



| Report of: | Meeting | Date |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities | Overview & Scrutiny | 6 September 2021 |

| |
|---|
| Council Business Plan – 1st Quarter Performance Statement 2021/22 April - June 2021 |
|---|

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 20 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.

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

- **Support business growth at the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone (EZ)** - The Council continues to support the work of the EZ Board in providing a strategic direction. The Council and the Lancashire LEP have provided grant funding of £63k and £505k respectively to improve access and infrastructure on site. This project is now underway and being delivered by NPL Estates.

Forsa Energy development site is now complete, the total investment totalling £17m. The majority landowner NPL Estates have completed the purchase of the vacant property of the former Vinnolit site and are seeking planning consent to demolish with work likely to take up to 12 months releasing new sites for development resulting in increased long term employment. A purchaser for the former Sainsbury retail site has been identified and their intention is to secure a planning consent for up to 250 homes and a smaller district retail centre, which will support employment and provide some retained business rates growth. BXB

have attended the most recent Hillhouse EZ Board meeting to give an overview of plans.

- **Collaborate with partners to develop strategic economic plans such as the Greater Lancashire Plan** - IBI Group have been appointed to develop and produce Regeneration Frameworks for Thornton Cleveleys, Poulton & Garstang. Workshops and consultation activities to develop the frameworks will commence from July onwards. Meetings are being held with Blackpool & Fylde ED teams to discuss funding opportunities and potential collaborative projects.
- **Develop the Fleetwood Regeneration Framework and explore external funding opportunities to support the future options to transform Fleetwood over the next 20 years** - Through a partnership approach a series of projects have been developed out of the draft Regeneration Framework that will comprehensively kick-start the sustainable regeneration of Fleetwood's town centre. Our Levelling Up bid submitted to government for £8.56million consists of a programme of investment and includes: Port Residential Redevelopment (£5.68m), Fleetwood Market (£900k), Fleetwood Museum (£1.79m). Feedback from Government expected in autumn this year.

The Fleetwood Heritage Action Zone work is progressing well. Surveys and proposals for properties on Lord St, Adelaide St, North Albert St are completed and owner's invited to submit grant applications. Landscape Projects (Landscape Architecture Consultants) are developing final design for Custom House Square project following consultation with residents, Future Fleetwood and Historic England. Repairs to the southern gable end of the Fleetwood Museum delayed by nesting gulls. Draft project plan for public realm in the HAZ completed and ThinkingPlace visual narrative and imagery for the Fleetwood narrative presented to Future Fleetwood. Extensive condition surveys and valuation of Store 21 completed and discussions with the agent are to take place in July. Feasibility and business planning study for Fleetwood Market commenced. Application received for works to St Mary's RC Church Presbytery and St Mary's RC Church. £100,000 HE Cultural Programme grant awarded to deliver a programme of events celebrating the town's rich heritage - the programme will be delivered between March 2021 and March 2024 by a consortium of local arts and community groups working in partnership (With Fleetwood Museum as Lead).

- **Explore investment and development opportunities for our other town centres in Poulton, Garstang and Cleveleys** -Garstang and Cleveleys Partnership Boards have been established and Poulton's is due to begin later in 2021. Lead consultants have been appointed (IBI Group) and have commenced work. A slight delay to the first public meeting for the work in Garstang has occurred owing to the continuation of COVID restrictions.

- **Review the Wyre local plan 2011-2031** - Work continues on a number of technical documents related to the partial review of the Wyre Local Plan 2031. Counsel views were sought on 28 May on the broad approach of placing a heavy reliance on the use of the Government's Standard Method, whilst also taking account of recent developments in the Fylde Local Plan Partial Review. Following the advice given, the preparation of Regulation 19 documents has commenced, Planning Policy Working Group have been updated and soon two documents will be updated to make ready for the next stage in the partial review; The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and The Local Development Scheme (LDS). Current evidenced suggested that submission of the Partial Review for Examination in early 2022 will be achievable; in full accordance with the requirements of Policy LPR1 of the Wyre Local Plan 2031.
- **Deliver the Wyre Beach Management Scheme** - The Wyre Beach Management scheme is split into 2 phases. Phase 1 is the placing of rock armour (large pieces of granite and limestone rock) in front of the base of the existing sea defences between Café Cove in Cleveleys and the adjacent to the southern end of Rossall School. This protects the existing sea wall from being undermined and collapsing should beach levels drop during a storm. Works are due to commence October 2021 and be complete by August 2022. Phase 2 is the wider Beach Management Scheme stretching along our coast from the boundary with Blackpool through to the marine lake in Fleetwood and involves the construction of rock armour groynes and further protection to the existing sea defences. The groynes will help create high stable beaches which in turn will reduce the risk of flooding from overtopping and provide protection to the existing defences and extending their life. These works will follow the phase 1 works in August 2022 and continue through to early 2025.

The works are approximately 12 months behind schedule. This is primarily due to the collapse of negotiations mid 2020 with Rossall School for the use of their land for a site compound and having to find an alternative site and the subsequent surveys and permissions associated with the change. The change of compound location to Jubilee Gardens has resulted in a number of service (electric cables, bt cables, gas main) diversions to facilitate the works which has added further delay. A significant issue which has, and continues to be a big risk and cause for delay to the scheme, is the licence consenting from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The phase 1 application was submitted 10th June 2021 but has only recently (24th August 2021) been assigned a case officer with a further warning to expect further delays to the licensing process. Issues with the MMO are national and regional, not just local.

- **Deliver our action plan to reduce the effect of climate change on our borough including exploring green energy opportunities** - A

baseline carbon footprint report was produced, detailing the main emission sources for the council, borough and parishes. This allows for improved prioritisation of actions for each area.

A report was also produced detailing the outcomes of the resident climate change survey, which was advertised online to residents in the Fylde Coast in December and January. This provided a useful insight into how resident's perceived climate change, identified motivations and barriers to taking action, indicated what actions might be supported, alongside a number of suggestions.

We have agreed to fund parish councils to run a Greening Campaign, to help engage their communities to undertake actions to reduce their carbon footprint. This has been offered to councils, alongside the above reports, with further information to be confirmed. We have changed the management of some of our open spaces to increase their capacity to act as carbon sinks and to improve the biodiversity of these sites.

A bid was submitted to the second phase of the Salix Public Decarbonisation Fund, however this was unsuccessful. Despite this, a basic building audit was carried out by E.ON at Fleetwood Market and Marine Hall, which can be used to inform future improvements and potential funding bids.

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 15 Measures included on the report, 9 have a Green status, 2 Amber and 4 Red.

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

- **Number of visits to leisure centres** – the number of visits is increasing following lockdown closures
- **Money raised for good causes by the Wyre community lottery** – although this is showing as Amber it is now on the increase despite the impact of COVID on promotion.

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

- **Town centre vacancy rates** – overall the town centre vacancy rates have increased slightly since previous monitoring in 2020. This is due

to some additional premises becoming empty in Fleetwood, Cleveleys and Poulton-le-Fylde. We are, as yet unable to determine the exact reason(s) for this increase.

- **Number of businesses supported** – activity has been hindered due to restrictions and closing of high streets. Reopening Packs (including safety posters, signposts to Business Support services) were distributed to over 1100 town centre businesses upon easing of local restrictions in April 2021.
- **Number of volunteer hours** – although this is improving in comparison to 2020 the effects of COVID are still impacting on numbers of volunteers so not yet back to pre-COVID figures.
- **Number of electric charging points** – works have commenced but not yet operational.

| 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).

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------|------|
| report author | telephone no. | email | date |
|---------------|---------------|-------|------|

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Marianne Hesketh | 01253 887350 | marianne.hesketh@wyre.gov. uk | 24 August 2021 |
|------------------|--------------|---|-------------------|

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

List of appendices

N/A