



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities	Overview & Scrutiny	1 March 2021

<p>Council Business Plan – 3rd Quarter Performance Statement 2020/21</p> <p>October - December 2020</p>
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The dashboard style report (attached) gives a quick reference to quarterly progress against the council's business plan projects and measures, along with commentary where issues have been identified.

2. Project Updates

- 2.1 There are now 18 Business Plan projects split between the three ambitions within the Business Plan – Economy, People and Place.
- 2.2 Whilst the majority of projects are on track, there are 7 showing Amber with minor issues and one showing Red with major issues.

- 2.2.1 A summary of those with minor issues (Amber) are shown below:

- **Delivery of the implementation plan for Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone** is behind schedule – Genecon are reviewing base line figures due to the impact of Covid and the loss of Vinnolit. These figures are expected January 2021 and Genecon are to attend the Hillhouse Board meeting on 15 January 2021 to give an update.
- **Collaboration with partners to develop strategic economic plans such as the Greater Lancashire Plan** – Meetings are ongoing with Blackpool & Fylde Economic Development Teams. The agreed focal point for Wyre's local economic strategy is to concentrate on our four town centres as central hubs (Cleveleys, Poulton, Garstang and Fleetwood) across eight themes including Digital, Economy, Health and Wellbeing. Once each town centre has an agreed plan across these themes this will naturally lead to an Economic Strategy for Wyre with the Local Plan land availability also considered.
- **Develop the Fleetwood Masterplan and facilitate external funding opportunities to support the future options to transform**

Fleetwood over the next 20 years – the announcement was received from Future High Streets Fund on 26/12/2020 that our bid was unsuccessful with a clarification meeting to take place 08/01/2021 with MHCLG to understand reasons behind the decision. Upon feedback, re-evaluation will take place in preparation for the submission of Levelling Up Fund for Fleetwood. Regeneration Framework Consultation is also expected to take place Spring 2021. With regards to Fleetwood Heritage Action Zone - Purcells Architecture has been appointed as framework consultants for property owners to use to develop applications, design and oversee works. Visioning Lab completed their research and initial consultation activities, which will inform recommendations about trails and walking routes in the town centre. Fleetwood Museum have submitted an application on behalf of the Fleetwood Art Partnership for a Historic England Cultural Programme grant.

- **Explore the feasibility of a Fylde coast tramway/rail loop** – whilst discussions are ongoing there is no update for this quarter.
- **Review of the Local Plan** – Government have stated a White Paper response is expected from them in Spring 2021. Recent correspondence has been received from MHCLG and in the light of this the partial review will restart over the next quarter.
- The planning application has been submitted for phase 1 of the **Wyre Beach Management Scheme** with contract documents and contract price being prepared. A new programme has been submitted to the Environment Agency with completion date in December 2021 for phase 1. Phase 2 environmental studies are progressing and applications to Marine Management Organisation for Site Investigation works is in consultation phase.
- **Implement initiatives and promote activity to help achieve a cleaner, greener Wyre** - Face to Face events / activities have been limited due to covid restrictions. However there is continued support to beach cleaning groups and lone litter picking – in accordance with covid restrictions; health walks and health rides took place (covid secure) with restricted number; and covid safe litter pick and talk with 30 children from Flakefleet school took place. We have been shortlisted for the Keep Britain Tidy 'Community Engagement Award' for the alley project on Rhyl Street in Fleetwood, the video has been launched on social media, encouraging residents to 'Love Where You Live' and nominate their own alleys for us to support them with their transformation. This video has also been launched onto YouTube. Natural flood management volunteer days have also been undertaken in partnership with River Wyre Trust and Wyre volunteers to help with the sustainable management of the Wyre catchment.

- 2.2.2** Unfortunately, the new council website was due to go live at the end of October but has been delayed due to supplier issues including resourcing challenges. This has delayed the launch of the next phase of the digital Wyre strategy, which aims to ensure customers have easy access to our services and that we embrace the opportunities new technologies bring.

There has been little progress with this over quarter 3 due to similar issues. It is hoped that the new website will be launched in the summer.

3. Performance Updates

3.1 In total there are 23 measures to be reported on however some of these do not have data available as they are either annual or bi-annual collection so have not been included.

3.2 Of the 16 Measures included on the report, 7 have a Green status, 2 Amber and 7 Red.

3.2.1 Further information regarding those showing as Amber are set out below.

- **Town centre vacancy rates** - Whilst rates are achieving against target in Fleetwood and Garstang they have increased in Cleveleys, Thornton and Poulton that has brought the overall percentage rate to within 10% of achieving target.
- **Money raised for good causes by the Wyre community lottery** - there has been a reduction in promotion of the Community Lottery over recent months due to the pandemic but despite this we are only a little under target.

3.2.2 Further information regarding those showing as Red are set out below.

- **Take up of employment Land** – There has been a decline in new employment land completions since 2019/20 monitoring period. The Wyre Local Plan was adopted in February 2019 and allocated approximately 32.24 hectares of land for employment development. Many of the allocated sites are strategic mixed use allocations that require a masterplan to be prepared and approved prior to securing planning permission.
- **% growth in business rate base** – This is dependent on new business being set up in new buildings. It should be noted that there is due to be a reduction of -6.91% owing to the former Vinnolit site being demolished.
- **Out of work benefit claimant count** – The considerable increase will be largely driven by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Positive footprints programme** – the impact of the pandemic has meant the need to do this work differently and virtually so that has made it more difficult for the schools to take part in the programme.
- **Number of leisure centre visits** – the YMCA has been impacted by lockdown closures.
- **Number of volunteer hours** – the volunteer hours have taken a huge hit with many of our volunteers self-isolating or are just not wishing to volunteer during this unprecedented time. We are still supporting the volunteers wishing to carry on volunteering as it is important for their health and wellbeing.

- **Number of trees planted** - There has been a delay due the lockdown in receiving funding and tree stock from the woodland trust.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	<i>There are no financial implications</i>
Legal	<i>There are no legal implications</i>

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

Processing Personal Data

If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in personal data being processed, a privacy impact assessment (PIA) will have been completed and signed off by the council's Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken (as required by the General Data Protection Regulations 2018).

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

List of appendices

N/A

