

Growth and Prosperity Projects					
Ref and Title	Project Manager	Q1, April - June 2023	Q2, July - September 2023	Q3, October - Dec 2023	Q4, January - March 2024
PGR1 - Status Continue to support business growth and job creation as accountable body for the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone	Mark Fenton	<p>Green</p> <p>The Council continues to support the work of the EZ Board, providing a strategic direction for the EZ through regular meetings with key stakeholders. In addition the Council supports the work of NPL Ltd in facilitating a Hydrogen Steering Group for the EZ.</p> <p>Consultants WSP have produced an initial concept design for the Northern access route – incorporating the worse case cost option of a rail overbridge, and thereafter will likely be commissioned to undertake a full refresh of the masterplan.</p> <p>Hillhouse EZ was represented at the UK Real Estate and Inward Investment Forum (REiif) from 16-18 May 2023. The event welcomed around 8,500 delegates, specifically focused at developers and inward investment. Hillhouse was represented through the EZ delivery team, with its current masterplan and prospectus exhibited at the conference, along with a video shown at the stand throughout the conference explaining the details and opportunities at Hillhouse.</p> <p>In addition to Blackpool's presence at UK REiif, a consortium of Lancashire's Economic Development Directors exhibited a stand at the conference, and held one speaking panel, involving representatives from Lancashire County Council, Lancaster Council, Preston Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Burnley Council and UCLan. Hillhouse was also represented within the Lancashire 2050 Investment Prospectus.</p> <p>NPL and Addisions, supported by Wyre Council, continue to develop proposals to establish an on-site training centre/centre of excellence for workplace development. The plan is to improve the availability of suitable candidates for job vacancies for all businesses in the area and the Hillhouse site. Initial meetings took place with the Lancashire Local Skills improvement and Lancashire Skills Hub in June and a potential property for the facility identified.</p>			
PGR2 - Status Continue to support town centre recovery and explore investment and sustainable development opportunities for our key town centres and the visitor economy	Mark Fenton	<p>Green</p> <p>Cleveleys: Transport Study nearing completion with concepts for high street improvements reviewed and costed by Lancashire County Council Highways. Public consultation on the proposals is to be undertaken this summer.</p> <p>Garstang: Town Centre Study is in progress. The parking assessment was undertaken in May and the analysis report due to be returned in July. The public realm designers are due to start early July on proposals for specific areas along the high street, weinds and Cherestanc Square.</p> <p>Poulton: initial consultation work on the Town Centre Regeneration Framework was undertaken in June. Approximately 230 attended the drop in events, 90 questionnaires were returned plus comments and emails to the Economic Development Team and feedback from a workshop with the Poulton Partnership.</p>			
PGR3 - Status Support our business community to establish new start-ups, grow and create jobs through our Wyred Up business support programme.	Colm Healy	<p>Green</p> <p>Latest event focussing on Visitor Economy held on 27th April at the Flower Bowl Entertainment Centre was well attended and received. New branded promotional material purchased using UKSPF monies. Membership continuing to steadily increase (newsletter now reaches approx 730 local businesses). Economic Development Team continuing to send out regular newsletters highlighting support services, news etc, including promotion of the recently launched Business Grants scheme as part of Rural England Prosperity Fund. The current campaign theme is Apprenticeships.</p>			
PGR4 - Status Explore external funding and investment opportunities for our key council assets including theatres, markets and leisure facilities.	Marianne Hesketh / CMT / Neil Turvey	<p>Amber</p> <p>The improvement works at Fleetwood Market are progressing well with the patent glazing in the main hall now complete and decoration work continuing. The existing slate roof is being removed and replaced. Stonework repairs and cleaning is being carried out to the North and South elevations. Nesting seagulls have hampered some of the roof work and as a result there is an overall slight delay to the programme. The project is now due to complete mid November 2023.</p>			
PGR5 - Status Deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023-2025.	Sara Ordonez	<p>Green</p> <p>The late start of the UKSPF nationally has impacted on the progress of the year one and two programme, and we are currently awaiting the 2023/24 payment from Government. The projects are however progressing well with fifteen of the thirty year one and two projects started. Nine of these are council officer led. One heritage project has successfully completed in early May, Fleetwood Celebration Day. Ten projects are delivering to schedule with no outstanding issues. Five are progressing but require some attention to ensure that risks do not threaten delivery. Of the projects that haven't started, eight are in the process of finalising grant agreements and they are expected to commence from quarter 3. Remaining projects are in the pipeline but at various stages from scoping to procurement.</p>			