

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Michael Vincent, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	19 July 2018	7(d)

Executive Report: Planning 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 and Economic Development Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Coastal Community Teams (CCT) (Fleetwood and Cleveleys)

Fleetwood

- 2.1** A final Annual Review will be submitted to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) later this year. We are working closely with Regenda in Fleetwood to assist in implementing their 10 year vision. We are working jointly on a small scheme for the Chatsworth Avenue shops to improve a shopfront with the remaining Coastal Communities Funding grant monies with match funding from Regenda. This area was identified as a priority owing its proximity to the new entrance of the Rossall Sea defences and also the new housing scheme at Chatsworth.

Cleveleys

- 2.2** Blackpool and Fylde College art students have designed the concept for a map to be installed at Cleveleys Bus Station. The concept is now being brought to life by a local graphic designer and will be installed by late summer. Deep cleaning of the walls and floor of the station is to commence in the summer along with re-painting of the bus station structure, creating a more inviting entrance to the town for residents and visitors alike.
- 2.3** Meetings have taken place between Lancashire County Council, Wyre officers and Cleveleys CCT to establish a weekly 'Wednesday' market in the town centre. Consultation with the retailers has taken place and we are currently awaiting results.

3. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ)

- 3.1** Progress is continuing on the Masterplan with How Planning appointed to complete the Planning Policy element of the document. A final draft of the full document will be circulated during the summer with Public and Statutory Consultation commencing late summer.

4. Business support

- 4.1** Wyred Up will undergo a new branding exercise over the Summer and a Steering Group will be established to drive forward the new priorities for the network, supported by an action plan.
- 4.2** To enable us to keep Wyred Up members well informed we have established a monthly newsletter. They will receive up to date information on local issues as well as support available at a Lancashire level.
- 4.3** We are currently developing a Wyre Business Survey. This exercise has not been undertaken before. The results of this survey will help inform the priorities for our Economic Development Strategy and give us a valuable insight into the needs and wants of our business community. It will also enable us to strengthen our relationship with the private sector by engaging with them on local and regional issues, potential growth barriers and business support.
- 4.4** The next Wyred Up event will take place on 27 September at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood. This event will be the first 'Accelerating Wyre' event pulling together local partners and support services to enable businesses to access support in one place. There will be seminars and workshops throughout the day. Confirmed partners include, Boost Business Lancashire, Positive Footprints, UCLAN, Lancaster University and The Growing Hub.
- 4.5** Wyre has done exceptionally well from the current stream of rural funding (RDPE – Rural Development Programme for England) with 11 private sector business benefiting from monies (some projects now completed and some still ongoing). Successful businesses have included ones from farming, tourism and creative sectors. Wyre businesses have benefited from around £750,000 worth of RDPE money.
- 4.6** Wyre Business Awards will take place on 29 November at the Marine Hall. A call for nominations opened on 9 July. This year we have 21 categories and each category will be judged and scored by different judges. This year we will be shortlisting. Three finalists for each category will be announced prior to the awards evening and the winners will be announced on the night. We have developed full and varied sponsorship packages along with new branding for the event.

5. Planning policy

Local Plan

- 5.1** The hearings on the Local Plan took place at the Civic Centre during the weeks commencing 14 May and 21 May. A further review/mop up session took place on 5 June, at which point the Inspector formally closed the hearings. We are now waiting for the Inspector's response which is expected to be an interim report received before the end of July.

6. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Preesall Underground Gas Storage Facility – Halite

- 6.1** Halite continue to submit applications for the discharge of a number of these requirements with a view to formally commencing work on the ground once all necessary requirements have been discharged. At present it is likely that work will commence in September.

7. Comments and questions

- 7.1** 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.