

Report of:	To:	Date
Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	1 December 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. Wyre Business Awards 2022

- 2.1** The first Wyre Business Awards event for three years will have taken place on 24 November at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood. The council has endeavoured to restore this key event in the business community calendar and has included a number of changes to reflect the current economic circumstances. This event allows the achievements of the Wyre business community to be celebrated and this year the standard has been exceptionally high with over 80 submissions across all categories.

- 2.2** The award categories are as follows;

1. Business Person of the Year
2. Tourism, Leisure & Hospitality Business of the Year
3. Climate Action Award
4. New Business Start-Up of the Year
5. Small Business of the Year
6. Corporate Social Responsibility Award
7. Community & Charity Organisation of the Year
8. Innovative Business of the Year
9. Social Media Award
10. Team of the Year
11. Business Employer of the Year
12. Wyre Business of the Year

I will be able to provide a verbal update to Council on the successful businesses.

3. Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone

- 3.1** The council continues to engage with the business community on the Enterprise Zone. Most of the businesses continue to face challenges with recruitment, their supply-chain and energy costs. Throughout the Enterprise Zone employment levels are high and investment enquiries for sites and premises are also relatively high. The council agreed to use funding from the 'Enterprise Zone Retained Business Rates' to support a refresh of the Masterplan and a number of other technical studies to support further investment in infrastructure and to unlock key parts of the site. This work has started and is being completed in partnership with Blackpool Council.

4. Comments and questions

- 4.1** 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.