



Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Peter Murphy Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	21 January 2016	8(d)

## Executive Report: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

### Purpose of report

#### 1.

- 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. Coastal Communities Fund Scheme

- 2.1 With the exception of the Ecology Zone the majority of the capital funding has been spent. Remaining Coastal Communities Fund monies are due to be spent by 31 March 2016 on the provision of additional beach bungalows.
- 2.2 An annual events programme is now well established. The second year of training courses is underway. A Social Media basic training course took place in early December. This is to be followed by a Marketing course on 11 January 2016 and a Social Media (next steps course) on 19 January plus 2 more courses in February and March. Visit [www.wyre.gov.uk/tourismtraining](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/tourismtraining) for more details.

#### 3. Coastal Revival Fund

- 3.1 The Council has been successful in its bid to secure £50,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund for repairs to the Marine Hall Dome and improved interior lighting. This work will be completed by March 2016 and officers are currently working to appoint contractors.
- 3.2 There was a very high level of interest in the £3million Revival Fund, which received 222 bids, totalling £9million. With the funding three times oversubscribed, DCLG commended our project stating that it "demonstrated it was one of the very best".

#### **4. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone**

- 4.1** The Council has received a Memorandum of Understanding from the Department of Communities and Local Government relating to the availability of capital allowances, i.e. expenditure on plant and machinery for the Hillhouse Business Park Enterprise Zone. The site owners, NPL Group, have engaged consultants to assist in the preparation of a Master Plan Brief for the entire Enterprise Zone.

#### **5. Planning Policy**

##### **Local Plan**

- 5.1** Following advice from Counsel, further sensitivity testing was necessary using alternative datasets both for the Employment Land Study Update and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The sensitivity testing for the Employment Land Study Update is complete and confirms that the forecasts remain a robust basis for the local plan. The sensitivity testing relating to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment is scheduled to be completed in January.
- 5.2** Evidence in relation to the scale of constraints in relation to highways and flood risk is important in determining what level of the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing can be delivered in the Local Plan. The draft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level II has been delayed due to the scale of work involved being significantly more than anticipated. Consultants are being commissioned to analyse the information collate and write the report. The consultants will take into account new guidance due to be published early in the new year.
- 5.3** LCC and Highways England are working to establish the capacity on the highway network.
- 5.4** Following the publication in August 2015 of the Government's revised 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' which has changed the definitions of 'Gypsy' and 'Travelling Showpersons', consultants are being commissioned jointly with Blackpool and Fylde to update the Fylde Coast Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) in light of the new definitions.
- 5.5** The Council is also required to respond to the Ministerial Statement concerning wind energy development. Discussions are being held with Blackpool and Fylde to establish the extent of the work required for the Local Plan. The Ministerial Statement states that no wind energy developments can be approved unless located in areas identified on an adopted plan as areas suitable for wind energy development and also provided that such development has the support of the community.

## **6. Comments and Questions**

- 6.1** In accordance with procedure rule 10.3 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 10.5.

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