

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Gordon McCann Economy Portfolio Holder	Council	28 November 2013	8(d)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: ECONOMY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Economy Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Local Government Association (LGA) Growth Advisor Programme

- 2.1 Following a successful application to the LGA to secure 14 days of consultancy advice on both Wyre's Growth Plan and on our Business Support Network, we have recently appointed Debbie Crellin of Crellin Consulting, who has extensive experience in both areas. It is planned that she will be starting with us in the next couple of weeks.

3. Draft Wyre Growth Plan

- 3.1 The draft Growth Plan was presented to the Wyre Enterprise Strategic Business Group on 21 October. Workshops were held on each separate Key Strategic Initiative and the results of these workshops have been incorporated into the document where necessary. It was sent out for consultation on Wednesday 13 November. The aim being to submit it for approval to Cabinet in January.

4. Wyre Winners Competition

- 4.1 A panel of independent judges met on 4 November to consider the 18 applications submitted and the judges shortlisted 8 winning entries. Winners were announced at the awards ceremony on Wednesday 13 November at the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood and I will update Members at the meeting.

5. Revive and Thrive

- 5.1 Applications have been submitted for assistance under this new initiative which provides in kind support for town centres in various forms including training, workshops and consultancy support. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to stage 2 of the process, the deadline for which is 31 January 2014.

6. Coastal Communities Fund

- 6.1** A stage two application form and business plan has been submitted in respect of 5 projects covering the coastal strip stretching from Rossall to Euston Park. These involve the creation of an ecology zone at Rossall, improvements to the Marine Lakes, new informal recreation areas near the Leisure Centre, enhancement of Euston Park and nearby promenade facilities and an annual events programme along the coast. An announcement on the application will be made in January, 2014. If the bid is successful, work is expected to start on site in late spring/early summer next year and should be complete within two 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.