

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	6 February 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 13 February 2020 at the Civic Centre. Individual theme meetings between private sector leads and council officers have been taking place throughout January in order to plan activity for 2020.
- 2.2** The next Wyred Up event to take place is the Education and Skills Event on 2 April 2020. In preparation for the event a business questionnaire was distributed to all businesses within Wyre on 15 January 2020 specifically centred on the Education and Skills provision businesses require. The deadline for completion is 14 February 2020. The results gained from this exercise, will inform the structure and agenda of the Education and Skills event in April.

3. Wyre Business Awards 2020

- 3.1** Following the successful event in 2019 planning is well underway for the Wyre Business Awards. Again the venue will be the Marine Hall, Fleetwood and the provisional date is Thursday 12 November 2020.

4. Coastal Communities Fund (CCF)

- 4.1** The conversion of the former flats at Fleetwood Market into studios is progressing well with the installation of new windows completed and the installation of fixtures and decoration underway. 'Rapid Retail', a supplier specialising in the manufacture and installation of kiosks, has been appointed to supply the units for the outdoor market and is currently preparing the detailed design drawings and schematics.

5. Future High Street Fund

- 5.1** The next Town Centre Partnership Board will take place on 30 January 2020. At this meeting an update of the Thinking Place commission will be presented; this is based on extensive consultation and engagement over the last three months. This presentation should provide a detailed context for an emerging 'brand' for Fleetwood. This meeting will also feature an update on the progress of IBI in developing the Fleetwood Masterplan and the outcome of the 'Future Fleetwood' consultation. In the first instance this work will support the Future High Streets Fund bid for the town centre but it will also define the regeneration framework for the wider development of Fleetwood.
- 5.2** On 15 January 2020 the council submitted its draft business case in support of the Future High Street Fund bid. This draft document provided an outline of projects and interventions in-line with the emerging Masterplan; the total ask is likely to be in the region of up to £25m. Feedback from MHCLG is anticipated in the following months which will help to inform the final business case which is to be submitted by 30 April 2020.

6. Planning policy

Local Plan

- 6.1** Work has started internally on the scope of a Partial Review of the Wyre Local Plan in line with the requirements of Policy LPR1; considering matters of housing and highways. This work will be presented to the Planning Policy Working Group (PPWG) before being considered by Cabinet later this year.
- 6.2** Work on two masterplans (Forton and Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road)) continues apace, and public consultation has now closed. A public drop-in consultation event for the Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackpool Road) Masterplan took place on Friday 17 January at St Martin and St Hildas Church Hall, Carleton, and was very well attended by members of the public. The public responses are being collated and appropriate feedback given to those proposing development at the sites. After the consultation period has ended, the responses will be considered and the draft Masterplans will be amended (if necessary) and brought back to the PPWG before being considered by Cabinet for approval in March 2020.
- 6.3** National planning policy allows local authorities to confirm their annual five year housing land supply through the publication of an Annual Position Statement (APS). Wyre Council (along with only two others nationally) submitted an APS in July 2019 to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate has now considered the evidence and representations from the development industry and has confirmed that Wyre is able to demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites for one year (i.e. until 31 October 2020). Wyre is the only authority to have succeeded in this regard nationally; the other authorities were unsuccessful. The outcome was a confirmed five year supply position of 5.18 years.

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.