

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alice Collinson Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	7 July 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** Following consideration by Full Council, the Submission draft Local Plan Partial Review was submitted to Government for examination on 25 April 2022. A Planning Inspector has been appointed to conduct the examination. The public hearings are expected to take place between 27-29 September 2022. Initial correspondence between officers and the Inspector is underway.
- 2.2** On the Full Review, officers are continuing to consider the details of the scoping consultation and call for sites information submitted. Further reports and summaries will be prepared in due course. Officers are currently scoping the evidence base required to support the Full Review and will be seeking to commission consultants shortly. A schedule of meetings and matters/topics has been arranged for the Planning Policy Working Group to support this work.

3. Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

- 3.1** The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was introduced to Parliament on 11 May 2022 to put in place the foundations to deliver the Government's wider programme to level up the country. The Bill is at an early parliamentary stage and unlikely to achieve Royal Assent and become law until 2024.
- 3.2** The Bill contains a number of reforms to the planning system that may have implications for the Local Plan Full Review. The Planning Policy Working Group and Planning Committee will receive briefings from officers in due course.

4. Heritage Action Zone

- 4.1** The deadline for applications from property owners is early summer and it is anticipated that funding will be awarded to five key projects.
- 4.2** Opposite Fleetwood Market the construction of 'Custom House Square' has been delayed and completion has been rescheduled for July.

5. Wyred Up and The Wyre Business Awards

- 5.1** The relaunched Wyred Up service will focus on creating a network to help local businesses access grants, identify training and networking opportunities at preferential rates and take advantage of business support services.
- 5.2** The group will focus on one key subject area each quarter. The first campaign will be focused on carbon reduction and the relaunch event will feature advice from Lancashire University for SMEs on becoming net zero carbon, case studies from local businesses, advice on carbon literacy from Wyre Council and much more. The event will be held on Tuesday 19 July from 3:30pm – 6pm at Myerscough College.
- 5.3** Applications for The Wyre Business Awards will open in July and the awards evening will be held on Thursday 24 November at Marine Hall.

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.