

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	3 October 2019

**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. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ)**

**2.1 Implementation Plan**

Following meetings with the Managing Director of the NPL Group we now have a better understanding of the phasing and costings of individual development plots. This information has been sent to Genecon to update the Implementation Plan.

**Marketing**

- 2.2 Signage** – Two signs have now been erected, including one at the entrance to the site at the gatehouse. The third sign, which will be the most prominent position on Bourne Road has now received advertisement consent and will shortly be installed.

- 2.3 Promotional Drone Video** – Recording took place over two days in mid-August. Some excellent footage has been captured and ‘Buzz Drones’, with ‘Just By Michael’ (videographer) are in the process of editing the footage. We expect the video to be completed by the end of October. The video will be approximately three minutes long and will mainly show aerial footage of the site and the potential development opportunities. It will also include some ground videography entering the operational side of some of the businesses with short interviews and commentary. This is an exciting innovative project designed to showcase the Enterprise Zone and footage will be a useful marketing tool to prospective interested parties looking to relocate to the site.

**2.4 Site Activity**

**Vinnolit** - Vinnolit ceased trading on 31 August 2019. Key staff will remain on site until at least Summer 2020 to assist in the decommissioning of the site. On 7 August officers met with Dr David Boscott (MD at Vinnolit), Edmund Vogel (Strategy Manager) and Guy Gansfort (HR). The purpose

of the meeting was to discuss the redeployment of current skilled staff locally.

- 2.5 Stobart Biomass** - Heads of Terms between Stobart Biomass (Developer) and Le Fylde Estates (Landowner NPL Group) for a 150,000 tonne p/a EfW (Energy from Waste) plant within the Hillhouse Enterprise Zone are progressing. Site investigations and early planning works are taking place. It is projected this will create a number of short-term construction jobs and permanent operative jobs once completed.
- 2.6 Forsa Energy** - Site investigations and early planning works have commenced on new 20MW Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) gas turbines. This is also projected to create a number of short-term construction jobs.
- 2.7 Job Creation** - There have been an additional 50 new jobs created at Victrex and 12 new administrative jobs created within offices at the International Business Centre.

### **3. Business support**

- 3.1** The Steering Group for Wyred Up is now well established and for the first 12 months will be chaired by our Chief Executive, Garry Payne. The steering group reflects four key themes Housing, Economy, Education and Skills, and Community Health and Wellbeing.
- 3.2** Wyred Up will continue as a business networking group and four focused events will take place throughout the year reflecting the four key themes. In addition other business events will take place with the last event being Accelerating Wyre which was held on 26 September 2019.

### **4. Coastal Community Funds (CCF)**

- 4.1** Marketplace at National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) have been procured to undertake a detailed health check of Fleetwood Market to include: customer and trader surveys; a management audit and footfall counting at Fleetwood Market.
- 4.2** Landscape Projects Ltd are being commissioned to undertake similar studies for the Fleetwood Museum including Town Centre footfall counts and a Public Realm Audit – both these studies will complement the work to be undertaken for the Future High Streets Fund and will provide an important evidence base.

### **5. Future High Street Fund**

- 5.1** A development fund of £150k has been secured towards the development of the Business Case for the Fleetwood Town Centre Future High Streets submission, following the submission of the Phase 1 Expression of Interest in March 2019.
- 5.2** The Council launched an invitation to quote for the supply of a Masterplan for Fleetwood and evaluations of the Tenders is currently taking place. It is anticipated the study will commence week commencing 14 October, with draft concept issued by 6 November 2019. A draft Masterplan is expected

on the 14 January 2020. The masterplan is expected to set out projects over the short, medium and long term.

- 5.3** A business case now needs to be prepared in accordance with MHCLG guidance. The Council's business case submission will develop upon the expression of interest with a focus around the themes outlined below:
- Investment in physical infrastructure.
  - Acquisition and assembly of land including to support new housing, workspaces and public realm.
  - Improvements to transport access, traffic flow and circulation in the area.
  - Supporting change of use including (where appropriate) housing delivery and densification.
  - Supporting adaption of the high street in response to changing technology.

The council's business case is expected to focus on projects that are included within the short term (0-5 years) set out in the Masterplan.

- 5.4** The draft business case submission needs to be submitted by 15 January 2020. The final business case submission will be submitted by 30 April 2020, with the announcement of successful places taking place summer / autumn 2020. A Town Centre Partnership Board has been set up to oversee the development of the business case and is made up of major stakeholders of Fleetwood and will be chaired by Garry Payne.

## **6. High Streets Heritage Action Zone**

- 6.1** Our project proposal 'Developing Fleetwood's Heritage Quarter' has been successful in reaching the Programme Design stage. Historic England will now work with us to develop the scheme with final submission in January 2020. The fund applied for was £2m to look at developing the 'heritage quarter' in Fleetwood and identify this as the main arrival point for the town. This will complement the Future High Street Fund, which will aim to look at the re-development of the High Street.

## **7. Planning policy**

### **Local Plan**

- 7.1** We submitted an Annual Position Statement (APS) to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of 31 July. An APS offers the opportunity to the council to have their five year land supply examined by an Inspector and confirmed for a year. Currently the council's five year land position cannot be challenged until the 31 October 2019 following the adoption of the Local Plan in February. If the council is successful in having its five year land supply approved, it will then be confirmed until 31 October 2020. A decision by the Planning Inspectorate is expected in October.
- 7.2** It is confirmed that the Hollins Lane Masterplan was approved in July. Work is progressing on a number of other masterplans relating to Great Eccleston, Forton, Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road), Garstang (Nateby Crossing and Cockerham Road) and Thornton (Lambs Road).

**7.3** The final draft of the Great Eccleston Masterplan has been received by officers and it is expected to be considered by Cabinet by the end of the year.

**8. Comments and questions**

**8.1** 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.