

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alice Collinson, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	28 October 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. Current evidence suggests that publication of Regulation 19 documents (the pre-submission draft which is subject to public consultation) 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. Submission of the Partial Review is likely to be put before the full Council in April 2022.

3. Town Centre Strategy Fund

- 3.1 As part of the council's ongoing response to the challenges faced by our town centres, town centre frameworks are currently under preparation working with Town Centre Partnership Boards. Each of the town centres and Partnership Boards are at differing stages of the process and are being supported by various council officers and a consultant team led by IBI Group.
- 3.2 Greater Garstang Partnership Board has held a public consultation event and board workshops and are currently working on developing a number of priority projects. Cleveleys Together has held a board workshop and a public consultation has been scheduled for late October.

4. Welcome Back Fund

- 4.1** Officers have been progressing the Welcome Back Fund action plan. We are actively supporting Christmas lights switch on events and have provided extra funding to supplement and enhance activities. We have employed a temporary communications officer to help with promotion and communication to welcome people back to our town centres.

5. Planning Enforcement

- 5.1** To date this year 235 planning enforcement complaints have been received with 162 current open cases (i.e. those still under investigation). To date this year seven enforcement notices have been served.
- 5.2** To assist in reducing the current high number of open cases the council is bringing in an additional member of staff on a temporary basis (3 months initially) from an agency. The particular contractor has previously worked in our Enforcement Team for a temporary period during 2019 and is considered to have the appropriate skills and experience for the role. The contractor commenced their present three month contract on 11 October.

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** 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.