

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Michael Vincent, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	6 September 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

Cleveleys

- 2.1** An annual 'Big Cleveleys Clean Up' took place on 7 August in the town centre, which was a great success.
- 2.2** Dobbies Garden Centre have donated a substantial amount of plants to fill up the huge planters in the town centre to last throughout the summer.
- 2.3** Engineering company WEC have manufactured a community notice board for the team to display community information and activities. Painted in a matching green to complement the new bollards it will be situated in a busy pedestrian thoroughfare in the town centre and will be installed by late summer.
- 2.4** Blackpool and The 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 has now taken place and also the lettering in preparation for the re-painting of the bus station, which will take place over the summer.
- 2.5** The paintwork on the clock shelter has been stripped off and HMP Kirkham will be re-painting it this summer with heritage colours to match the rest of the painting works taking place in the town centre.

- 2.6** I am pleased to confirm that a pilot weekly market in Cleveleys on a Wednesday. The trial market will take place at the Plaza at the end of the summer and has received much support from retailers, residents and other market traders.

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 has been submitted and we will soon be commencing a six week statutory public consultation.
- 3.2** Ground surveys at three sites at Hillhouse are taking place in preparation to install the new signage and advertisement consent will be sought before installation.

4. Business support

- 4.1** A Wyred Up Steering Group is currently being established. It will be made up of representatives who are experts in their fields and will drive forward the new priorities for Wyred Up, supported by an action plan.
- 4.2** 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.
- 4.3** In October we will hold 'Building Wyre', which will provide a one stop shop for all potential and existing contractors, to help raise awareness of the opportunities the current housing activity bring.
- 4.4** 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.
- 4.5** 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 of 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 barriers to growth and business support.

5. Planning policy

Local Plan

- 5.1** Following the closure of the hearing sessions of the examination into the soundness of the Local Plan on 5 June, the Inspector's Post Hearing Advice note to the council was received early in July and the response to this was published on 30 July. The Policy Team is now preparing a consolidated

schedule of Additional Main Modifications and Main Modifications in accordance with the Inspector's advice and requirements which will be subject to a sustainability appraisal. The council's response to the Inspector's Post Hearing Advice note and the Schedule of Main Modifications together with an Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report are being considered separately at this meeting. Subject to approval, the Schedule of Main Modifications and the Addendum to the Sustainability Report will be subject to public consultation for six weeks later this month.

- 5.2** Following the consultation we will summarise and be responding to the representations and both the representations and our responses will go to the Local Plan Inspector, who will decide whether or not any of the issues raised requires a new hearing. If not, the Inspector will consider the representations before issuing his final report which, without any additional hearings, would be expected to be sent to us in December.

6. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018

- 6.1** The NPPF originally published in March 2012, has now been replaced by a new version published on 24 July 2018. Whilst there is some difference to the approach to some key policies, this does not affect the emerging Local Plan. The revision has not simply affected the content of the NPPF but also its structure; the document is now set in 17 topic-based chapters which provide a clear overview of the planning framework and the relevance of different policies.
- 6.2** The order of the chapters also better reflects the new priorities of the Government, now very much focused on delivering solutions for housing through the plan-led system. The NPPF review is mostly focused on housing, particularly on ways for improving delivery to reach the 300,000 homes per year target (nationally) and how to increase affordable housing provision. In particular the new NPPF introduces a standardised methodology for calculating local housing need and introduces a housing delivery test which requires the required rate of housebuilding to be maintained throughout the plan period with the 'presumption in favour of development' being introduced where the rate falls below the identified target (measured over three years).
- 6.3** The new NPPF also recognises the rapid changes that are affecting the retail sector and, as a consequence, it recognises that diversification is key to the long-term vitality and viability of town centres, to 'respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries'.

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.