



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr M Vincent, Chairman of the Employment in Wyre task group and Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources	Cabinet	3 December 2014	6

Employment in Wyre Task Group – final report

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To report the work of the Employment in Wyre Task Group to Cabinet.

2. Outcomes

2.1 The barriers to business expansion are minimised by the council's actions to create a climate conducive to growth and development.

2.2 Employment opportunities are maximised across the borough.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the council continues to take steps to strengthen the links between local employers and colleges/training providers, the Economy Portfolio Holder being instrumental in that action.

3.2 That the council continues to demonstrate its support for applications for Assisted Area status, where appropriate to do so. The Economy Portfolio Holder should continue to play a key role by meeting relevant businesses who are considering making such applications, at the earliest stage in the process, in order to ensure that the council can play its full part in any such application, if appropriate to do so.

3.3 That charges for pre-application advice for smaller developments (as defined) be waived for a trial period during the month of April 2015, subject to agreed criteria, with a cap on income not receivable to be set by the portfolio holder.

- 3.4** That such a pilot scheme should be promoted widely, using a variety of methods including the Wyred Up network, membership of which will be a prerequisite of the scheme.

4. Background

- 4.1** Employment is one of the key factors that affect the prosperity of an area. The council plays a significant role in helping to provide the kind of economic environment within which businesses will thrive. It is hoped that new businesses can be attracted to the area or that businesses already in situ will grow and develop, hence increasing employment prospects and prosperity.
- 4.2** On occasions there are barriers that inhibit such economic development and it is important for the council to identify them so that efforts can be made to tackle them and encourage growth.
- 4.3** This task group was commissioned to help ensure that the council is playing its full part in maximising employment opportunities within the borough.
- 4.5** The review's objectives, as specified in the scoping document, were to identify:
- (i) what contributes to a successful environment for businesses in Wyre and
 - (ii) what the council can do, in addition to what it is already doing, to support and facilitate such an environment.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1** The task group focused on speaking to businesses about the factors that facilitate business growth and development in Wyre and the potential barriers to growth and development. Businesses were asked to identify ways in which the council could play a more significant role.
- 5.2** There is evidence that links between employers and colleges/training providers can be further improved and the task group is of the opinion that the council should play a higher profile role in assisting the employers and colleges to work more closely together. The task group recognises that even in the case of larger businesses it is important that local courses can be relied upon to provide appropriate training to ensure that jobs are filled by local people, wherever possible. The active involvement of the portfolio holder is vital.

- 5.3** The task group acknowledges the potential long-term benefits to residents of the borough that can result from Assisted Area status in areas that are recognised as being less economically advantaged, which would benefit from additional support for development.
- 5.4** Fees for pre-application planning advice were introduced by the council in April 2014 to support the council’s budget and as a reflection of the cost to the council of providing the previously free advice from within the council’s limited resources. However, the fees are seen by some smaller businesses as a significant barrier to expansion. Only once the new fee structure has been in place for a minimum of twelve months will a direct comparison be possible with the previous arrangement, enabling an assessment of the impact of the structure to take place.
- 5.5** The development of small businesses would be encouraged if the pre-planning advice fees were waived in such cases, subject to the application of the following agreed criteria:
- That the scheme apply to businesses where the total number of employees within the business, including any associated businesses or businesses from within a group of companies, is 10 or less.
 - That membership of Wyred Up be a requirement of the scheme.
 - That businesses be asked to state how many additional people (including on apprenticeships) will be employed through the expansion.
 - That the business continues to maintain an interest in the development.
 - That charges for written advice or an initial meeting are waived, although charges will continue to apply to any follow up meetings.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The implementation of recommendation 3 is dependent upon the Economy Portfolio Holder identifying adequate funding and setting a cap on income not receivable.
Legal	<i>There are no legal implications associated with this report.</i>

OTHER RISKS/IMPLICATIONS: CHECKLIST

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with an x.

Implications	✓ / x
Community Safety	x
Equality and Diversity	x
Sustainability	x
Health and Safety	x

Risks/Implications	✓ / x
Asset Management	x
Climate Change	x
Data Protection	x

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Employment in Wyre Task Group – Final Report

arm/ex/cab/cr/14/0312pf2



Employment in Wyre Task Group

- Final Report-

Chair:

Councillor Michael Vincent

Task Group Members:

Councillor Julia Anderson
Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins
Councillor Tom Balmain
Councillor David Bannister
Councillor Roger Brooks
Councillor Ron Greenhough
Councillor Rita Hewitt
Councillor Patsy Ormrod
Councillor Val Wilson

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Chairman: Councillor Michael Vincent

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Introduction

Employment is one of the key factors that affect the prosperity of an area. The Council plays a significant role in helping to provide the kind of economic environment within which businesses will thrive. It is hoped that new businesses can be attracted to the area or that businesses already in situ will grow and develop, hence increasing employment prospects and prosperity.

On occasions there are barriers that inhibit such economic development and it is important for the council to identify them so that efforts can be made to tackle them and encourage growth.

This task group was commissioned to help ensure that the council is playing its full part in maximising employment opportunities within the borough.

Ten councillors contributed to the work of the task group, which was chaired by Cllr Michael Vincent.

Aims of Review

The aims of the review, as specified in the Scoping Document, were as follows:

1. To identify existing contributors who support training and employment initiatives in Wyre
2. To identify potential barriers to employment
3. To identify improvements that would maximise local jobs for local people

The Review Process

The group's activities included:

- Reviewing background information provided
- Consulting with the Economy Portfolio Holder
- Interviewing officers at task group meetings, including the Director of People and Places and the Head of Planning Services
- Interviewing employers

Background Information – provided by Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places

Michael Ryan advised the task group about the ways in which the council was already working towards improving employment in Wyre, within the context of the council's Business Plan 2014/15.

As a planning authority the council has responsibility to work with developers as it has done in a number of recent developments, including the Iron Horse, the Three Lights and the Norcross site.

The Wyre Local Growth Plan 2014/17 sets out the economic objectives and aspirations of the borough. The business community and partners helped to prepare it. The plan forms the bedrock upon which the council can continue to build and improve the economic future and quality of life for Wyre residents, businesses and visitors.

The Plan is split into 6 Key Strategic Initiatives

- Provide a supportive business environment
- Encourage investment and sector development
- Strengthen the relationship between employers and skills providers
- Support the visitor economy
- Maximise rural business potential
- Ensure the viability and vitality of our town centres

Assisted Area status has recently been approved for wards in Fleetwood, Thornton and Preesall which is likely to assist those areas in attracting investment.

Assisted Areas are recognised in European state aid rules as being less economically advantaged places that would benefit from additional support for development. As a result, financial support from Government is permitted to undertakings, typically businesses, for new investments in these areas. Being located in an Assisted Area does not confer any right to financial assistance; rather, it allows the public sector to provide certain types of assistance if it wishes. Key types of support available in the UK are detailed at www.gov.uk/state-aid.

The council has very good relationships with Jobcentreplus and Blackpool and Fylde College which encourages a multi-agency approach that also involves employers. The council is working with some of the bigger employers to identify their skills needs and to ensure that a sufficiently developed pool of talent and skills is available to them.

A Rural Growth Plan is being developed, in conjunction with Lancashire County Council, and this was presented to the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership in September 2014. It will focus on the relationship between jobs, skills and housing opportunities.

The council is working with UCLAN to promote the Fylde Coast as a possible location for a National Energy College.

A Wyre Prospectus is being developed for use with local industries, and with the potential to be used more widely.

Summary of Evidence from Councillor Pete Murphy, Economy Portfolio Holder

Councillor Murphy provided a report outlining some of the work undertaken by the Economic Development Team in assisting local businesses.

Get ReWyred Business Support Scheme

Support was given recently to sixty retail businesses involving bespoke one-to-one diagnostic sessions with a specialist business advisor, preparation of a business plan and ongoing development and support for twelve months. The majority also received grant assistance and entered the Wyre Winner 2013 retail business competition.

'Get ReWyred' is to become Wyre's corporate brand for all the council's business support and the 'Wyred Up' business networking initiative is to be re-launched in January 2015.

Business Assists

The team receives many requests for support which can involve anything from simply signposting businesses to the appropriate agencies, visiting the business to further investigate/fact-find, supporting businesses to make grant applications, and liaising with various partners including training providers and the Job Centre to provide more in-depth business support. Businesses may contact the team directly or be referred by internal/external colleagues e.g. the EDC, Blackpool, Fylde and other Lancashire local authorities.

Businesses with whom the council has had such recent contact include:

- G Holdco – Fleetwood – supported in Grant application
- John Shaw Engineering – Fleetwood – Referred to Regenerate Pennine Lancashire for grant application for the Accelerating Business Growth Fund
- AM Seafood – Fleetwood – Liaised with company and Blackpool & Fylde College for bespoke training courses
- NPL – Work with companies on NPL estate to identify specialist needs including training and recruitment issues
- Midland Fish Co – Assisted with Bid application

It should be noted that the nature of the work of the Economic Development Team is such that it does not necessarily carry out the same kinds of activity from one quarter to the next. Consequently, as can be seen from the performance tables below, it is not always possible to make direct performance comparisons between quarters.

In Quarter 1 - January – March 2014 (extract)

Total Number of Businesses contacting WBC	30
Signposted to partner agencies	15
Supported with Grant applications	2
Visited at premises by an officer	7
General Enquiries	4
Social Enterprise assisted with specialist advice	1

In Quarter 2 - April – June 2014 (extract)

Total Number of Businesses contacting WBC	28
Signposted to partner agencies	16
General Enquiries	12
Social Enterprise assisted with specialist advice	0
Direct business enquiries received by the Economic Development Team	26

All referrals are monitored and followed up at regular intervals for as long as is necessary. This enables the team to monitor the performance, not only of our referral agencies (chiefly Regenerate Pennine Lancashire & Bay Business Centre) but also the progress of the specific businesses, and to offer continuity of service to our customers.

Businesses are not simply passed on to our partner agencies - we often phone Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and Bay Business Centre beforehand to ensure our businesses are accessing the correct form of assistance.

As part of our assistance in kind, accommodation is provided free of charge at the Civic Centre for business workshops and training courses.

Business courses, events and awards are advertised on the Wyred Up website.

Partnership Working with Training Providers and the Job Centre

Officers regularly meet with training providers (e.g. Myerscough College and Rural Business Centre, Blackpool and Fylde College, Blackpool Sixth Form (Career Academy)) and the Job Centre to coordinate joint efforts to maximise assistance to businesses and the unemployed e.g. Blackpool & the Fylde College run bespoke courses to fill the vacancies as advised by the council and the Job Centre.

Recent assistance has been given to the following resulting in the majority of local jobs being secured by local people:

- The Iron Horse
- Tavern at the Mill
- The Three Lights
- Cala Gran

The council's main referral partners are:

1 Regenerate Pennine Lancashire, who offer the following grant assistance:

- Start-Up Lancashire
- Accelerating Business Growth
- Boost
- Fuse Fund

2 Bay Business Centre, who offer

- Start-Up, Pre Start-Up – Will see any business giving up to one hour's worth of advice

3 Other business support includes

- Revive & Thrive, which is an ongoing £191,000 prize package for the retail sector in the four main towns of Wyre (Garstang, Poulton, Thornton/Cleveleys and Fleetwood).

4 Coastal Communities Fund, which enables businesses with a focus on the tourism industry to receive relevant assistance and training for local unemployed people, the final details of which are still being developed.

Further questions from the task group

In response to questions and comments from task group members, Cllr Murphy made the following additional points:

- He confirmed that 'Wyred Up' is due to be re-launched in January 2015
- The Iron Horse pub is a good example where local people have been targeted for jobs in a new business
- There are likely to be more energy businesses in Wyre, which has been described as a potential 'Energy Coast'
- Up to now the Coastal Communities Fund has been focused mainly in Fleetwood, but this is likely to be broadened into 'tourism' more widely

- A Local Government Information Unit Briefing on Assisted Areas is to be published shortly and will be of interest to task group members
- More jobs have been created in Wyre in recent years than in most other parts of Lancashire – an average of 289 per year since 2010/11

Interviews with Businesses in Wyre

The task group took the view that the best people to speak to about factors that either help or hinder business growth and development are employers themselves, particularly those who run successful or growing businesses. They would also be in the best position to identify barriers to employment and to comment on steps that the council might consider taking to promote employment in the borough.

Councillors carried out a number of interviews with businesses in the borough, four broad areas of questioning having been agreed. These were:

1 The Business

How long has the business been established? Was it a new enterprise or developed from an existing one? How many employees does it have? Are they full- or part-time? Do they live locally?

2 Facilitating factors

What do you consider are the factors that facilitate business growth and development?

3 Barriers

What do you see as barriers to business growth and development?

4 The council's role

Are there any steps that the Council could take to improve the local business environment?

Task group members carried out interviews with twelve local employers, eleven of whom had been approached directly and one of whom volunteered to be interviewed as a result of the promotion of the task group's work on the Wyred Up website.

It is noted that there are inevitably different perspectives on all of these questions, depending upon the nature and the size of the business. The task group made the distinction between small, local businesses which are bound by their location and who provide a service essentially for the local community and tourists or visitors to the area, and those businesses, some of whom operate internationally and for whom the locality is in many ways an irrelevance – they could potentially operate from anywhere and just happen, for whatever reason, to be located in Wyre. Different businesses have very different needs and requirements. For example, it would not be possible for The Barn at Scorton to be anywhere apart from Scorton as it simply serves the local community; Victrex plc, on the other hand could be located anywhere at all, and simply remains on the Industrial Estate at Hillhouse as the factory was there when the management buy-out from ICI happened.

The following businesses were interviewed by task group members:

- The Barn, Scorton
- Builders Supplies (West Coast Ltd.), Fleetwood
- Central Power Services, Claughton-on-Brock
- Collinson plc, Catterall
- Farmer Parr, Fleetwood
- Fleetwood Town Football Club
- J C Country, Forton
- Leach Structural Steelwork Ltd., Claughton-on-Brock
- The Priory, Scorton
- Victrex plc, Thornton
- Walki Wisa Ltd., Garstang
- Wyresdale Concrete, Pilling

The responses that were received, broken down by question (page 11, points 1 - 4) can be summarised as follows:

1 The Business

Three of the businesses interviewed have twenty or less full time staff, and three have one hundred or more. There is a clear emphasis on employing people from the local area for companies who employ up to one hundred people. The two or three larger companies are somewhat more reliant on recruiting from a much wider geographical area, especially to ensure that they can recruit senior managers of the required calibre. There is also a need to recruit workers with particular specialist skills, knowledge and experience and such people are not always available locally.

2 Facilitating factors

For companies that operate on a national or international basis the state of the national economy and market conditions are key factors that facilitate growth.

Several other key factors are essential to a business's growth and development, as identified through the task group's interviews. The workforce, transport links and planning are three that are consistently identified.

With an emphasis on recruiting staff locally, the increase in housing stock that is being proposed is seen as a positive move as it could help bring in a larger pool of workers both skilled and less skilled, from which businesses would be able to recruit. Alongside an increase in housing it is also essential to improve local infrastructure, including 'the local High Street', leisure facilities and transport links.

Comment was made that the planning process is a costly and very time consuming one compared to other countries in Europe and beyond. Businesses need to be able to make quick, effective business decisions and back these up with swift consents, without which severe damage can be done to the growth potential of the business.

3 Barriers

Smaller businesses identified their general running costs as a barrier to expansion, as well as difficulty in recruiting. One rural business tried to offer two apprenticeships in conjunction with a local college, but failed to attract any applicants. The cost of travel was seen as a problem as well as the relative lack of public transport in rural areas.

Parking was also seen as a barrier for a smaller business, as was inadequate broadband speed. The cost of applying for pre-planning advice was a factor in the expansion and development of several of the smaller businesses interviewed.

Larger businesses said that they were restricted by lack of confidence and inspiration as a result of the state of the national economy. The lack of a skill base is restrictive, even though there is evidence that many companies do their best to forge links with local colleges to try to ensure that the necessary skills are available locally. However, links between employers and colleges need to be improved further in order to ensure that employers can readily recruit people with the skills that are needed, and so provide employment opportunities for as many residents of Wyre as possible.

Several businesses highlighted the need to improve the main transport links across the Fylde Coast area, with much hope being placed on the proposed Broughton by-pass. The inadequacy of the A585 was also mentioned as an example by several businesses interviewed. The use of rail is not a viable option for most businesses because of the nature of the products that they typically make or install; high value, low volume products, for example, are transported by road.

4 The council's role

Businesses made a number of comments including:

- Unfair and inconsistent business rates
- Planning should help and not hinder (reference again here to charging for pre-planning advice). Some planning policies could be relaxed to help business.
- The council is not 'a good listener' when it comes to planning matters
- The feeling that business, generally, is not supported by the council
- Poor signage to industrial estates
- The council should demonstrate its support for bids for grants under Assisted Area status

Summary of Evidence from David Thow, Head of Planning Services

Planning officers have always sought to offer advice about planning applications but this has been done, until recently, in a relatively unstructured way. Previously it has often been difficult to trace conversations that have taken place, and the opinion given by an individual officer is a personal opinion and not necessarily that of the Department as a whole.

A charge for pre-planning advice has been made for 'major' applications for a number of years and it appears that applicants do not begrudge the charge, which amounts to only a very small percentage of the total development cost. 'Major' refers to land of more than one hectare or a development of over 1000 square feet of space.

The current system of charging for pre-planning advice seeks to bring about a degree of consistency and structure, as well as covering some of the costs borne previously by the Planning Department. It can be seen as unfair that council tax payers should cover the cost of someone wanting to build a conservatory on their house, for example. The charges reflect the type of development and its size.

Since 1 April 2014 there have been 76 pre-application enquiries, including twelve for commercial developments, six of which were 'major'.

The total of fees paid for the six 'major' developments is £3,260. The total of fees paid for the six remaining developments is £450, making a grand total of £3,710.

The advice given often "smoothes the way", making the process more efficient. The advice might also prevent an applicant from going to considerable expense in making an application that is unlikely to be successful, a tangible benefit to the applicant.

In response to questions from the task group, Mr Thow agreed that it was an option to waive the fee for pre-planning advice for small commercial developments in order that one potential obstacle to development be removed. The fees for larger developments could be increased to compensate for the smaller fees lost. Such a proposal would be particularly appropriate for new buildings, changes of use and advertisements.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The task group recognises the huge gulf between a small local business and a much larger one that operates in international markets and appreciates the differing requirements and expectations of such a wide spectrum.

Training

There is evidence that links between employers and colleges/training providers can be further improved and we are of the opinion that the council should play a higher profile role in assisting the employers and colleges to work more closely together. We recognise that even in the case of larger businesses it is important that local courses can be relied upon to provide appropriate training to ensure that jobs are filled by local people, wherever possible. The active involvement of the Portfolio Holder is vital.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That the council continues to take steps to strengthen the links between local employers and colleges/training providers, the Economy Portfolio Holder being instrumental in that action.

Assisted Area status

We acknowledge the potential long-term benefits to residents of the borough that can result from Assisted Area status (see Page 5).

RECOMMENDATION 2

That the council continues to demonstrate its support for applications for Assisted Area status, where appropriate to do so. The Economy Portfolio Holder should continue to play a key role by meeting relevant businesses who are considering making such applications, at the earliest stage in the process, in order to ensure that the council can play its full part in any such application, if appropriate to do so.

Pre-application advice

The cost of pre-application advice is seen as a significant barrier for some smaller businesses. Some members of the task group have suggested that the fees currently charged were inexpensive compared with some neighbouring councils in the North West. Comparisons with a number of other local councils are included at Appendix 2.

We have considered the waiving of fees for pre-application advice for smaller businesses on a trial basis, but we appreciate that the fees have only recently been introduced. We realise that the fees were introduced in the light of the extent of the previously free advice that was being offered from within the council's limited resources, and we support that principle. We consider that it is important that the current charging arrangements remain in place for a period of twelve months so that some direct comparisons can easily be made.

We would, however, like to see the waiving of fees for small businesses tried for a limited period (for one month only) as soon as the first twelve months of the current charging structure has been completed. We would like to see such a trial applied in relation to smaller businesses, so long as specific criteria are met. Applicants would be invited to complete a simple form covering some essential details, on the basis of which a decision would be made about whether the agreed criteria had been met.

We recognise that the introduction of such a scheme would need careful consideration. As a starting point, members of the task group make the following suggestions:

- That the scheme apply to businesses where the total number of employees within the business, including any associated businesses or businesses from within a group of companies, is 10 or less.
- That membership of Wyred Up be a requirement of the scheme.
- That businesses be asked to state how many additional people (including on apprenticeships) will be employed through the expansion.
- That the business continues to maintain an interest in the development.
- That charges for written advice or an initial meeting are waived, although charges will continue to apply to any follow up meetings.
- That the promotion of the scheme commences in January 2015.
- That the scheme be trialled for a period of one month, commencing on 1 April 2015.

We propose that the Portfolio Holder sets a cap on expenditure for this trial, which we estimate on the basis of previous figures and applications, needs to be no higher than £1,000.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That charges for pre-application advice for smaller developments (as defined) be waived for a trial period during the month of April 2015, subject to agreed criteria, with a cap on income not receivable to be set by the Portfolio Holder.

RECOMMENDATION 4

That such a pilot scheme should be promoted widely, using a variety of methods including the Wyred Up network, membership of which will be a prerequisite of the scheme.

Responsibility for Implementation of Agreed Recommendations

The responsibility for implementing the recommendations will lie with the Economy Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director of People and Places.

It is the intention of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to follow its usual practice and review the implementation of the recommendations twelve months after they have been considered by the Cabinet. The effectiveness of the waiving of pre-application fees, if that recommendation is approved by the Cabinet, will be reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2015.

Councillors' Attendances

There were five meetings of the task group.

Name	Meetings Attended
Councillor Anderson	3
Councillor Lady Atkins	1
Councillor Balmain	5
Councillor Bannister	3
Councillor Brooks	5
Councillor Greenhough	3
Councillor Hewitt	3
Councillor Ormrod	3
Councillor M Vincent	5
Councillor Wilson	4

Acknowledgements

The task group would like to thank the witnesses who have been so generous in giving up their time to attend meetings and provide information, which has been invaluable to this Review.

List of Appendices

- APPENDIX 1 Employment in Wyre Task Group – Scoping Document
- APPENDIX 2 Comparison of fees charged by Councils in the North West for the provision of pre-application advice

Employment in Wyre - Task Group**Scoping Document – Final**

Review Topic	Employment in Wyre
Chair	Cllr M Vincent
Group Membership	Cllrs Anderson, Lady Atkins, Balmain, Bannister, Brooks, Greenhough, Hewitt, Ormrod and Wilson
Officer Support	Peter Foulsham (Scrutiny Officer)
Purpose of the Review	To ensure that the council is playing its full part in maximising employment opportunities within the borough.
Objective of Review	To identify (i) what contributes to a successful environment for businesses in Wyre and (ii) what council can do, in addition to what it is already doing, to support and facilitate such an environment.
Aims of Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify existing contributors who support training and employment initiatives in Wyre 2. To identify potential barriers to employment 3. To identify improvements that would maximise local jobs for local people
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review any previous reports and documentation (see below) • Consult with relevant portfolio holder(s), council officers and representatives from relevant agencies • Interview witnesses • Consider the council's Local Growth Plan and planned actions
Scope of Review	The review is limited to what actions the council can realistically take, recognising its enabling role
Potential Witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy Portfolio Holder • Corporate Director of People and Places • Head of Planning Services • Senior Economic Development Officer • Businesses/employers • Wyre Enterprise Strategic Business Group • Training providers (e.g. Build Up) • Trade Union representatives • Recruitment organisations/specialists from within the borough • Jobcentreplus advisor
Documents to be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Local Growth Plan (report to Cabinet 15 January 2014) • Economy Portfolio Holder Executive Reports to Full Council (including 14 June 2012 and 5 September 2013) • Report of the 'Work In Progress' Task Group, Cabinet, 7 September 2009

Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review that is too big, unfocused, overly-ambitious and unable to make any real impact
Level of Publicity	Not defined at present.
Indicators of a Successful Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear action plan prompting improvement, within the context of the council's Business Plan and the Local Growth Plan
Intended Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased prosperity in Wyre
Approximate Timeframe	3 months from date of first meeting with employers
Projected Start Date	Date of first meeting: 12 June 2014

arm/ex/cab/cr/14/0312pf2 appendix 1 (appendix 1)

APPENDIX 2

Comparison of fees charged by Councils in the North West for the provision of pre-application advice

	Minor development - Initial meeting (£)	Significant major development - Initial meeting (£)
Wyre	50	740
Blackpool	144	600
Carlisle	No charge	No charge
Cheshire East	200	700
Chorley	120	720
Fylde	No charge	500
Hyndburn	120	600
Pendle	50	500
Preston	No charge	600
Ribble Valley	190	775
Rochdale	310	615
South Lakeland	36	720
South Ribble	50	500
St Helens	No charge	No charge
West Lancs	120	1200*
Wigan	No charge	No charge
Wirral	150	900
<p>* Includes two site visits and two meetings for a 'significant development' (over 49 dwellings); £600 is charged for a 'major development' (10-49 dwellings) to include one site visit and one meeting. An hourly rate of £60 is applied.</p>		