

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Peter Murphy, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	20 October 2016	8(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 Economy Development Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) Scheme

- 2.1** Officers submitted an expression of interest in respect of Round 4 of the CCF announced in May 2016 which is focussed on providing business support for new and existing businesses and training for local people within Fleetwood and other coastal town centres. This was based on the feedback received after recent training funded by Coastal Community Team (CCT) monies and a growing demand following our previous CCF training projects which benefitted approximately 100 individuals and businesses. We are still awaiting a decision.

- 2.2** A recent visit to Fleetwood by a DCLG official to check on the progress of the Fleetwood Coastal Community Team resulted in Council officers being asked to apply for funding to create a new Coastal Community Team for Cleveleys. This had to be submitted by the end of September. An application has been submitted based on improvements within Cleveleys town centre although, as with Fleetwood, initial funding is very limited. If successful, an economic action plan outlining short, medium and long term actions will need to be prepared and this will be subject to wider stakeholder and community consultation.

3. Coastal Revival Fund – Marine Hall Dome

- 3.1** Works have been carried out on this project over the summer on days when the Marine Hall was not being used. It has been a great example of collaborative working between council departments specifically the Marine Hall Events Team, Estates Team and the Economic Development Team to prevent any impact on opening to the public. Externally, the clear glass curved panels have now all been stripped of paint and the remaining broken panels of glass have been replaced and

the scaffolding removed. Internally, the feature coloured lights and fused spurs are being installed. This will be followed by removal of internal scaffolding. The blinds are being manufactured and once fitted work on cleaning and repairing the coloured glass dome can commence. Works to the existing permanent access walkway will be carried out to enable maintenance. It is now anticipated works will be completed by the end of October/early November.

4. Fleetwood Coastal Community Team

4.1 Support continues to be given to new and existing businesses in Fleetwood. To date eight town centre businesses have received funding towards shop front improvements. There is little funding left but the support is currently ongoing, and businesses are now being advised that assistance is being made on a first come first served basis.

4.2 A business support advisor continues to provide one to one advice with businesses within Fleetwood Town Centre including Fleetwood Market. To date 10 retail businesses have been assisted.

5. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ)

5.1 Officers are currently assisting with business enquiries for the site and are working on a five year Implementation Plan for Hillhouse in partnership with landowners and the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Economic Development Company.

6. Business support

6.1 A total of nine flood application grants were processed in partnership with Lancashire Boost totalling £17,479. In addition to this Business Rates Discounts were also awarded totalling £39,074.

6.2 Wyred-Up membership is increasing steadily and currently stands at 65 (4 more since last quarter) and 20 more than our original target of 45 businesses. New memberships are being promoted at all events. The last event took place at Wyre Banqueting Suite, Garstang.

6.3 The Wyre Business Exhibition (Wyre Expo) took place on Tuesday 11 October and the Wyre Business Awards will take place on Thursday 24 November. Both events are being actively promoted and sponsorship packages for the awards evening are selling well.

7. Local Growth Plan

7.1 The Local Growth Plan, which expires in March 2017, is to be refreshed and a draft will be circulated for comment in the Autumn, with the final document being considered by Cabinet in Spring 2017. Outputs in the current plan have been successfully delivered under the 6 key strategic initiatives and a full output report on the delivery of these will be provided in Spring 2017. The refreshed Growth Plan will set out our economic objectives and aspirations for 2017 to 2020 and will be prepared in consultation with our business community.

8. Planning Policy

Local Plan

- 8.1** As previously reported, evidence in relation to the scale of constraints in relation to highways and flood risk is critical in determining what level of the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing can be delivered in the Local Plan. The Planning Policy team continues to work with consultants and strategic partners including the Environment Agency, LCC and Highways England (HE) to identify the extent to which flood risk and highways capacity is a constraining factor in delivering housing growth and consequently determine an appropriate deliverable housing requirement for the local plan.
- 8.2** A further draft report on highway capacity was received from LCC at the end of August. However there are still outstanding issues which are being pursued with LCC in order to ensure that the final document is robust. The additional detailed highway report related to Poulton-le-Fylde is due to be completed by the first week in November.
- 8.3** As previously reported, Highways England (HE) have advised that they cannot provide conclusive advice on the capacity of the A585 following completion of the Little Singleton By-pass in 2022 until the scheme for the road is designed in detail later this year. A meeting with HE originally scheduled for the end of August is now to be held at the beginning of October to discuss and agree timescales by when they will complete their work. HE has now commenced their consultation on the options for the A585 Little Singleton By-pass and a number of public consultation events have been held. The Council's formal comments on the proposed options have been sent to HE for their consideration.
- 8.4** A working draft Local Plan has been prepared and briefings with ward members took place throughout August. Meetings with Parish and Town Councils on the draft Plan took place throughout September. The draft Plan has been shared with MPs this month.
- 8.5** The draft Plan is also being shared with service providers and in particular the Local Education Authority and the various CCGs so as to establish what level of services are needed to support growth in the Local Plan. As Members will be aware the Local Plan will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 8.6** The draft Plan is currently being assessed in terms of viability, sustainability and in respect of the habitat regulations.
- 8.7** As previously reported, under the 'Duty to Cooperate', letters have been sent to adjoining Local Authorities (except Ribble Valley) asking if they can assist Wyre with meeting the housing requirements. All Local Authorities that we wrote to have indicated that they are not able to assist Wyre. Those authorities, particularly those who share or overlap with our Housing Market Area have a duty to assist unless they can demonstrate why they are unable to. To date, we have not received any evidence from any of the neighbouring local authorities on this matter. Adjoining Local Authorities will want to see our highways evidence

which is the basis for the request for assistance. Further discussions are necessary so as to agree a position between Wyre Council and adjoining Councils so as to at least demonstrate to the Inspector that in preparing the Local Plan we have satisfied the requirements under the duty to co-operate.

- 8.8** There has been a delay in receiving comments on the draft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level II which is now likely to be finalised early in October 2016. The draft report was sent to the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the Lead Flood Risk Authority (Lancashire County Council) for comments.

9. Comments and Questions

- 9.1** 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.

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