

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Pete Murphy, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder	Council	6 April 2017	8(d)

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. Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) Scheme

- 2.1 We are awaiting full guidance details for CCF 5 and potential projects to be put forward are being collated.

3. Coastal Community Teams (Fleetwood and Cleveleys)

Fleetwood

- 3.1 We are continuing to support new and existing businesses and to date 13 town centre businesses have received funding towards shop front improvements. A business support advisor has advised a total of 20 businesses within Fleetwood Town Centre including Fleetwood Market as part of a short term project funded by Coastal Community team funding.

Cleveleys

- 3.2 In January 2017 DCLG awarded £10,000 to create a new Coastal Community Team for Cleveleys. The team then co-ordinated a town centre questionnaire, which has informed the development of an action plan, which was submitted to DCLG in March 2017.

4. Hillhouse Enterprise Zone (EZ)

- 4.1 Members will recall that the Memorandum of Understanding between Wyre Council and central government was signed by Andrew Percy MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for the Northern Powerhouse) at the Department for Communities and Local Government and our Chief Executive, at an official ceremony on

9 November.

- 4.2 Since the signing of the MOU we have dealt with over 30 business enquiries for the site and Council officers working in collaboration with staff from Blackpool Council have been able to assist with investment proposals and planning matters.
- 4.3 Council officers submitted a bid to Government for 'Commercial Funding Support' for Hillhouse. The sum of £50,000 was awarded in January and will be used to develop a Master Plan and other elements. The Master Plan will impact upon the finalisation of the draft 5 year Implementation Plan for DCLG.

5. Business support

- 5.1 The first event of the year was held at Thornton Football Club and was hosted by Addison Academy and 30 members were taken on a guided tour of the Hillhouse Site enabling businesses to strengthen opportunities with flagship companies situated on site.
- 5.2 Two further businesses have been awarded flood grants as a result of the damage caused from the floods of December 2015. The grants totalled £9,762.73 bringing our total of flooded businesses receiving grant aid to 11.

6. Planning policy

Local plan

- 6.1 An update on the progress on the preparation of the Local Plan was considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 February 2017.
- 6.2 Since my last report work with Lancashire County Council (LCC) has continued to finalise evidence on the capacity of the local network to support development with deliverable mitigation and a final version of the highways evidence has now been submitted and published.
- 6.3 The Highway Study for Poulton-le-Fylde which was due to be completed by consultants appointed by LCC by mid-December is expected imminently.
- 6.4 At the end of March, the Planning Inspectorate commenced hearings into Fylde Borough Council's Local Plan. Despite working closely with Fylde (and Blackpool) under the Government's Duty to Cooperate, Fylde Council has not, in our view, adequately addressed the issue of our inability to meet our own housing needs due to our constraints. This issue was originally raised with both of our neighbouring authorities formally in writing and at regular meetings in 2015, with no positive response. We have therefore had no option but to submit a formal representation for consideration by the Inspector stating that we do not consider that Fylde Council has met its statutory duty to cooperate.

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.

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