

## Cabinet Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde.

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**Cabinet members present:**

Councillors Vincent, Berry, Bowen, Bridge and Le Marinel

**Absent-apologies received:**

Councillor McKay

**Other councillors present:**

Councillors Lady D Atkins and Sir R Atkins

**Officers present:**

Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive

Marianne Hesketh, Director of Communities

Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Temporary)

George Ratcliffe, Democratic Services Officer

Sarah Palmer, Director of Transformation and Change

Steve Smith, Assistant Director of Planning and Building Control

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

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**CAB.1      Declarations of interest**

None.

**CAB.2      Confirmation of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 5 June 2024 were **confirmed** as a correct record by those who were in attendance.

**CAB.3      Public questions**

None received.

**CAB.4      Wyre Local Plan to 2040 - Issues and Options**

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and the Director of Communities submitted a report seeking the approval of the Wyre

Local Plan – Issues and Options document and Potential Development Sites for public consultation to commence in July 2024.

Councillor Le Marinel introduced the report and clarified that, owing to the recent announcement by the new UK Government, an additional recommendation to the report was proposed. This was supported by Cabinet. The recommendation was as follows:

- That Cabinet acknowledge that the Wyre Local Plan Issues and Options has been prepared in advance of the new Government's proposed planning reform and it has not considered the implications of this for the Local Plan. The proposed planning reform may have implications for the Standard Method, which could increase the number of dwellings that are required in Wyre.

Councillor Vincent noted that the main opposition group was not in attendance at this meeting and expressed the importance to discuss and debate planning policies. The Cabinet discussed the possible impact of the future planning reforms as proposed by the new Government particularly raising concerns regarding the limited infrastructure in Wyre.

Councillor Vincent confirmed that it was important to consult with residents on the issues and options for future development.

Councillor Le Marinel clarified the purpose of the issues and options paper. Its purpose was to consult upon the key planning issues for Wyre and the range of options or recommended approaches the Local Plan should consider to tackle the key issues identified. The Issues and Options is an important early stage in involving the community before any decisions are made.

Councillor Vincent raised concerns regarding confusion around the definitions of green belt and greenfield land. He confirmed that the Council would continue to protect the green belt.

## **Decisions**

**Cabinet agreed:**

- That Cabinet approves the Wyre Local Plan - Issues and Options document (Appendix 1) and Potential Development Sites (Appendix 2) for a minimum six week public consultation to commence in July 2024.
- That minor amendments to correct factual errors or improve the clarity of the document and which will not materially affect the content of the Wyre Local Plan - Issues and Options document be agreed by the Assistant Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, as necessary, before the document is published for public consultation.
- That Cabinet acknowledge that the Wyre Local Plan Issues and Options has been prepared in advance of the new Government's

proposed planning reform and it has not considered the implications of this for the Local Plan. The proposed planning reform may have implications for the Standard Method, which could increase the number of dwellings that are required in Wyre.

## **CAB.5 Wyre Council Productivity Plan**

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Transformation and Change submitted a report seeking Cabinet to review and approve the Wyre Council's Productivity Plan. Following approval, the Productivity Plan will be submitted to the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 19 July 2024.

Sarah Palmer, Director of Transformation and Change, introduced the report. She explained that under the previous government, all councils were asked to produce a productivity plan which included future transformation plans and barriers. This plan would still be submitted and the council would be updated on future plans from the new government.

Councillor Vincent praised the work of the council as the report confirmed that the council was competent and already doing the correct things.

### **Decisions**

Cabinet **agreed**:

- To review and approve Wyre Council's Productivity Plan.

The meeting started at 6.02 pm and finished at 6.08 pm.

**Date of Publication:** 18 July 2024.

### **Options considered but rejected**

Any alternative options that were considered but rejected, in addition to the reasons for the recommendations that were made, are included in the full reports.

### **When will these decisions be implemented?**

All decisions will be put into effect five working days from the date of publication, unless a decision is "called-in" by any four members of the council within that period.