

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Michael Vincent, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	9 January 2020

## **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. Business Support**

- 2.1** The next Wyred Up Steering Group meeting will take place on 23 January 2020 at the Civic Centre.

### **Wyre Business Awards 2019**

- 3.1** I am pleased to report that the 6<sup>th</sup> Wyre Business Awards were held on 5 December 2019 at Marine Hall and it was a great success. The awards have grown bigger and bigger over the past six years and this event saw an astounding number of applications which showcased the amazing work that businesses in Wyre are doing. Tickets sold out within a few weeks of going on sale with a record attendance of around 260. You can see a list of all our finalists on the council website.

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

- 4.1** The conversion of the former flats at Fleetwood Market into studio space is progressing well with the strip out, removal of internal walls and roofing now completed. Marketing materials are currently being prepared and a tour of the studio spaces for creatives interested in using them will be held prior to completion of the works.

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

- 5.1** A meeting of the Town Centre Partnership Board took place on 21 October 2019. The Terms of Reference for the Board were presented and agreed at the meeting. Numerous presentations were given to the group regarding progress on the various commissions and projects underway: IBI Group presented regarding progress on the Fleetwood Town Centre Masterplan; Landscape Projects presented on progress on the Public Realm strategy for Fleetwood Museum and Market; Mark Fenton presented on progress with the

Coastal Communities Fund and Heritage Action Zone. A further workshop event was held by Thinking Place who have been commissioned to develop Fleetwood's place narrative for the future and IBI Group also ran a workshop to develop ideas for the masterplan.

- 5.2** The council have now formally appointed IBI Group, working in partnership with Stantec UK Limited (formally called Peter Brett Associates) to produce a Fleetwood Town Centre Masterplan and Future High Streets Business Case. Work is now well underway with both commissions.
- 5.3** To support the council's Future High Street Fund Bid, an initial consultation on the masterplan options and Thinking Place narrative commenced on 2 December running until 5pm on 20 December 2019. Working alongside wider council projects and those of our stakeholders in Fleetwood, these projects have been branded as 'Future Fleetwood' and a launch event was held at the Fleetwood Marine Hall on 3 December 2019. The event allowed the community to understand the masterplan options further with officers and the consultants present. The 'Future Fleetwood' event was well attended and officers generally received positive feedback from the community at the event.

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

- 6.1** The Programme Design for the scheme with supporting evidence, surveys and appraisals was submitted to Historic England in December and focussed on the high street area near Albert Square, Victoria Street, Adelaide Street and St Peter's Church. The scheme will offer grants to repair the structure and external fabric of historic buildings; bring vacant buildings or portions of buildings back into use; and conversion of buildings into alternative uses that better meet the demand of the area. Delivery over a four year period is due to start in April subject to Historic England's funding agreement which is anticipated this February.

## **7. Planning policy**

### **Local Plan**

- 7.1** Masterplans for Land West of the A6 (Nateby Crossing), Garstang and for the Great Ecclestone extension (Part 1) were approved by Cabinet on 4 December. They will become a material consideration in determining planning applications.
- 7.2** Work is progressing on a number of other masterplans relating to Forton, Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road), Garstang (Cockerham Road) and Thornton (Lambs Road). The draft Masterplans for Forton and Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road) have been received and were considered by the Planning Policy Working Group (PPWG) on 6 December. They are now subject to a period of consultation following which they will be brought back to PPWG before being considered by Cabinet for approval in March 2020.

## **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.