

| Report of: | To: | Date | Item No. |
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| Cllr Peter Murphy, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder | Council | 19 January 2017 | 8(d) |

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

2. Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) Scheme

- 2.1 At the invitation of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) an application for funding to create a new Coastal Community Team for Cleveleys was submitted at the end of September based on improvements within Cleveleys town. An update will be given at the meeting.

3. Coastal Revival Fund – Marine Hall Dome

- 3.1 Final works including lighting, blinds and glass repairs were completed by the end of December in time for the January Indoor Ice Skating event under the Dome.

4. Fleetwood Coastal Community Team

- 4.1 We are continuing to support new and existing businesses and to date eleven town centre businesses have received funding towards shop front improvements. A business support advisor has advised a total of twenty businesses within Fleetwood Town Centre including Fleetwood Market as part of a short term project funded by Coastal Community Team funding.

5. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ)

- 5.1 The Memorandum of Understanding between Wyre Council and central government was signed by Andrew Percy MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for the Northern Powerhouse) at the Department for Communities and Local Government, at an official ceremony on 9 November.

- 5.2** Business enquiries for the site are being received on a regular basis and Council officers have been able to assist with investment proposals and planning matters.
- 5.3** In addition there are major potential investment proposals at Hillhouse. A pre-application for a gas powered Power Station up to 900MW has been registered with the Planning Inspectorate by Wyre Power Ltd. Storr Power's planning application for a new small scale gas powered generation facility has been granted planning permission. It will supply the national grid at times when additional energy generation is required to match need, generating up to 20MW to supply the local area at peak times.
- 5.4** Council officers have submitted a bid to Government for 'Commercial Funding Support' for Hillhouse to assist in effective delivery. Funding will be used to develop a Master Plan and other elements. A decision is awaited and an update will be given at the meeting. The Master Plan will impact upon the finalisation of the draft five year Implementation Plan for DCLG the deadline for which is 31 March 2017.

6. Business support

- 6.1** Wyred-Up membership is increasing steadily and currently stands at 68 (3 more since last quarter) and 23 more than our original target of 45 businesses.
- 6.2** The 3rd Annual Wyre Business Awards took place on Thursday 24 November. It was attended by over 250 people and, in addition to the business awards, Mrs D Lofthouse OBE, was awarded with Wyre Council's first ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

7. Local Economic Development Plan

- 7.1** As part of the business plan refresh, the Local Growth Plan is now to be called the Local Economic Development Plan to avoid being confused with the Local Plan. Work is continuing, and a revised date for a 2017/20 draft plan is now Spring 2017, with the final document being proposed to be considered by Cabinet in May 2017. Outputs in the current plan have been successfully delivered under the six key strategic initiatives and a full output report on the delivery of these will be provided in Spring 2017. The refreshed 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 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 Report is

now complete and agreed with the Environment Agency. The Planning Policy Team is working with council Engineers to complete the Addendum which covers an assessment of individual sites and the mitigation required to support development.

- 8.2** Work with Lancashire County Council (LCC) is on-going to finalise evidence on the capacity of the local road network to support development with deliverable mitigation.
- 8.3** The highway evidence forms the justification why the Local Plan cannot deliver the OAN and therefore it is paramount that it is robust and will stand up to scrutiny by the Inspector, developers and adjoining authorities. The continuing delay on the evidence from LCC is causing the Local Plan to be delayed as other work cannot progress.
- 8.4** Attempts to meet with Natural England (NE) before Christmas were not successful in order to understand their position with regards to the impact of potential developments on the bird populations of the Morecambe Bay and Wyre Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and in particular linked feeding grounds for Pink Footed Geese. A meeting has been arranged for the 24 January to discuss bird data in relation to development sites. Further work may be necessary following the meeting with NE.
- 8.5** The published timetable indicates publication of the draft Plan for consultation in December 2016. This has not been possible due to the delay from external partners in supplying necessary evidence. It is estimated that the draft Plan will now be published Summer 2017. The timetable will be amended following the meeting with NE, when the Council will know whether additional work is necessary.

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.