



Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 28 January 2019
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**Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting on
Tuesday, 5 February 2019 at 2.00 pm
in Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde**

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of interest

Members will disclose any pecuniary and any other significant interests they may have in relation to the matters to be considered at this meeting.

3. Confirmation of minutes

(Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting

4. Matters arising

- Economic Impact Model
- Transforming Cities Fund

5. Blackpool Business Investment Marketing Strategy

Presentation by Nick Smillie of Clarity Inward Investment Marketing Strategies

6. Lancashire ESIF Programme 2014-20 Forward Planning update

(Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council

7. Exclusion of public and press

If the discussion during items 6 and 7 of this agenda involves the disclosure of "exempt information", as defined in Schedule 12A of the

Local Government Act 1972 and the board wishes to move to confidential session, it may at any point pass the following resolution: "That the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst the agenda item(s) is/are considered, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

8. Blackpool Airport EZ Progress report (standing item) (Pages 13 - 18)

Report of the Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council

9. Hillhouse Technology EZ Progress report (standing item) (Pages 19 - 20)

Report of the Senior Economic Development Officer, Wyre Council

10. Exclusion of public and press for item 11

The report submitted under item 11 of this agenda is "Not for Publication" because it contains "exempt information", as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

If the Board agrees that the public and press should be excluded for this item and has not already done so, it will pass the following resolution: "That the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst agenda item 11 is considered, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

11. Lancashire Economic Development Officers Group (LEDOG) – Lancashire Project Summary Form (Pages 21 - 24)

Report of the Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council

12. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Provisional date and venue for the first meeting of 2019/20 suggested by Fylde Council: Tuesday 4 June 2019 to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall in St Annes at 2pm.



Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board Minutes

The minutes of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting held on Tuesday, 4 December 2018 at Conference Room 417, International Business Centre, West Road, Hillhouse International Business Park.

EPB members present:

Councillor Roger Small, Fylde Council (substitute for Councillor Susan Fazackerley)
Councillor Mark Smith, Blackpool Council (substitute for Councillor Simon Blackburn)
Councillor Michael Vincent, Wyre Council (substitute for Councillor David Henderson)

Chief Executive Officers present:

Neil Jack, Blackpool Council
Allan Oldfield, Fylde Council
Garry Payne, Wyre Council

Co-opted private sector representatives present:

Martin Long (Blackpool)

Officers present:

Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council
Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Steve Smith, Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Delivery Manager, Blackpool Council
Duncan Jowitt, Democratic Services and Councillor Development Officer
Jordan Cartmell, ICT Service Desk Analyst, Wyre Council

Others present:

Councillor Howard Ballard, Wyre Council
Rachel McQueen, Marketing Lancashire

Apologies for absence:

Councillors Simon Blackburn, Henderson, Fazackerley, Farley and **Worthington**
Officers: Marianne Hesketh

No members of the public or press attended the meeting

18 Election of Chairman

Councillor Michael Vincent was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

19 Declarations of interest

None.

20 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

21 Marketing Lancashire

Rachel McQueen of Marketing Lancashire gave a presentation to the board on a five year vision for the effective promotion of the region. It focussed on disconnecting Lancashire the county from Lancashire the County Council and celebrating the region's diversity to maximise the value of having a wide range of assets with no single urban centre dominating the area.

Her presentation focussed on two core questions: "who are we?" and "who do we want to be?" She talked about the 'We are Lancashire' promotional film and how it related to the regional identity and the need to promote the county for the benefit of the people who live here. She explained that Marketing Lancashire's mission was to work collaboratively with partners to identify, articulate and promote the strengths of Lancashire and focus on delivering economic benefit to the region.

Areas covered included

- re-establishing a direct connection between the places and assets and the county itself, without extra layers or definitions (saying for example Blackpool, Lancashire rather than Blackpool, Fylde Coast),
- developing a succinct and memorable message for Lancashire,
- engaging communications professionals to reverse the obsolete and negative perception of Lancashire perpetuated in the media,
- an ambassador programme with globally-recognised personalities such as cricketer Andrew Flintoff acting as ambassadors for the county,
- the potential effect of Brexit and the need to raise the county's profile in Europe and beyond,
- tourism zones and tourism levies,
- reclaiming Lancashire's connection to the stories of its heritage,
- prioritising messages and targeting specific audiences,
- promoting Lancashire against competition from destinations with much bigger advertising budgets.

The board discussed the information presented and agreed that by broadly encouraging and adopting a culture of mutual support focussed around a recognised single brand symbol such as the Red Rose, targeted marketing and advertising of the county's strengths could challenge stereotypical perceptions of Lancashire promoted by the national media and create a credible narrative of the region's successes without any need for spin. It was suggested that locally this might include advertising to build upon and take direct advantage of existing media strengths such as BBC's Strictly Come Dancing at Blackpool's Tower Ballroom and Open Golf Championships hosted by the Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club.

The visual presentation is appended to these minutes.

22 Local Industrial Strategy

The Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council submitted a report to inform the Board of the Government requirement for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

He informed the board that the report was an early alert to make members aware of it and that he would provide further updates at the next meeting and over the coming months.

Decision

The board noted the report.

23 Exclusion of public and press during items 8 and 9

No members of the press or public were present and the board did not need to move to confidential session during items 8 and 9.

24 Blackpool Airport EZ Progress report (standing item)

The Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council (HEZBC) submitted a progress report on the Blackpool Airport EZ covering

- a) EZ Masterplan,
- b) Delivery (Implementation) Plan,
- c) EZ Outputs and Phase One Funding,
- d) Retained Business Rates (NNDR),
- e) EZ Marketing Strategy,
- f) Marketing activity,
- g) PIN Notice,
- h) Risk Register - the HEZBC apologised that he was unable to circulate the Risk Register for the EZ Project at the meeting as stated in the report,
- i) York Aviation Report Summary on Blackpool Airport,
- j) Enquiries and Development,

and giving details of forthcoming activity including Phase One Development and the reconstitution of the Project Team. The HEZBC informed the EPB that there was to be an open day on Thursday 6 December 2018 for residents and businesses.

Decision

The report was noted.

The board approved the recommendation to put in place a formal agreement between Fylde and Blackpool Councils to enable the transfer of any

confirmed annual business rates growth raised by Fylde Council to Blackpool Council as the accountable body for delivery of the EZ, within one month of the NNDR settlements i.e. usually by June, for each of the next 22 remaining years of the EZ.

25 Hillhouse Technology EZ Progress report (standing item)

Wyre Council's Senior Economic Development Officer submitted a progress report on Hillhouse Enterprise Zone detailing

- Masterplan and Baseline Report
- Marketing Strategy
- Implementation / Delivery Plan
- Forthcoming Activity

Wyre Council's Chief Executive, confirmed that the EZ Masterplan had been approved at the Cabinet meeting on 28 November 2018.

Decision

The report was noted.

26 Exclusion of public and press for item 11

The EPB agreed that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for item 11 on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

27 Economic Impact Assessment

The Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council submitted a report providing an overview of the potential for a bespoke Economic Impact Model (EIM) for the Fylde Coast.

Decision

Members discussed the potential benefits from the availability of an EIM and, whilst it was agreed in principle to a procurement/tendering exercise to ensure best value and that following the tendering process, Blackpool Council would fund 50% of the cost of the EIM while Fylde and Wyre Councils would consider part funding to the value of 25% each, prior to any commitment from Wyre confirmation would be sought from the Local Plan/Regeneration Teams that the EIM would be a tool that would support the monitoring of the emerging local plan and wider regeneration initiatives.

The meeting started at 10.23 am and finished at 11.58am.

Date of Publication: 5 December 2018

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Report to: Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board
Report Lead : Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council (Author : Sean McGrath, Lancashire County Council)
Date of Meeting: 05/02/19

Lancashire ESIF Programme 2014-20

1.1 Purpose

To set out a possible approach for the commitment of unallocated ESIF funds.

A detailed paper will be presented to the Lancashire ESIF Committee in January 2019 with a view to agreeing a plan for allocating remaining ESIF funds by the end of 2019.

1.2 Current Position

The Lancashire ESIF Programme recently received an additional £32 million of ERDF and ESF funds due to a revaluation of the exchange rate. This gives a total ESIF allocation of £245.63 million.

As at the end of November 2018 the Lancashire ESIF Programme had committed 44% of the total funding allocation to approved projects. This breaks down between the funds as ERDF 38% of funds committed, ESF 55% and EAFRD 24%.

There is a current pipeline of projects that are at various stages of development, commissioning or appraisal totalling in excess of £76 million across all three funds, which will substantially increase commitment levels should this pipeline come to fruition.

Commitment of ERDF Funds

The current position of ERDF is as follows:

ERDF Summary

ERDF BY PRIORITY AXIS (£m)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
	Innov	ICT	SME	Low Carbon	Climate Change	Enviro	
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION	29.08	1.42	79.13	22.30	11.69	2.89	146.50
94% of FUNDING ALLOCATION	27.33	1.33	74.38	20.96	10.99	2.72	137.71
TOTAL APPROVED PROJECTS	19.61	0.00	26.13	8.94	0.64	1.16	55.66
TOTAL ALLOCATED TO APPROVED & PIPELINE	20.85	0.00	55.21	10.68	10.26	2.23	99.23
100% UNALLOCATED FUNDING	8.23	1.42	23.92	11.61	1.43	0.66	47.27
AVAILABLE FUNDING (94% of allocation)	6.49	1.33	19.17	10.28	0.73	0.49	38.48

*As at 30th November 2018

Outline Applications

These figures are subject to change depending on the outcome of the recent calls for proposals which closed on 23rd November 2018. Details of the applications received for this call period are as follows:

October 2018 Call	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA4
Number of applications received	3	0	4	3
Value of applications received (£m)	5.52	0	7.23	1.14

These applications will be subject to an initial gateway assessment and then a formal Stage 1 appraisal. It is likely that the outcome of these initial appraisals will be known by late January 2019. Those projects that pass the Stage 1 appraisal will be invited to submit a full application. On this basis the full outcome of this call period will not be known until Spring 19. Should all these projects be successfully funded the overall ERDF funding position would be as follows:

ERDF Summary including Outline Applications (October 2018 Call)

ERDF SUMMARY (£m)	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA4	PA5	PA6	TOTAL
100% UNALLOCATED FUNDING	2.71	1.42	16.69	10.47	1.43	0.66	33.39
AVAILABLE FUNDING (94% of allocation)	0.97	1.33	11.94	9.14	0.73	0.49	24.60
% ALLOCATED TO APPROVED & PIPELINE PROJECTS (Percentage of total allocation)	91%	0%	79%	53%	88%	77%	77%

1.3 Future ERDF Calls

The next ERDF call period is provisionally scheduled for March 2019. As it stands this will be the last local call to be issued as a national Reserve Fund is to be established with future ERDF funds being allocated in response to national calls for proposals. How this Reserve Fund will operate is still being finalised.

As this will be the last local call it is imperative to allocate as much funding as possible to projects for this call period. Furthermore, it will be crucial for the future delivery of the programme to develop a pipeline of potential schemes to demonstrate demand for the proposed Reserve Fund as well as other funds that may become available through the achievement of Performance Reserve targets and underspends from other LEP areas.

1.4 Key Upcoming Dates

Meeting	Date of meeting	Role of meeting in relation to ESIF calls
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LEDOG	17/12/18	Engagement with partners on the development of potential ESIF projects
ESIF Technical Officers Group	10/01/19	Identification of which calls should be issued and the focus of each call for the March 2019 call period to inform the ESIF Sub-Committee
Lancashire ESIF Sub-Committee	22/01/19	Agreement on which calls should be issued and the focus of each call for the March 2019 call period. Formal endorsement of the draft March calls in advance of calls being issued.

The provisional call timetable for the March 2019 calls is set out below. This is subject to change.

Provisional Call Timetable

Call window	Submit draft calls to MHCLG	MHCLG submit calls for approval	Calls published	Call closing date
March 2019	Mid-February (tbc)	26 February 2019	22 March 2019	3 May 2019

1.5 Planned Calls March 2019

The following approach is proposed to bring forward project applications for the March 2019 call and develop a pipeline of projects for future funds beyond this call period. This approach may differ for each Priority Axis dependent on the status of the priorities in terms of available funds and gaps in delivery.

- Identify available funds for each Priority Axis.
- Review outcome of recent October 2018 call to judge impact on available funds and delivery of priorities.
- Review current output commitments to identify under-commitment against output targets by Priority Axis.
- Identify gaps in delivery for each Priority Axis.
- Identify potential current pipeline projects.
- Subject to the above identify what calls should be issued for March 2019. At present the recommendations for the March 2019 call are as follows:

Priority Axis	Available Funds (94%)	Comments	March Call
1. Research & Innovation	£6.49m	Call for projects that align with the Lancashire Innovation Plan	Call to be issued
2. ICT	£1.33m	No response to recent calls & no pipeline identified	No call
3. SME Support	£19.17m	Substantial funds still to be allocated	Call to be issued

4. Low Carbon	£10.28m	Funds still to be allocated & potential extensions to existing projects	Call to be issued
5. Climate Change	£730k	Remaining funds (94%) to be allocated to two current projects. Potential for further funds to become available for the March call. Potential pipeline project identified.	Call to be issued (If additional funds are available)
6. Environment	£490k (94%) £660k (100%)	Potential to issue call for remaining funds, although under the £500k ERDF call minimum, or for full 100% allocation to be utilised. Potential pipeline project identified.	Call to be issued

1.6 Planned Engagement

As per the process used at the beginning of the ESIF Programme to bring forward a pipeline of projects the intention is to run a number of workshops for potential applicants for a number of the Priority Axis during January 2019. Potential applicants arising from the workshops can then be engaged with on a one-to-one basis. For some of the other Priority Axis it is intended to engage directly with individual applicants where there are limited funds and potential pipeline projects have been identified.

The proposals are as follows:

Priority Axis	Available Funds (94%)	Engagement
1. Research & Innovation	£6.49m	Planned workshop
2. ICT	£1.33m	No planned engagement or workshop. Respond to any interest from potential applicants.
3. SME Support	£19.17m	Planned workshop
4. Low Carbon	£10.28m	Planned workshop
5. Climate Change	£780k	Direct engagement with applicant. Potential pipeline project identified.
6. Environment	£490k (94%) £660k (100%)	Direct engagement with applicant. Potential pipeline project identified.

Planned Workshops

Invitees, dates and format to be agreed for each of the proposed workshops.

Further Pipeline Development

This project pipeline development will need to continue beyond the March 2019 call period. Potential schemes may arise from the workshops and engagement with applicants that will not be feasible for the March call deadline but would be viable projects in the longer-term. As previously highlighted it will be crucial for the future delivery of the programme to develop a pipeline of potential schemes to demonstrate demand for the proposed Reserve

Fund as well as other funds that may become available through the achievement of Performance Reserve targets and underspends from other LEP areas. If and when these other funds become available is uncertain at this stage.

1. Commitment of ESF Funds

2.1 Proposals have been formulated for the commitment of Lancashire's unallocated ESF funds. The current position of ESF is as follows:

ESF Summary

ESF BY INVESTMENT PRIORITY (£m)	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.1	2.2	Total
	Employment	Young People	Social Inclusion	Skills	Skills SMEs	
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION	18.99	8.38	19.94	41.76	5.76	94.83
94% of FUNDING ALLOCATION	17.85	7.88	18.74	39.26	5.42	89.14
TOTAL APPROVED PROJECTS	10.72	4.87	13.86	18.44	4.32	52.20
TOTAL ALLOCATED TO APPROVED & PIPELINE PROJECTS	15.60	6.88	14.86	34.07	4.32	75.73
100% UNALLOCATED FUNDING	3.39	1.49	5.08	7.69	1.44	19.10
AVAILABLE FUNDING (94% of allocation)	2.25	0.99	3.89	5.19	1.10	13.41

DWP, the ESF Managing Authority, requested that by early December 2018 LEP areas confirm their ability and plans to commit ESF funds for the remainder of the programme. Whilst the deadline for committing ESF funds is not finalised, it is expected to be in the latter half of 2019. At this point DWP will bring together any uncommitted funds to form a Reserve Fund to commit the remaining local funding. The Reserve Fund criteria and processes are still being developed.

To this end proposals on the future commitment of the Lancashire ESF funds have been formulated and proposed to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board and will be submitted to the Lancashire ESIF Sub-Committee for endorsement. In summary the proposals include extending and allocating further funds to the ESFA, DWP and BBO opt-ins, the IP1.4 social inclusion direct bid projects and the two IP2.2 employer engagement projects, subject to a satisfactory review of performance to date.

DWP have recently issued guidance that the only mechanism available to extend existing direct bid projects will be through additional Open Calls. This differs from the original guidance that direct bid projects could be extended through a Project Change Request.

2. Commitment of EAFRD Funds

3.1 The current position of the Lancashire EAFRD rural development funds is as follows:

EAFRD Summary

EAFRD BY PRIORITY (£m)	Round 1	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Total
	Business Development	Food Processing	Tourism Infrastructure	Business Development	
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION	0.303	2.500	0.550	0.912	4.290
TOTAL APPROVED PROJECTS	0.303	0.512	0.201	0.000	1.016
TOTAL ALLOCATED TO APPROVED & PIPELINE PROJECTS	0.303	5.257	2.333	0.597	8.489
AVAILABLE FUNDING	0.000	-2.757	-1.783	0.316	-4.224

The three EAFRD calls for Lancashire for Food Processing, Rural Tourism Infrastructure and Business Development all closed at the end of May 2018 with no further applications being accepted. There is a significant amount of pipeline activity with 30 Expressions of Interests invited to submit full applications across the 3 calls. Along with the approved projects this amounts to a request of £8.49million which is 198% of the total Lancashire EAFRD allocation. In particular, the food processing and tourism infrastructure calls are hugely overbid.

There is a 25-50% drop-out rate from Expression of interest stage to the submission of full applications. It will not be possible to gain a clear picture of actual commitment levels until full applications have been received and appraised. Consequently, it is not possible to determine at this stage whether all EAFRD funds will be allocated. There are no current plans to launch or develop any new calls.



Report to: Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

Report Author: Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council

Date of Meeting: 4th FEBRUARY 2019

1. Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone: Progress Report

a) Masterplan

Formal feedback is still awaited from MHCLG on the submitted Masterplan, Implementation/ Delivery Plan and Marketing Strategies for the Enterprise Zone – in the absence of any comment work continues to progress the implementation of the plan following the phase one funding allocation made by Blackpool Council. A familiarisation site visit by MHCLG officials is still anticipated during the first quarter of 2019.

The masterplan is available to download from the LAMEC EZ website, together with a summary version of the written document to assist potential developers.

b) Development and investment partnerships

Thirteen responses were received to the initial PIN notice inviting interest from potential developers and investors, these are being evaluated and several respondents will be invited for further discussion prior to progressing a formal procurement exercise later in the year.

c) Current activity

Work is progressing to deliver phase one, of the Enterprise Zone, (shown in the 3 coloured areas on plan A below). Messrs Cassidy and Ashton have been commissioned to prepare an outline planning application for the main phase one site (shaded green on plan A). An informal consultation on the proposals held on the 6th December was attended by more than 70 local residents and businesses with generally a positive reaction. The work has been delayed slightly whilst awaiting confirmation of traffic survey data and the application is now expected to be submitted to Blackpool and Fylde councils in February and thereafter, as this is in part Greenbelt land, to the Secretary of State with a decision expected in June.

Consultants LK2 are also continuing their work in developing the design scope and business plan for the new Common Edge Sports Village. This is due for completion by mid-February.

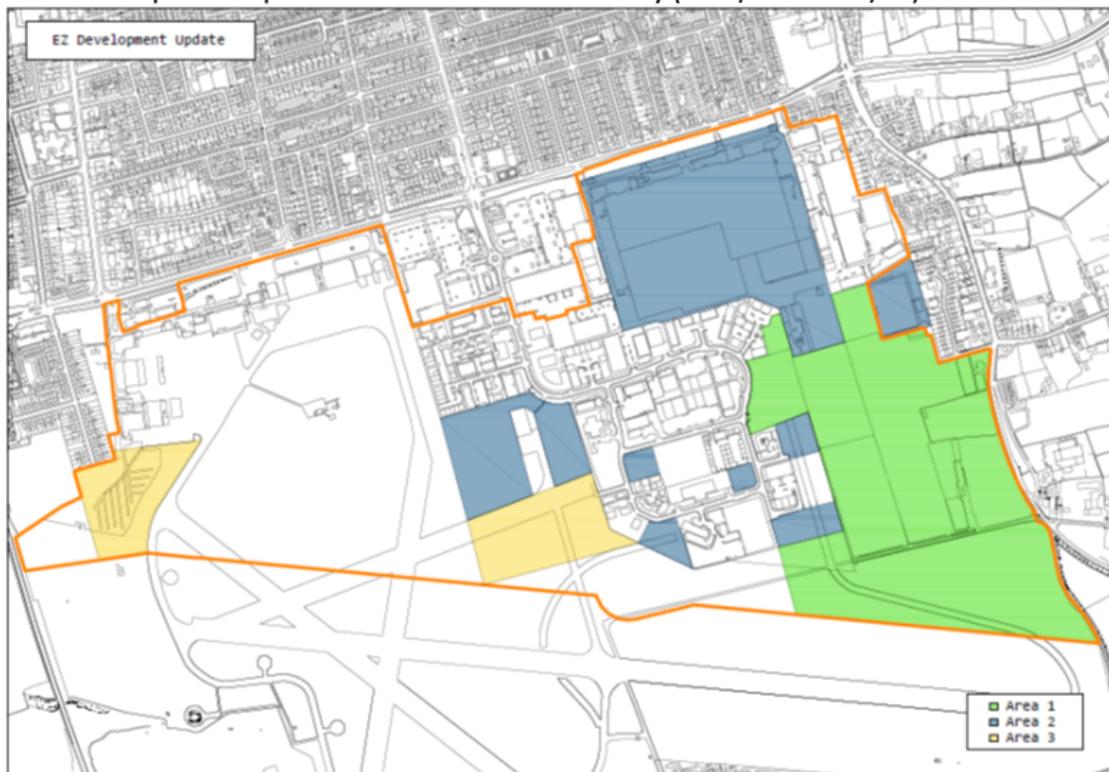
In parallel, detailed design work is to be commissioned for both the Eastern Gateway access from Queensway/Common Edge and sports village including the provision of two 3G all weather sports pitches, grass football pitches and a HUB building to house changing facilities, social club accommodation for the various sports clubs and refreshment and local service retail. The potential

inclusion of an indoor tennis facility and gym are being evaluated. The objective is to submit full planning applications for the road and Sports Village shortly after the outline consent is approved.

Work is also progressing at a pace to agree a bespoke 40,000 sq ft manufacturing facility within the phase one area, with a planning application targeted for April /May.

Planned activity over the next quarter also includes continuation of negotiations to either acquire or encourage the sites shaded blue on plan A to be brought forward for development , and the progression of initial design proposals for airport related infrastructure within the yellow shaded sections .Activity will also encompass the production of EZ wide drainage and utility strategies.

Plan A – PHASE ONE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY



d) Marketing

Work is ongoing to develop the content of the Blackpool Airport EZ pages of the LAMEC web site, with a news feed, downloadable facts sheets, rates relief and ECA information sheets, masterplan summary brochure and fly through imagery having been added prior to Christmas. Subject to approval from Lancashire County Council, additional features including social media feeds and links and an interactive property search facility will be added by Marketing Lancashire.

EZ site signage is in place with further signs planned for the airport frontage. An EZ newsletter is in preparation for distribution to all existing occupiers and a successful EZ security forum has been established which has served to bring together a number of existing businesses in a new collaborative network.

Following the successful showcasing of the Enterprise Zone at MiPiM UK in October 2018, Marketing Lancashire will be attending MiPiM Cannes in March as part of the Manchester delegation. Consideration is being given to supporting Marketing Lancashire to host a small breakfast event highlighting the Lancashire Enterprise Zones, although cost and logistical issues mean that it will not be possible to have a representative attend to support Marketing Lancashire.

There is a steady stream of enquiries for the EZ, driven both by the web site and site signage, although the volume has declined in recent months in part due to widespread market uncertainty but also reflecting the relative paucity of available accommodation and serviced development land presently available.

e) State Aid

Whilst the majority of the new developable area at the Enterprise Zone is either in public ownership or is the subject of ongoing negotiations to acquire, the issue of potential State Aid resulting from the investment of public funds still has to be addressed, this being particularly so in the case of Blackpool Airport where special rules are applicable. Initial investigation suggests that a number of specific mitigation strategies and approaches will need to be adopted to minimise any risks in respect of State Aid compliance, but that these will be relatively simple to instigate. The situation at Hillhouse EZ is more problematic given that the primary beneficiary of any public sector funding would be a single private sector company. It is proposed to take specialist legal advice, with the potential to secure a substantial discount by jointly commissioning advice for both sites.

f) Blackpool Airport

Work has been commissioned for the provision of new Instrument Landing System and other key navigational aids to maintain the airport's operational capability – particularly to support the core off-shore helicopter operations where the prime contractor, Spirit Energy, has indicated their willingness to renew its contracts for a further five years, subject to final agreement of commercial terms and the renewal of the outdated navigational aids.

SGAOL the council-owned operating company are in the process of drawing up short, medium and long term business plans for the airport based upon the York Aviation recommendations. These business plans will help shape the requirement and timing for the provision of new aviation infrastructure to enable the relocation of existing business and release of valuable frontage land for EZ development. Initial EZ supported investment by the airport is most likely to focus on the provision of new apron space to enable development of new hangar capacity.

A number of potential interests from aviation related businesses are being followed up with training looking the most likely short term growth area.

g) Enquiries and Development

Two developments – the 20,000 ARC facility and the Gas Fired Power generation facility are nearing completion of construction and will be operational from April 2019. One planning application for 12 small units on a privately owned one acre plot has been received, and subject to it securing planning

consent development is anticipated to commence in mid-2019 .There are few remaining serviced plots until the new infrastructure opens up new development plots

To date:

- A total of 230 enquiries have been received since commencement of the EZ.
- Some 54 businesses have located to the Enterprise Zone since April 2016 with two additional businesses scheduled to take occupation of premises within the next two months.
- A total of 711 jobs have located to the Enterprise Zone of which some 165 are considered to be completely new jobs.

h) Project Team

The third meeting of the reconstituted Blackpool Airport EZ Project Team will take place on the 18th January at Lancashire Energy HQ

Report Author

Rob Green Head of Enterprise Zones

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Report to: Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

**Report Author: Angela Kershaw, Senior Economic Development Officer,
Wyre Council**

Date of Meeting: 5 February 2019

Hillhouse Enterprise Zone: Progress Report

Masterplan and Baseline Report

The Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone Masterplan was adopted at Cabinet on November 28th 2018.

Marketing

The application for Advertising Consent was submitted January 4th. Site notices went up Friday 11th January (3 weeks). Pending any major issues installation should take place in February 2019.

A Marketing Strategy for Hillhouse Enterprise Zone will be prepared in house following the Implementation Plan. The Strategy will complement the overarching Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing Energy Cluster (LAMEC) branding and marketing approach adopted for the four Lancashire EZ's.

Implementation / Delivery Plan

Work is progressing on the Implementation Plan.

We are currently awaiting comments from the main land owner NPL Group regarding phasing and some costings. A first draft will be considered by the council before being finalised. There are early issues that have been identified:

- State Aid in terms of major land owners NPL Group – we are taking independent advice on this via our Head of Finance (Section 151 officer).
- To actively consider the recommendations made in the Masterplan regarding undertaking specific surveys and assessments of the whole site

We will continue to work with Genecon and NPL Group to develop the plan and envisage a first draft be completed by January / February 2019.

Forthcoming Activity

- i) Complete Delivery Plan by mid- February 2019
- ii) A flood risk assessment to be commissioned for the entire site
- iii) A transport assessment be commissioned for the entire site
- iv) An Environmental and Ecology study to be commissioned for the entire site
- v) The planning application process for the gas fired power station, will be monitored and support offered as appropriate
- vi) Advice will be obtained on potential State Aid implications of public funding of enabling infrastructure – within this designated EU assisted area
- vii) Completing draft Marketing Strategy

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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