

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	14 November 2019

<p><b>Executive Report: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder</b></p>
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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 Economic Development Portfolio, as set out below.

## 2. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ) Implementation Plan

- 2.1** Officers have met with Genecon in October to discuss updates and amendments needed to the draft Implementation Plan modelling to reflect the current understood intentions on the various land parcels within the EZ. Genecon are currently undertaking the amendments and a follow up meeting with officers is expected in November.

## 3. Business support

- 3.1** A meeting of the Wyred Up Steering Group took place on 17 October 2019. Discussions centred around the developments of Fleetwood Town Centre and the resource which Lancaster University could provide in terms of Science and Eco Innovation, Health and the Management School for the area. A presentation was given to the group by Age UK around support which can be provided to businesses to facilitate employee retirement readiness. It was agreed that this resource would be shared with all businesses within Wyre.
- 3.2** The Building Wyre event takes place on 7 November at Blackpool and the Fylde College, and this is being led by Steve Newsham, Regenda Homes. The Agenda for the event comprises of a number of presentations. Garry Payne will present on Wyre Council's adopted Local Plan, outlining Housing sites to date and planning applications, infrastructure included within the plan and other housing and development opportunities. Steve Newsham will present on the Extra Care Scheme in Fleetwood. Blackpool and the Fylde College will present on Apprenticeships within the Construction Industry.

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

- 4.1** Garry Carr Building Services Ltd has been appointed to convert the former flats at Fleetwood Market into studios. Work commenced in October and is scheduled to be completed February 2020. Tenders for the supply of the kiosks for the outdoor area at Fleetwood Market have been received and an appointment is due to be made in November. Installation of the kiosks and completion of the outdoor area is scheduled to be completed April 2020.

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

- 5.1** A Town Centre Partnership Board has been formed which includes major stakeholders within Fleetwood. Their first meeting took place on 1 October 2019. The inaugural meeting was chaired by Garry Payne. Volunteers were sought from the Partnership for the position of Chair and Vice Chair going forward. Mark Bowen - Lancaster University has agreed to take the position of Chair of the Board, and Jane Cole - Blackpool Transport has agreed to take the position as Vice Chair of the Board. Terms of Reference for the Board are currently being drafted and will be presented at the Partnership Board's next meeting on 18 November 2019.
- 5.2** Following the invitation to tender exercise for the Fleetwood Town Centre Masterplan, the Council are currently in the process of formally appointing the Council's preferred bidder. The £150k development funding secured as part of the Future High Streets Fund Expression of Interest submission will be apportioned between IBI Group and Peter Brett Associates to complete the Fleetwood Town Centre Masterplan and the Future High Streets Business Case. To complement this Thinking Place have been commissioned, with the remaining funds, to develop Fleetwood's place narrative for the future, which will complement both the Masterplan whilst strengthening the Council's Business Case submission to MHCLG.
- 5.3** A joint inception meeting took place on 5 November 2019 to discuss the Masterplan and Business Case. An inception meeting has already been undertaken with Thinking Place on 8 October 2019 and work is now underway with this commission.

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

- 6.1** An inception meeting with Historic England was held in October and officers are now working to submit the Programme Design to the North West office by 6 December 2019. Potential projects were discussed with Historic England and these will be tested with the Fleetwood Town Centre Partnership Board to ensure the involvement of local businesses and communities in agreeing the scheme of work.

#### **7. Planning policy**

##### **Local Plan**

- 7.1** At the time of writing, we are still waiting for confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that they have accepted our Annual Position Statement. If the council is successful in having its five year land supply approved, it will then be confirmed until 31 October 2020.

- 7.2** The Planning Policy Working Group (PPWG) has considered a draft masterplan for Land West of the A6 (Nateby Crossing), Garstang in October and stakeholder consultation took place between 11 and 25 October. PPWG also considered the final draft masterplan for the Great Ecclestone extension (Part 1). Cabinet in December will consider the final draft of both masterplans. Once approved by Cabinet they will become material consideration in determining planning applications.
- 7.3** Work is progressing on a number of other masterplans relating to Forton, Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road), Garstang (Cockerham Road) and Thornton (Lambs Road). We are expecting to receive the draft Masterplans for Forton and Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road) shortly and the PPWG will consider those draft Masterplans in December subject to their receipt. Following consideration by the PPWG, there will be a period of consultation on the draft masterplans before being considered by Cabinet for approval in the new 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.