

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alice Collinson, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	27 January 2022

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

- 2.1** Consultation on the publication draft of the Local Plan Partial Review opened on 29 November 2021 and runs to 18 January 2022. Following this, the submission of the Partial Review to government is planned to be put before the Full Council in April 2022. Members will be aware that the Partial Review is limited in scope.
- 2.2** Work on the Full Review of the Local Plan will also get underway with a consultation commencing on 27 January 2022 and is planned to take approximately two years to complete. Unlike the Partial Review the Full Review is not limited in scope.

3. Fleetwood Levelling Up Fund Bid

- 3.1** Officers attended a feedback session with Government on 14 December 2021 concerning the Round 1 bid to the Levelling Up Fund. The fund had been heavily subscribed with a grant rate of 4 to 1 in terms of available funding.
- 3.2** Feedback was provided under three areas; strategic fit, value for money and deliverability. Unfortunately, the high-level approach adopted in providing feedback lacked real detail from which to provide direction to the council to inform future applications.
- 3.3** The Government were unable to advise as to the design and timescale of Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bids.

4. Heritage Action Zone, Fleetwood

- 4.1** Grants totalling approximately £36,000 have been awarded to property owners to undertake specialist surveys, design and feasibility works with a view to progressing to significant applications in 2022.
- 4.2** An £80,000 package of works are underway to repair St Mary's Presbytery Church to create a welcoming space for the community. Smaller grant awards totalling approximately £10,000 have also been awarded to property owners to undertake property repairs in early 2022.

5. Planning Enforcement

- 5.1** To date this financial year 281 planning Enforcement complaints have been received with 145 current open cases (i.e. those still under investigation).
- 5.2**

The agency Enforcement contractor joined us on 11 October and has taken on some time consuming work streams including dealing with a Public Inquiry (in respect of an appeal against an Enforcement Notice) and drafting a number of Enforcement Notices in respect of cases where the investigation has been completed. This has allowed the permanent Enforcement Officers to spend more time on investigating other pending cases. The contract for this officer will extend up to Easter (14 April 2022).

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.