



Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alice Collinson Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	20 April 2023

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. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

- 2.1** On 1 February, the council received its UKSPF allocation for the 22/23 financial year. Year one project work has commenced, and the plans for year two are in progress. A call for expressions of interest for Arts and Culture themed events and festivals closed on 28 February. The shortlisted applicants were invited to complete full project plans by 31 March, and these are being assessed by the UKSPF Programme Board.
- 2.2** Appendix A contains an overview of UKSPF Wyre projects. Projects marked as year one are secured, year two and three are indicative allocations and are subject to change.
- 2.3** Plans are in progress to deliver Wyre's two year REPF programme of capital interventions, pending UK Government sign off. We expect to be in position to start delivery from May 2023.

3. Fleetwood Heritage Action Zone

- 3.1** Since the last update four key projects, with grants totalling £290,000, are in progress or nearing completion. Grant funded works at Fleetwood Market are also in progress with a total grant of £378,000 for 2022/23 and £70,543 for 2023/24. The Heritage Action Zone project is due to finish next financial year with all funding fully allocated/spent.

4. Wyred Up

- 4.1** Wyred Up membership has increased in numbers every month since the relaunch. The recent campaign theme focussed on digital skills with an event held on 18 January at the Civic Centre. Speakers covered topics such as carbon and cost reduction for IT solutions and work-life balance. Kerry Harrison, Digital Skills Coordinator and leader of the Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership spoke about digital opportunities for SMEs in Lancashire and the council's Procurement Officer also explained how companies can work with the council. There were 24 attendees in total and for the first time the speakers were filmed and the footage made available to all 680+ Wyred Up members.
- 4.2** The next campaign theme launches in March focusing on the Visitor Economy and will feature an event on 27 April at the Flowerbowl Entertainment Centre. Key speakers will be Rachel McQueen, CEO of Marketing Lancashire, Emma Lyons, Communications and Visitor Economy Manager at Wyre Council, and the owners of Orchard Glamping who recently won on the Channel 4 programme, 'Four in a Bed'.

5. Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 5.1** To support the emerging Local Plan Full Review, a new up to date evidence base is required. Consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page were commissioned to prepare a new Green Infrastructure Strategy. To support the study, a public open space survey took place for six weeks and closed on Friday 17 March. The consultation aims to seek the communities' views on different types of green spaces across the borough, to assess the quality and understand how it can be improved. The outcome of the consultation will allow the Green Infrastructure Strategy to identify opportunities for improvement and investment.

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.