

Report of:	To:	Date
Cllr Peter Le Marinel, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	18 April 2024

Executive Report: Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder
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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 Eighty one percent (equates to 30) of the UKSPF and REPF projects have now progressed, two of which have completed. Councillors were invited to a pre-council presentation on 7 March 2024 to learn about the projects and programme expenditure and were asked to promote the services as appropriate. The Garstang Town Centre Public Realm consultation, and the Mythic Coast survey recently closed, and will inform next steps for projects within the towns. A very successful 'Meet the Funders' community networking event was held on 20 March 2024 at the North Euston, Fleetwood. Around 60 representatives attended from community groups and were able to meet The National Lottery, Grantscape (Walney Community Fund) and Lancashire County Council (Crowdfunding) to discuss potential projects and network with other groups. The event is planned to be replicated at a rural location in the new financial year.

2.2 A REPF open call for applications, to deliver rural circular economy project/s, has recently been launched. The closing date is due to be the last week in April.

3. Fleetwood Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)

3.1 The HAZ programme was completed in March and an exhibition showcasing the projects led by the council was displayed at Fleetwood Market 14 March – 2 April 2024.

- 3.2** With £1.7m of Government funding and match funding of £2.9m, the project has seen key historic buildings revived and a cultural programme led by Fleetwood Museum that built on the local arts scene that the town enjoys.
- 3.3** An event for stakeholders was held 9 March 2024 and attended by Catherine Dewar, North West Regional Director, Historic England which provided grant recipients the opportunity to see the exhibition and to learn about Historic England's involvement in the refurbishment of Fleetwood Market. If Councillors wish to learn more please use this link https://wyregovuk.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Councillor-Portal/EZSaU2J6dhdJsQ0AUMrsH84BpTz5_SYrqNJZjvTDdO9PhQ?e=56Jlrw

4. Biodiversity Net Gain Grant Allocation 2024/25

- 4.1** The council has been allocated a grant of £26,807 for 2024/2025 to support the council to implement mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the planning system, which became mandatory for major planning applications from 12 February and minor planning applications from 2 April 2024.
- 4.2** BNG is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure, through planning decisions, that development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development.

5. Fleetwood Market Refurbishment Completion

- 5.1** The main contract works to Fleetwood Market are now substantially completed. The snagging list, which had some 130 identified items to remedy, is now largely completed.
- 5.2** I am pleased to report that the heating is now functioning. A replacement (larger) pump has been installed as there were issues with the capacity of the original pump. The new pump and air source heat pumps (ASHP) were commissioned by the Mitsubishi engineer (with the project engineer and installing contractor in attendance) on Friday 15 March. Discussions with several traders on Tuesday 19 indicated they are happy about the temperature inside the market, which on that day ranged between 17 degrees in the Birdcage, and 21 degrees in the Main Hall and Annex. The BMS (Building Management System) will be connected by hard wire into the Wyre network so as to allow the Estates and Market teams to access 'real-time' performance data, and to make adjustments to temperature if required. The system will be monitored and there may be ongoing 'fine tuning' adjustments to the BMS controls unit. Officer training on the BMS will be carried out in due course.
- 5.3** As part of the ongoing review of rental levels for the market and which will subsequently support a revised financial plan, we have asked The National Association of British Markets (NABMA) to visit site and review the current operation and financial charges and to provide their 'health

check' report outlining any advice and recommendations for change. This should be available to us by the end of April.

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.