

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alice Collinson, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	16 September 2021

Executive Report: Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Local Plan Partial Review

- 2.1 Work continues on a number of technical documents related to the partial review of the Wyre Local Plan 2031. The preparation of Draft Regulation 19 documents has commenced and the Planning Policy Working Group will soon meet to consider the detailed contents of these and thereafter consultation with Duty to Co-operate (DtC) Partners on the draft evidence will commence. Once DtC discussions are concluded, an amendment to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) will be published. Current evidence suggested that publication of Regulation 19 documents will be November/December 2021 with submission of the Partial Review for Examination in early 2022 in full accordance with the requirements of Policy LPR1 of the Wyre Local Plan 2031.

3. Masterplanning

- 3.1 Lambs Road/Raikes Road (SA1/2) Thornton – The final draft of the masterplan was approved at Cabinet on 14 July meeting.

4. Project Neptune

- 4.1 Officers from across the council continue to work in collaboration with Associated British Ports (ABP) to deliver an estimated £9m Getting Building Fund project for regeneration works at Fleetwood Docks. Works are now underway on site. The development is led by ABP and includes significant engineering works, demolition and construction of new commercial units for fish and food processing. Once ABP complete the new commercial units the council will take ownership of the new facility. The project will be completed in various stages with occupation of the new build commercial units likely to take place before March 2022.

5. Heritage Action Zone

- 5.1** Officers continue to develop projects at a number of properties in Fleetwood town centre. Engagement with the property owners about their ambitions and ability to match fund those ambitions is ongoing. To date three grant awards have been made to town centre refurbishment projects.
- 5.2** Detailed design and tender information for the Custom House Square project is being developed following consultation with residents and stakeholders on the concept design. The scheme includes a surfaced area for small events, seating, planted areas and a digital tourism sign.

6. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ)

- 6.1** NPL, have secured funding of £630,000 (with additional match from the council and NPL totalling £63,000 each) from the Getting Building Fund towards the cost of essential infrastructure upgrades to enable a new speculative development to progress. The project requires some urgent upgrading and repair to ageing enabling infrastructure, including the site access road, upgrade of utilities and an extension and repair to Hillhouse's water ring and electricity supply mains. Works have commenced on site.

7. Welcome Back Fund

- 7.1** The council has been awarded £199,180 to deliver interventions which encourage use of town centres and public spaces. This programme went live on the 1 June 2021. An internal officer working group has been formed and is led by the Corporate Director Communities. An Action Plan has been produced on how monies will be used within each of the four Town Centres. The proposed Action Plan has been shared with Town Centre Partnership Boards and actions have started to be progressed including the reintroduction of Cleveleys market.

8. Town Centre Revival Fund

- 8.1** As part of the council's ongoing response to the challenges faced by our town centres, town centre frameworks are currently being prepared working with Town Centre Partnership Boards. This follows the successful work in establishing a similar structure and regeneration framework document for Fleetwood town centre. Each of the town centres and Partnership Boards are at different stages and are being supported by various council officers and a consultancy team led by IBI Group. Garstang hosted a community consultation event on 24 August to establish community support for the level of ambition/intervention. Thornton-Cleveleys continue to develop the infrastructure of their Town Centre Partnership Board and consider broad strategic matters and potential projects, whilst council officers explore membership and structure options with various representatives of Poulton-le-Fylde town centre.

9. Comments and questions

- 9.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

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