuring that adequate contingencies are built into estimates
Due to delays in ability to progress the Common Edge infrastructure, interest may find alternative sites	Regular communication with prospective occupiers and interested parties

p) Milestones

Milestones	Dates
Appoint international marketing agents LAMEC brand	complete
Changing rooms and car park/3G pitch planning application decision	complete
Changing rooms and 3G pitch contractor appointed – start on site	Sept complete

No. 12 grass football pitches ready for use	complete
40,000 sq ft development handover for client fit out (Multiply)	complete
Design and submission of outline planning application for eastern gateway access (Decision anticipated October 2023)	complete
Focussed marketing of Common Edge Phase 1 commences – launched at UK REiiFF May 2022	ongoing
Proposition and identifying opportunities for data centre market	ongoing
Land / property acquisitions x 4 (three complete one in negotiation)	September 2022
Formal instruction to be finalised with International marketing agents	October 2022
Architectural and Technical feasibility study & design work for airport complete	January 2023
Release of existing sports pitches and commencement of highway and utility infrastructure	January 2023
Appointment of engineer	Complete July
Outline planning approval for highways	October 2022*
Outline planning app submitted for airport redevelopment (Phase 1 – P2 car park)	January 2023**
3G pitch tendered contract awarded and commenced	Completed
Airport Control tower, (if required)relocation planning application	On hold
12 month construction contract for EGA access road commences	February 2023
Replacement hangar development commenced	April 2023
Decision on first airport redevelopment planning application	March 2023
Completion of airport redevelopment works	Autumn 2026

*Subject to Secretary of State approval of Greenbelt development

** Subject to satisfactory CAA consultation

Report Author

Rob Green Head of Enterprise Zones

Rob.green@blackpool.gov.uk

07500 786402

Report to:	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Author:	Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Date of Meeting:	13th October 2022

1.0 Purpose of the report:

To review the work of Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone and its future work and priorities against its role and remit.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Board notes the report.

3.0 Hillhouse Enterprise Zone: Progress Report

a) Delivery Plan

Finalisation of the implementation and delivery plan has been held in abeyance pending the findings of interested parties in developing large areas of the EZ and a decision by Government on the Rail Reinstatement Project for the Poulton to Fleetwood line under the 'Restoring Your Railway Fund'. Potential to undertake partial revamp of masterplan to reflect the loss of Vinnolit and opportunities presented.

Wyre Council have held discussions with interested parties for significant redevelopment of areas of the EZ, these parties are now in contact with LCC to better understand the Rail Reinstatement Project and its impact upon their ambitions, it is likely that a further study will now be undertaken lead by Network rail which may confirm the need to continue safeguarding the track bed.

Wyre Council will lead on the Delivery Plan refresh once the Government's position on Rail Reinstatement is clarified.

Plots have been identified in response to recent enquiries received via DiT to accommodate two separate confidential large footprint enquiries, whilst one of these will not progress the second remains long listed pending a decision by the investor.

b) Getting Building Fund

NPL, who have secured funding from the Getting Building Fund toward the costs of essential infrastructure upgrades to enable the new speculative development to progress, have received planning permission from Wyre Borough Council and are progressing with all the works.

The project has been allocated funding of £630,000, comprising £504,000 Getting Building Funding, with additional match funding provided by Wyre council and NPL at £63,000 each.

The project tackles a requirement for some urgent upgrading and repair to ageing enabling infrastructure, including site access road, upgrade of utilities, and an extension and repair to Hillhouse's water ring main and electricity supply mains. It will also incorporate the extension of the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) super-fast broadband in a ring around the site, linking to the recently completed LFFN extension of the Fibre from the Tramway to the Hillhouse gatehouse, funded by Wyre BC as EZ accountable body. Planning consent has been secured for the relocation of the gatehouse and NPL have commenced construction.

The works are progressing to programme and budget and designs have been completed for all three elements, sub-station, water pipeline and gatehouse move. The design for fibre broadband is also complete and installation will be complete by November 2022. The water pipeline works have been completed ahead of schedule, in July 2022. Work on the new gatehouse has commenced, but following some unavoidable delays will now complete in early 2023. The substation has been installed ready to feed new developments.

c) Residential Development

BXB have purchased the former Sainsbury retail site and a planning application has been lodged for the main site for residential development of up to 250 homes and potentially a smaller district retail centre which will support employment and provide some retained business rates growth.

If approved, this development should see the further extension of the northern access road to the Fleetwood/Poulton railway line. A decision is anticipated Q4 2022 and BXB are commencing plans for an additional acre 'island' site with a view to submission Q4 2022.

Substantial progress has been made by Dickie & Moore with their residential development plans for the former Thornton AFC site. The first show home was expected to be completed in Feb '22. The works to complete Bourne Road, the main access route to Hillhouse, to become an adopted Highway will commence in Q3 '22. In the meantime NPL have introduced a number of measures to reduce traffic speeds on Bourne Road, including a competition to involve the local children to design road side signage. In addition Dickie and Moore, NPL, Hillhouse remediation and Breck Developments have an agreement to sweep and maintain Bourne road.

d) Fleetwood/Poulton Rail Line

An initial study undertaken by LCC leaves all three options on the table and as this includes heavy rail the requirement for a bridge over the track bed to enable the northern access road continues to be a cost and design constraint in progressing development. The Department of Transport have confirmed receipt of the Feasibility Study and are likely to require Network Rail to lead on a further study. This remains the major constraint to progressing key infrastructure to open up the Northern part of the EZ with one prospective developer directly engaged with LCC to try and progress a decision. Cost of a bridge across the line will be circa £3.5m.

Initially NPL considered only an at grade crossing would be acceptable because of potentially high loadings associated with transport of equipment for the proposed gas fired power station development which has now been abandoned. Assuming a bridge option would now be acceptable, funding needs to be identified to allow design work to proceed with a potential three year plus lead time to development.

e) Marketing & Enquiries

Barbers have been instructed to refresh the main estate signboard for Hillhouse located at the junction of Bourne Road and Fleetwood Road with work to commence during October. The fence signage that is adjacent to the existing gatehouse hasn't been included in the refresh at the moment with new signage to be provided once the new gatehouse is in use –and subject to planning consent for the new sign.

Workshops are ongoing to inform updates to the four websites to reflect each of the current EZs sites and their commercial development land and property availability. Marketing Lancashire and the LEP will continue to lead on this activity.

Colliers have now submitted a proposal for a 12 month marketing plan to be implemented by Richard Barbers & Co. The quote acts a shopping list of activity to be agreed collectively between the three EZs.

Colliers have started assembling and collating technical data for each site and will require help from NPL and Wyre BC.

Regular newsletter updates continue to be issued by Wyre Council's Communications team.

Following the success of UK REiIF 2022, Hillhouse EZ will be represented under the Blackpool Makes it Work campaign banner at UK REiIF (Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum) in Leeds, May 2023, where there will be an opportunity to promote investment opportunities across the two active Fylde Coast EZs.

Current enquiries include:

Date of enquiry	Target sector	Size and type of enquiry	Progress update
May 2022	Manufacturing facility via DiT	200,000 sq ft	Initial submission made to DiT and awaiting shortlisting response
May 2022	Civil Construction	Workshop and laydown area 0.2 acres	HOT agreed progressing to sale
May 2022	Small trade counters	1 acre 8 units	HOT agreed progressing to option
April 2022	Green rubber innovation centre and recycling facility via DiT	£30m investment, 180 jobs, 36,000 sq ft	Submitted proposal via LCC, awaiting response
Feb 2022	Low carbon power generation	£100m investment	Request for further information

Jan 2022	European specialist PPT recycling plant via DiT	20 acre £30m investment	Shortlisted to final 4
Jan 2022	Manufacturing	£500k, 1 acre	HOT agreed
Feb 2021	Waste to energy project	10,000 sq ft	HOT agreed progressing to purchase
Jan 2021	Waste to energy recycling project	Up to 2.5 acres	Option signed, planning permission works started
Jul 2021	Window frames manufacturer	1 acre	HOT agreed, factory being prepared.
Jul 2021	Energy from waste project	5 acres, £50m investment	Cancelled due to 2 WTE now progressing on site.
Oct 2021	Engineering manufacturer	60,000 sq ft workshop	To commence spring 22 subject to planning and funding
Oct 2021	Asphalt production	2.5 acres, £2m investment	Pre-application planning discussions held with Wyre Council and LCC progressing to option
Nov 2021	Housing and retail	10 acre £30m investment	Planning Application submitted by BXB Ltd for housing development
Jan 2020	Business park	60,000 sq ft	Spec devt by NPL, HOT in discussion, subject to funding

f) Hydrogen Steering Group

NPL who are the lead on hydrogen activity, held the most recent meeting at Wyre Council's offices on 17th May, with attendees from many Lancashire businesses including, Victrex, Blackpool Transport, AB, and Westinghouse, in addition to Lancashire LEP, Wyre Council and EZ representatives from Blackpool and Hillhouse. Added impetus to the work of the group is anticipated in the wake of Government announcements about the new green agenda and the role of hydrogen as a clean fuel source for transportation.

g) Vinnolit

Majority landowner NPL Estates have acquired the vacant property of the former Vinnolit site and the property is currently been marketed jointly by Avison Young and Robert Pinkus & Co LLP. There is strong market interest in occupying former Vinnolit storage buildings which are to be retained and upgraded with the events company already having occupied one warehouse. The demolition of a number of the major Vinnolit production buildings will see a reduction in the EZ baseline business

rates income which will have a short term impact on total funding available to support investment from retained business rates growth.

All elements of the ex-Vinnolit property, both land and buildings are now under HOT and are progressing. The uses are:

- windows manufacturing - 40 new jobs – Factory is now being fitted.
- waste to energy plant - 20 new jobs
- events company - 7 new jobs (in situ)
- bottom ash recycling - 10 new jobs
- engineering company - 5 new jobs

h) New companies on site

- A fast growing transport company has located at Hillhouse and also have taken additional office space.
- A small engineering upcycle company has located on the Hillhouse site.
- An expanding company that delivers large events and concerts in Europe have taken additional storage space and are again seeking to expand

i) Job Creation

The EZ team will continue to liaise with NPL Estates on any new or safeguarded jobs on the site.

NPL and Addisons, supported by Wyre Council, are exploring the opportunity to set up a training centre/centre of excellence for workplace development at the Hillhouse site to cover all aspects of training; providing school experience placements/leavers opportunities and workplace development to include all aspects of the workforce from apprenticeships through to management training. The plan is to improve the availability of suitable candidates for job vacancies for all businesses in the area and the Hillhouse site.

An initial meeting with Lancashire Local Skills improvement and Lancashire Skills Hub has been held. A planning application has been submitted to start the demolition of the old buildings to make space for the planned new building. Lancashire University have been approached as a potential partner as have Blackpool and the Fylde College.

j) EZ Board Meetings

A Board meeting took place on 23rd September online with a group of stakeholders including Hillhouse tenants. No date has been set for the next meeting at time of reporting, however is expected to take place in early November via MS Teams.

k) Risk Register

The Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone risk register is regularly reviewed by Wyre Borough Council's corporate risk team and will be reviewed again at the upcoming Project Board. Copies will be available upon request.

Key risks:

Risk and Issues	Mitigation & Actions
External cost impacts.	The EZ team is closely monitoring the costs of energy, inflation, government policy and personal and the situation in Ukraine, in order to provide support to site occupiers.
Change of key personnel at NPL and staff resources at Wyre BC stretched due to staff departures.	Clarify role and ongoing support from Blackpool EZ Delivery team with new SLA to be put in place and strengthening Wyre support team, new staff members recruited at Wyre BC to strengthen the team
Lack of market demand due to Covid-19/Brexit uncertainty and the commercial viability of development with existing scheme such as Energy from waste/Biomass plant which are in development being cancelled or postponed long term.	Allocated government Getting Building funding to help kick start essential infrastructure to better market the site to potential occupiers and stimulate private investment. Regular responses submitted to DiT large scale enquiries.
Continuing delays in applying for and securing planning and highway approvals and potential land contamination issues that need to be overcome.	Close liaison with NPL, Wyre (accountable body) and LCC, refresh of EZ Project board and securing additional delivery support resource
Requirement for flood mitigation measures and utility upgrades across the site and issues surrounding the ability construct western access road over Fleetwood-Poulton railway line. Delay in commissioning essential pre-planning surveys	Close liaison with NPL, Wyre (accountable body) and LCC and securing additional delivery support resource
Failure to secure purchase or rights over the Fleetwood rail line will impact upon ability to construct Northern Access road and add costs.	Close liaison with NPL, Wyre (accountable body), LCC and Network Rail
Decision on future use of rail line will impact on cost and timing of western access road if bridge is required	Participation in Fleetwood and Poulton working group chaired by LCC

I) Milestones:

Milestones	Dates
Forsa Energy completion of build and commissioning	Completed
Getting Building Fund grant fund agreement - LEP/NPL agreed	Completed
Appointment of joint international marketing agent LAMEC brand	Completed
Planning application submitted utilities and infrastructure upgrade including new gatehouse	Completed

Planning permission granted for utilities infrastructure and new gatehouse	Completed
Demolition and clearance of Vinnolit plots complete	Completed
Procure subsidy control advice once Implementation plan complete	TBC
Completion of revised Delivery Plan and masterplan refresh	Ongoing
Risk Register updated regularly by Project Board	Ongoing
Planning application submitted for 60,000 sqft development	October 22
Construction commences for utilities infrastructure and new gatehouse	Underway
Planning Application for energy from waste plant ex Vinnolit store	Q3 2022
Planning application to demolish old buildings (Lab)	Submitted
Subsequent roll out of fibre ducting on site	Q3 2022
Completion of electric and water main upgrades	Q3 2022
A flood risk assessment to be scoped and commissioned for the entire site subject to identification of funding	Q1 2023
A transport assessment be scoped and commissioned for the entire site subject to identification of funding- subject to progress on study of options for Fleetwood Poulton rail route	Q1 2023
An Environmental and Ecology study to be scoped and commissioned for the entire site subject to identification of funding *	Q1 2023
Planning application for energy from waste plant HH North	Q4 2022
Planning application for new training centre to replace demolished buildings	Q1 2023
Planning application for new rail bridge crossing	Q3 2023

*Habitat assessments to be undertaken Nov 22-Mar 23

Report Author

Rob Green Head of Enterprise Zones

Rob.green@blackpool.gov.uk

07500 786402

This page is intentionally left blank